



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Inmate Death at FCI Butner (Low)

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Wednesday, May 27, 2020, Joe Tapia, III, tested positive for COVID-19. He was evaluated by institutional medical staff at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Butner (Low), in Butner, North Carolina, for issues relating to shortness of breath, hypoxia, and fever. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment and further evaluation. On Friday, May 29, 2020, his condition declined and he was placed on a ventilator. On Tuesday, June 23, 2020, Mr. Tapia, who had long-term, pre-existing medical conditions, which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced dead by hospital staff.

Mr. Tapia was a 55-year-old male who was sentenced in the Western District of Texas to a 360-month sentence for Soliciting Child Pornography. He had been in custody at the Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) Butner since April 30, 2015.

FCI Butner is a Low security facility that currently houses 1,158 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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