

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

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October 22, 2011  
Press Release

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***Death of Lea County Correctional Facility Inmate***

**Hobbs, NM** – On October 21, 2011, at approximately 12:00 p.m. inmate Chris Phillips was airlifted to University of New Mexico Hospital from Lea County Correctional Facility in Hobbs, New Mexico following an altercation with another inmate. Inmate Phillips was pronounced deceased at 3:14 a.m. on October 22, 2011.

The circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Chris Phillips are currently under investigation by Lea County Correctional Facility Officials with the Hobbs Police Department serving as the primary and lead criminal investigating agency. In accordance with departmental policy and standard operational procedure, the New Mexico Department of Corrections has also initiated a Critical Incident Review of the matter.

Inmate Phillips was serving a twelve year sentence for Kidnapping and two counts of Aggravated Battery Against a Household Member Resulting in Bodily Harm. He was convicted on January 26, 2010 in Bernalillo County.

Additional information will be made available at the conclusion of the investigation.

Should you have any questions regarding the information contained within this release, please contact NMCD Daniel Sedillo, Public Information Officer at 505-301-6567 or the Hobbs Police Department at 575-397-9284.

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