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U.S. Immigration
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MARCH 6, 2023 • OTAY MESA, CA • DETAINEE DEATH NOTIFICATIONS

Romanian national passes away in ICE custody

OTAY MESA, Calif. – A Romanian national in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody passed away at the Otay Mesa Detention Center, March 5. An autopsy is pending to determine the official cause of death.

On Feb. 22, U.S. Border Patrol encountered Cristian Dumitrascu, 50, near the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. The ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) San Diego field office took custody of Dumitrascu on March 1.

Dumitrascu had a master hearing scheduled for March 16. No additional details on Dumitrascu's death are available at this time.

Consistent with the ICE protocols, the appropriate components have been notified about the death, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG), and the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR).

Additionally, ICE notified the Romanian Embassy in Washington, D.C, of Dumitrascu's passing. ERO San Diego staff notified next of kin.

AILA Doc. No. 16050900. (Posted 5/3/23)

ICE remains committed to ensuring that all those in its custody reside in safe, secure, and humane environments. Comprehensive medical care is provided from the moment individuals arrive and throughout the entirety of their stay. All people in ICE custody receive medical, dental, and mental health intake screening within 12 hours of arriving at each detention facility, a full health assessment within 14 days of entering ICE custody or arrival at a facility, and access to medical appointments and 24-hour emergency care. At no time during detention is a detained noncitizen denied emergent care.

Upon an official report of a detained noncitizen death, ICE ERO makes official notifications to Congress, non-governmental organization (NGO) stakeholders, and the media and posts a news release with relevant details on the public website within two business days, per agency policy. This information may be accessed at [ICE.gov's Newsroom](#). Additionally, Congressional requirements described in the DHS Appropriations Bill (2018) require ICE to make public all reports regarding an in-custody death within 90 days. These reports may be accessed on [ICE.gov](#).

In accordance with detention standards, detained noncitizens within ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC) and non-IHSC-staffed facilities receive a health screening within 12 hours of arrival and a complete health assessment within 14 days. Each facility is staffed by medical care professionals 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for direct patient access. While IHSC does not directly provide or direct the medical care provided in non-IHSC-staffed facilities, IHSC does oversee those facilities' compliance with national detention standards and coordination of offsite care through medical referrals, as needed, through the Field Medical Coordinator Program.

Updated: 03/07/2023

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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