



# Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Date: 11/26/2015  
Time: 4:00 p.m.

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## News Release

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### **Sheriff's Office Reporting the Death of an Inmate at the Santa Barbara County Main Jail Facility**

At approximately 9:30 a.m., on November 26, 2015, 49 year-old Johnny DeWitt of Santa Maria collapsed and became unresponsive while housed in the Medical Dorm within the Sheriff's Main Jail facility. Based upon initial witness statements, it appeared that Mr. Dewitt was experiencing a medical emergency. Jail personnel immediately responded to assist Mr. Dewitt, initiated lifesaving efforts and called for the response of Fire and Medic personnel. Upon arriving at the jail, Santa Barbara County Fire and American Medical Response personnel took over treatment of Mr. Dewitt, and continued efforts to resuscitate him. Mr. Dewitt was transported from the Santa Barbara County Main Jail facility to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. Mr. Dewitt did not respond to the life-saving efforts, and at approximately 10:27 a.m., he was pronounced dead at the hospital.

The Coroner's Unit responded to the hospital and is conducting the death investigation. The Coroner's Unit notified Mr. DeWitt's next of kin of his death. Based upon the preliminary assessment of available information and evidence, it appears that Mr. Dewitt passed away from natural causes. An autopsy will be conducted in this case. The Coroner's Unit will release the official cause and manner of death once the investigation is complete. The Coroner's investigation will take several weeks to complete due to the need for autopsy and toxicology lab reports.

Mr. Dewitt was in Sheriff's custody since September 28, 2015, when he was booked on several charges including criminal threats, unlawful possession of ammunition and drug possession.

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