



U. S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons
United States Penitentiary
Waymart, Pennsylvania

For Immediate Release
January 5, 2026

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Death at USP Canaan

WAYMART, PA: On Monday, January 5, 2026, at approximately 1:50 p.m., Sakwon Artavas Bowser was found unresponsive at the United States Penitentiary (USP) Canaan in Waymart, Pennsylvania.

Responding employees initiated life-saving measures. Emergency medical services (EMS) were requested while life-saving efforts continued. Mr. Bowser was subsequently pronounced deceased by EMS personnel.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was notified.

No employees or other incarcerated individuals were injured and at no time was the public in danger.

Mr. Bowser was a 29-year-old male who was sentenced in the Eastern District of North Carolina to a 66-month sentence for Possession of a Firearm by a Felon. He had been in custody at USP Canaan since August 13, 2025.

USP Canaan is a high security facility.

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

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