



**OFFICE OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF COLORADO
District Attorney Alexis King**

Sheriff Reggie Marinelli
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
200 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, Colorado 80401

Re: *In custody death of Ms. Stangel*

Dear Sheriff Marinelli,

The First Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) has completed its investigation into the death of Doraine Stangel on August 4, 2024. As you know, the multi-jurisdictional CIRT team conducts independent and thorough investigations in any incident in which a law enforcement officer within the First Judicial District uses deadly force, or attempts to use deadly force, against a person while acting under the color of official law enforcement duties. CIRT protocols also allow a law enforcement executive to request CIRT's response in other circumstances such as the death of a person who is in the custody of a law enforcement officer such as Ms. Stangel's death while confined in the Jefferson County Detention Facility.

The CIRT response and investigation was led by Commander McNitt of the Lakewood Police Department. Commander McNitt presented his investigation to my office on December 17, 2024. Upon receipt, my office conducted a thorough review of the CIRT investigation. Based on interviews of sworn staff, unsworn staff, and inmates as well as surveillance videos and physical evidence, there is no evidence that law enforcement engaged in any criminal conduct that caused the death of Ms. Stangel and thus, I do not find law enforcement criminally responsible for her death.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Stangel was a forty-eight-year-old woman in the Jefferson County Detention Facility who arrived after her arrest by the Lakewood Police Department ("LPD") on August 3, 2024 at about 7:00 p.m. At the time of her arrest, LPD found Ms. Stangel to have paraphernalia and a single blue M30 pill that was presumed to be fentanyl in her possession. LPD asked if she needed medical attention before being taken into custody on her warrant and Ms. Stangle responded that she needed water but not medical attention.



Ms. Stangel was received by the Jefferson County jail at about 9:30 p.m. that evening. When Ms. Stangel entered jail, she was interviewed by a registered nurse. At about 2:00 a.m. Ms. Stangel shared her recent drug and alcohol use which consisted of daily fentanyl use of 5-10 pills for the past year and half. The nurse's notes reflect Ms. Stangel's last use of August 4, 2024, but given the date of contact with LPD being August 3, 2024, this appears to be a typographic error. Ms. Stangel reported mild pain and nausea but was able to hold down food. At 2:37 a.m. another medical professional completed Ms. Stangel's Medical & Behavioral Health Admission Care Screen and noted that Ms. Stangel appeared under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and had visible signs of withdrawal. Ms. Stangel was placed on "detox protocol" for opiates and fentanyl. Ms. Stangel was housed in cell seventeen by herself, Unit 2, module 6B.

On August 4, 2024, CIRT determined Mrs. Stangel was assigned to the same cell. That evening, around 10:00 p.m. the first deputy and an LPN conducted a "med pass" module 6B. The med cart was parked in the common area and Ms. Stangel walked from her cell to the cart where her vital signs were checked, and she was given two 325 milligram pills of Tylenol and two 25 milligram pills of Benadryl. The deputy saw Ms. Stangel moving slowly and leaning on the cart. Ms. Stangel shared that her back was in pain, and she had body aches. She expressed a desire to go to a sober living facility to detox. Ms. Stangel requested additional toilet paper then returned to her cell.

About an hour later, the first deputy walked through Ms. Stangel's module and saw Ms. Stangel lying on the floor, facing away from the door, under a blanket. The first deputy did not find Ms. Stangel's positioning concerning and after each cell was checked, the first deputy returned to Ms. Stangel's cell with additional toilet paper at about 11:08 p.m. The first deputy entered Ms. Stangel's cell, called out to her without a response, and shook Ms. Stangel to see if she was ok. The first deputy saw that Ms. Stangel's pants were wet, and that drool was coming from her mouth, her position unchanged. The first deputy was concerned that Ms. Stangel had a seizure and went for help.

The first deputy and a second deputy returned to Ms. Stangel's cell together at 11:10 p.m. Both tried to wake Ms. Stangel by calling to her and rubbing her sternum but their efforts were not successful. The deputies then moved Ms. Stangel outside of the cell, to the common area and began performing CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and delivered two doses of Narcan. They called for additional assistance from deputies and the medical unit. Additional support noted that Ms. Stangel appeared cold, clammy, gray, blue, unresponsive, and without a pulse. Multiple responders rotated to support CPR efforts.

The first deputy was charged with noting Ms. Stangel's care and the timeline of events and provided the following information:

- 23:08 I called for Medical to respond via radio.
- 23:09 CPR commenced, First Narcan deployed
- 23:14 [deputy] deployed the second Narcan... [deputies] assisting with CPR.
- 23:15 AED machine on; no shock was administered.
- 23:20 AED machine on; no shock was administered.
- 23:22 CPR continued.
- 23:25 Additional Narcan administered by Medical
- 23:26 Hooked up to automatic CPR machine by Golden Fire Department EMT's.
- 23:29 Cell #17 was secured by [a deputy].
- 23:42 Doctor Kristen Kahn from St. Anthony's called Time of Death.
- 23:45 Unit 2 cleared.

An EMT noted that the AED did not advise a shock, and they could not get an IV into Ms. Stangel's arm. Another registered nurse provided a third dose of Narcan and believed that a fourth dose was administered by emergency medical services. The scene was processed, and evidence was collected. No contraband was located in the cell.

An autopsy was performed on August 6, 2024, by forensic pathologist Dr. Dawn Holmes. Dr. Holmes determined that Mrs. Stangel's cause of death was due to "combined drug intoxication ... [h]ypertensive cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and chronic alcoholism were noted as significant contributing factors." The manner of death was ruled as an accident. Toxicology showed Ms. Stangel 1.7 ng/ml of fentanyl and 170 ng/ml of methamphetamine. No pills or pill fragments were found in the gastrointestinal tract. Further, there was no evidence of significant physical trauma other than rib and sternum fractures that were consistent with resuscitation efforts.

Given the facts set forth by Commander McNitt, and upon review by my office, Ms. Stangel's death was not caused by any criminal actions taken by law enforcement. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,



Alexis D. King
District Attorney
First Judicial District