



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF **CORRECTIONS**

Michigan Department of Corrections Press Update – July 9, 2026

The first priority of the Michigan Department of Corrections is to ensure the health and safety of the individuals under our supervision. The department remains committed to transparency and providing updated information on the investigations and events taking place at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

Khaira Howard Autopsy

Today, the Michigan Department of Corrections received the autopsy results of Khaira Howard, who passed away at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility on May 13, from the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner. The results have determined the cause of death as Pulmonary Thromboembolism due to lower extremity Deep Vein Thrombosis, more commonly known as a blood clot to the lung. [The autopsy report can be found on the MDOC transparency website.](#)

The Michigan State Police have released their Original and Supplemental Incident Reports as part of their investigation, and they can be found on the MDOC transparency website. The MDOC internal investigation and mortality review are still ongoing.

The department remains committed to transparency. The investigations being conducted into the other recent deaths at WHV are still ongoing. The public is encouraged to stay up to date on the latest developments by visiting the MDOC Transparency and Action website at <http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/transparency>.

Krystal Clark Motion

The department was notified of a recent court motion filed by Krystal Clark's attorneys requesting her removal from Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility (WHV) based on alleged health concerns and facility conditions.

Allegations contained in the motion are not supported by the medical evidence or facts known to the department. Ms. Clark is not experiencing any emergent medical condition that warrants transfer from the facility.

The Court required the department to respond in less than three days to the motion instead of the typical 21-day response schedule because the motion sought emergency relief. The

Court said they would extend the deadline for response to the typical 21 days if Ms. Clark was removed from WHV during that time, which the department agreed to do in order to provide all parties additional time to thoroughly review the motion and prepare for the motion hearing. Ms. Clark will be temporarily placed at Duane Waters Health Center (DWH) today, July 9, as a result and is expected to remain there until the resolution of the motion.

To be clear, this temporary placement is being made solely for the purpose of allowing the legal parties to adequately review this issue and is not an admission or evidence that Ms. Clark is entitled to emergency injunctive relief. The department disputes that transfer is medically necessary, or that the conditions at WHV pose a medical risk to her.

DWH is a facility in Jackson, MI, which is operated by the Michigan Department of Corrections. Upon arrival to DWH, Ms. Clark will be seen by healthcare providers for a full assessment of her health as part of the in-take process. Ms. Clark continues to receive ongoing medical care/treatment from qualified healthcare providers consistent with her medical needs.

Previous updates and department statements

MDOC has publicly released the findings of the independent environmental testing that was conducted at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility in 2022 and 2026. The expert testing found that Women's Huron Valley Correctional does not have dangerous systemic black or toxic mold conditions. [The findings can be reviewed here.](#)

Director Heidi E. Washington and other department leadership have been regularly onsite at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility providing oversight and support to staff and incarcerated individuals.

Additional experienced clinical leadership have also been called to assist and provide continuous coverage for the weeks to come as evaluations are being conducted. A new healthcare staffing plan is being developed for the facility that includes enhanced nursing management and other coverages.

The department takes the safety and security of those under our supervision very seriously and has comprehensive processes and medical protocols for health emergencies. This includes processes for assessing patient health by qualified onsite staff, requesting outside emergency medical services if needed, and conducting life saving measures.

All incarcerated individuals are provided a consistent community standard of care which includes access to regular medical assessments, outside specialists, and emergency services. In partnership with qualified medical professionals, the department helps to

manage all health care needs of patients, including those with long-term chronic conditions, some of which are terminal.

Thorough investigations are conducted for all unexpected deaths of incarcerated individuals, and all deaths are referred to the medical examiner who will determine whether an autopsy is warranted, if one has not already been requested by the department. Claims or speculation on the death of any individual within MDOC custody before examinations and investigations are complete can be harmful to loved ones and victims.

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