

Jail Death Transparency Act Will Increase Trust, Justice

Written by State Senate Democrats

Thursday, 30 March 2017 11:15 - Last Updated Friday, 31 March 2017 19:07

<https://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/courthouse-s5.jpg>



Deaths occurring in our jailing facilities are often handled internally by correctional facilities. This legislation establishes a clear standard of transparency after an inmate's death.

MADISON - In 2014, the State Legislature passed an accountability and transparency measure to ensure justice for individuals killed by law enforcement officers. Unfortunately, current law is only applicable to law enforcement officers and does not hold correctional officers in city, county, and state correctional facilities to the same investigatory standards. This legislation would extend the current, bipartisan, transparency standards to correction officer-involved deaths.



“When a death occurs within a system or institution, the people of Wisconsin deserve to know that a fair investigation will follow,” said Rep. **David Bowen**, the ranking Democratic member of the Assembly's Corrections Committee. “This legislation will give that assurance.”

Rep. Crowley stated, “Unfortunately, many people today have a distrust for the criminal justice system and the use of internal investigations for deaths that occur while in custody can be viewed as a way to cover up mistakes or potential criminal neglect by correctional officers. The Jail Death Transparency Act will increase trust from grieving families and the public by extending the same transparency standards that apply to law enforcement deaths to correctional officers.”

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