



**Robert R. Snaza**  
Sheriff

OFFICE OF THE LEWIS COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**

345 W. Main Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532-1900  
Phone: (360) 748-9286 • Fax: (360) 740-1476 • TDD: (360) 740-1480  
[www.lewiscountywa.gov/sheriff](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov/sheriff)

**"Public Safety through Professional Service"**

**Wes H. Rethwill**  
Undersheriff

**Dustin G. Breen**  
Field Operations Chief

**Chris J. Sweet**  
Corrections Chief

**Kevin M. Engelbertson**  
Special Services Chief

## PRESS RELEASE

**Date/Time:** 07-13-23 @ 0945 Hours  
**Contact:** Chief Dusty Breen  
**Phone:** (360) 740-1373  
**Release #:** 1

### Lewis County Jail In-Custody Death

Detectives are investigating an in-custody death occurring at the Lewis County Jail yesterday evening. On 07/12/23, at approximately 2158 hours, corrections personnel were conducting hourly checks of housing units. While checking a housing unit with secured single occupancy cells, they observed a 35-year-old male of Chehalis who appeared to have a piece of clothing affixed to his bunk, as well as around his neck area. Corrections personnel and jail medical staff began to perform life-saving efforts while emergency medical services were summoned. Despite the efforts of emergency medical service providers, the male was pronounced deceased at the scene at approximately 2236 hours.

The name of the decedent will be released by the Lewis County Coroner's Office once their identification process and required notifications are made. In addition to the investigation involving the cause and manner of death, the Corrections Bureau will also conduct an Unexpected Fatality Review as outline in RCW 70.48.510.

**###**

**Lewis County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement:**

Being a committed community partner, providing professional service to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life in Lewis County.