Letter: Inmate death due to fentanyl overdose

(KAIR)--A fentanyl overdose is confirmed as the cause of death for a Lansing Correctional Facility inmate, who died in April.

That's according to a letter sent from the Leavenworth County Attorney's Office to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

The letter opens by stating, "there are no charges [the County Attorney's Office] is able to file at this time due to the death of Casey Wallace," with the letter saying that "according to the medical reports, Wallace's death was due to an overdose of fentanyl," but "there is no evidence of how he acquired the illegal substance."

The letter, which states Wallace's fellow inmates had no knowledge of him using fentanyl, and that investigators were unsuccessful in determining how the fentanyl was obtained by Wallace, closes by saying, "there is no evidence that the cause of death was due to anything but fentanyl overdose."

Wallace was serving a sentence for the distribution of marijuana, and possession of a handgun, at the time of his April 1 death.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson, in an emailed message accompanying the release of the letter, calls fentanyl "very lethal, in even small doses," adding that, "it's a scary threat to our public, and now it's made its way into our prisons."

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