



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Inmate Death at FCI El Reno**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Tuesday, October 13, 2020, inmate Joe McDuffie tested negative for COVID-19 when placed in quarantine at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) El Reno in El Reno, Oklahoma, due to a contact investigation. He received daily symptom checks and did not express any symptoms associated with COVID-19. On Friday, October 23, 2020, institution staff found Mr. McDuffie unresponsive. Later the same day Mr. McDuffie, 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 the Canadian County Medical Examiner's Office.

Mr. McDuffie was a 58-year-old male who was sentenced in the Western District of Tennessee to a 188-month sentence for Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of Heroin. He had been in custody at FCI El Reno since April 18, 2019.

FCI El Reno is a Medium security facility that currently houses 855 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](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp)

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

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