

## **Unauthorized Release - Pictou Justice Centre**

### **Incident Review Report**

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**August 19, 2019**

### **Introduction**

This review focused on circumstances surrounding the unauthorized release of a person in custody (PIC) from the Pictou Justice Centre on June 18, 2019 and steps taken to ensure a similar situation does not occur in the future.

### **Considerations**

The review considered:

- Staff knowledge of Sheriff Services Standard Operational and Administrative Policy and Procedures (SOAPP)
- Whether the SOAPP was current or if it required updating
- Information available to the deputy sheriffs at the time of release
- Involvement of the supervisor as it pertained to the release

### **Issue**

This review was initiated to determine the cause of an unauthorized release of a PIC.

### **Facts**

A 72-year-old male inmate was mistakenly released from custody by Sheriff Services at about 1 p.m. on June 18, 2019 following an appearance in Pictou Provincial Court. The inmate was supposed to be returned to the Northeast Correctional Facility near New Glasgow on an existing remand warrant. He returned to the correctional facility and was taken into custody without incident, at about 10 a.m. on June 19, 2019.

### **Findings**

- Staff was aware of the protocol requiring them to call the correctional facility to confirm the status of a person in custody when considering a release.
- The supervisor was not consulted with respect to the release.
- The existing policy does not require supervisory oversight for releasing a PIC.

## **Follow-up actions**

- Corrective action was taken with staff involved.
- An interim directive was prepared and circulated to all sheriffs and supervisors on June 20 outlining new requirements and oversight for supervisors related to the release of persons in custody.
- A revised Sheriff Services Standard Operational and Administrative Policy and Procedures (SOAPP) has been drafted and is currently under review. The revised policy addresses the role of the supervisor in ensuring consultation and oversight of all persons being released from Sheriff Services custody.
- Once the revised SOAPP is finalized, it will replace the interim directive. It will be circulated to all sheriffs and supervisors for distribution to all staff.