



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

For Immediate Release:

April 24, 2023

Contact Emmanuel Priest

607-778-2437

emmanuel.priest@broomecountyny.gov

BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Details Released on Pregnant Inmate Overdosing on Smuggled Drugs

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) The Broome County Sheriff's Office released details on a pregnant inmate who attempted to smuggle drugs into the Broome County Sheriff's Correctional Facility and overdosed less than two hours after entering the facility, leading to the death of her unborn child.

"A series of poor decisions led to an unconscionable tragedy," said Sheriff Fred Akshar. "Throughout this event, the men and women of the Broome County Sheriff's Corrections Division acted swiftly, followed their training and saved this inmate's life. Unfortunately, the consequences of this incarcerated person's actions extended beyond her own life and ended another life before it could properly begin."

On Monday, March 20, 2023 at 8:25 PM, Quashaia U. Oranchak, age 36 of Owego began intake procedures at the Broome County Correctional Facility after being arrested by New York State Police for multiple felony charges for criminal possession of a controlled substance, attempting to conceal/alter/destroy evidence, and criminal mischief. Less than 30 minutes after completing her screenings and admission, Oranchak began showing signs of a drug overdose. Facility medical staff, assisted by corrections officers called for an ambulance and moved Oranchak to the Medical wing and administered Narcan in an effort to stabilize her before Emergency Medical Services arrived.

Oranchak was transported to Wilson Hospital for treatment. Shortly after arriving, a hospital nurse attempted to conduct an evaluation on the pregnant Oranchak. The nurse was unable to perform the procedure due to an obstruction, and found clear plastic baggy containing 0.4 oz/11.3 g of a clear crystal substance located in Oranchak's vagina. The bag's contents tested positive for both methamphetamine and fentanyl, the same drugs Oranchak was arrested by State Police for possession with intent to sell. Oranchak herself was found to have high levels of methamphetamine still in her system while at the hospital.

General Information:
(607) 778-1911

Fiscal:
(607) 778-2928

Garnishees:
(607) 778-2926

Civil:
(607) 778-2145

Identification:
(607) 778-2924

Records:
(607) 778-2166

Toxicology reports from the Broome County Coroner show that both the unborn fetus's blood and cerebral spinal fluid contained 10,000 ng/ml and 9,500 ng/ml of methamphetamine respectively. Blood concentrations after a high dose of methamphetamine in an adult ranges from 200-800 ng/ml. Blood concentrations for a fatal overdose of methamphetamine can range from 500-11,000 ng/ml for an adult. The blood of the unborn fetus contained 20 times the minimum fatal concentration for an adult.

Following a thorough investigation, the Broome County Sheriff's Office charged Quashaia Oranchak was charged with:

- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, a Class B Felony
- Promoting Prison Contraband in the 1st Degree, a Class D Felony

Due to recent changes in New York State law from the 2019 Reproductive Health Act, Oranchak cannot be charged for the death of her unborn baby.

Sheriff Akshar released a full schedule of the events of the evening on March 20, based on over a dozen reports from Correctional Facility Staff, Emergency Medical Services workers and Wilson Hospital staff:

8:25 PM - Intake

- Quashaia Oranchak begins intake process at Broome County Correctional Facility, receives pat search and strip search by Corrections Officer.
- Oranchak is first asked if she has anything on her body or in her pockets that would potentially cut or stab the officer. She responds clearly and coherently, "No I do not."
- Oranchak complies with all instructions during the pat search. Oranchak continues to comply with all instructions without hesitation throughout the strip search protocol and says "that is fine I have been here before." Oranchak displays a polite demeanor.
- During the strip search, Corrections Officer asks Oranchak if she had anything inside her vagina or anus, as now would be the time to remove it. Oranchak states clearly and coherently "I don't." Oranchak follows all orders to remove her hair clip and all piercings. No visible items are found during the strip search.
- Body scan is normally performed on all intakes, with the exception of pregnant individuals for safety reasons.
- Booking includes various screenings for substance abuse, mental health, and various medical screenings, during which, Oranchak states she could "feel the baby moving all the time."

9:38 PM – Leaving Medical Intake

- After internal and medical intake processes conclude, Oranchak leaves the Medical Intake room and walks accompanied by intake nurse back to the desk at intake with urine sample cup.

- Oranchak sits at an intake desk across from officers while an officer attempts to assist her in making a phone call.

9:41 PM – Entering Holding Cell

- Oranchak walks from Male Intake area to Female Intake area and enters holding cell directly across from seated officer. Oranchak appears normal and opens cell door on her own.

10:01- 10:09 PM – In Holding Cell

- Officers await Oranchak to fill urine specimen cup before proceeding to her housing assignment.
- Officers are made aware that Oranchak is using the toilet and attempt to give her privacy.

10:10 – Condition Deteriorates

- Officers observe that Oranchak appears to be experiencing tremors and is in distress.
- Officers ask several times if she had taken anything. Each time Oranchak denies taking anything, saying she is having a panic attack.

10:12 PM -Call for Medical

- Officer calls for assistance from Medical and decide to transport her from Intake to Medical Unit 1 for evaluation immediately.

10:13 PM – Transport to Medical Unit 1

- Officers begin transporting Oranchak to the Medical Unit 1 by wheelchair and are met nurses on the way. Oranchak appears to be having a seizure and the nurse recommends she go to the hospital.
- Oranchak states she is not having a seizure and again states she is having a panic attack.
- The nurse then directs officers to take Oranchak to Medical 1 for further assessments.
- During the assessment it is determined Oranchak needs an ambulance.

10:25 – EMS Contacted, 7 Narcan Doses Administered

- While EMS is contacted, Oranchak appears to have difficulty breathing. Code White (medical emergency) Level 2 was called.
- Nearby Corrections Officers, including field training officers respond to Medical 1. Officers place Oranchak in the recovery position (laying on her side) while two nurses treat her.
- Officers assist nurses by informing medical staff of oxygen levels and heart rate displayed on the pulse oximeter and prepping AED for use if necessary at nurses' request.
- Medical staff determines that Narcan must be administered. Corrections Officers fetch additional doses of Narcan, providing nurses with new kits and removing old kits.
- A total of 7 doses are administered in an effort to stabilize Oranchak's..
- Officers field training at the time and were among responding personnel. After Narcan

had been administered, training officers were removed from the unit.

- Corrections Officers exit cell when EMS arrived.

10:38 PM – EMS Arrives

- When EMS arrived, they found the patient not alert and disoriented, having intermittent convulsions, complaining of seizure activity with possible overdose on an unknown substance. Oranchak appears confused and unable to answer questions appropriately.
- EMS loads Oranchak into ambulance with assistance from Corrections Officers.

10:55 pm – Transport to Wilson Hospital

- Corrections Officer accompanies Oranchak in ambulance to Wilson Hospital

11:10pm – Arrival at Wilson Hospital

- Oranchak is arrives at Wilson Hospital is intubated for airway protection and provided IVs and medication.

12:20am – Smuggled Drugs Found

- Wilson Hospital Nurse conducts a medical evaluation on Oranchak. The nurse unable to perform the procedure due to an obstruction. At 12:25am, the nurse exits the room holding a tray containing a clear plastic baggy with a clear crystal-like substance that was located in Oranchak’s vagina.
- The package is placed in a biohazard bag and reported into evidence by a Corrections Officer.
- The substance is field tested positive for fentanyl and methamphetamine, weighing about 0.4oz/11.3g

3/21/23 – Emergency C section is completed to remove a deceased baby.

- Oranchak tests positive for methamphetamine.

“This was truly a nightmare scenario for all those involved, but it also underscores the truly horrific consequences of choosing to smuggle drugs over the safety of an unborn child,” said Sheriff Akshar. “This tragedy was entirely preventable, and I would argue that had Quashaia Oranchak not chosen to smuggle on her person a large package of methamphetamine and fentanyl into the Correctional Facility, her baby might be alive today. She had every opportunity to inform Corrections staff of the drugs secreted in her body, but chose not to. I applaud our Corrections Officers, Medical Staff and the staff at Wilson Hospital for doing everything they could to preserve life.”

###