

Contra Costa County
Office of the Sheriff
David O. Livingston
Sheriff



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

January 9, 2026

TO: News / Assignment Desk or News Editor

In-Custody Death Investigation

The Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff and the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office are currently jointly investigating an in-custody death that occurred at the Martinez Detention Facility.

On Thursday, January 8, 2026, at about 5:38 AM, Contra Costa Health medical staff at MDF responded to a housing module for a report of head injuries that an inmate apparently sustained as a result of him purposely banging his head while housed in a cell. Minutes later, the fire department and an ambulance were called to transport the inmate to a local hospital.

At about 8:30 AM, the inmate was medically cleared at the hospital. He was uncooperative with deputy sheriffs while being transported back to MDF. While at MDF he was given medication by medical staff.

At about 5:48 PM, a deputy sheriff found the inmate unconscious inside his cell. Jail medical staff responded while deputies performed CPR. The fire department and an ambulance also responded and later declared the inmate deceased. The county-wide law enforcement involved fatal incident protocol was invoked.

The inmate is identified as 61-year-old Kirk Richardson of Concord. On December 31, 2025, Richardson was arrested by the Concord Police Department for murder. He was booked into MDF on two counts of murder and had been held since that time.

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For more information, please call:

Jimmy Lee, Public Information Officer: (925) 313-2643

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office offers a full range of law enforcement services to over 1,000,000 residents in the 715 square mile county. Besides patrolling the unincorporated areas, Deputy Sheriffs provide comprehensive police services to a number of contract cities and special districts. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office operates county detention facilities, provides security for the courts and runs the Office of Emergency Services. Log on www.cocosherriff.org for more information.