U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

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Inmate Death at USP Tucson

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Friday, January 8, 2021, inmate Charles Purly Romero tested positive for COVID-19 at the United States Penitentiary (USP) Tucson in Tucson, Arizona and was immediately placed in medical isolation. Institution medical staff provided treatment and monitored his condition. On Monday, January 11, 2021, he was transported to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation due to respiratory distress. On Thursday, January 28, 2021, Mr. Romero, who had long-term, pre-existing medical conditions which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by hospital staff.

Mr. Romero was a 64-year-old male who was sentenced in the District of New Mexico to a Life sentence for Armed Bank Robbery and Aggravated Sexual Abuse. He had been in custody at USP Tucson since September 10, 2009.

USP Tucson is a high security facility that currently houses 1,328 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp.

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at www.bop.gov.

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