

13. Genry Donaldo Ruiz-Guillen

Who was Genry Donaldo Ruiz-Guillen? Genry Donaldo Ruiz-Guillen was a 29-year-old citizen of Honduras who died in the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Per his mother, he traveled to the United States in 2023 in search of greater opportunities than were available in Honduras. He worked in construction. In a phone call to his mother at the beginning of his detention, Henry told his mother that he did not feel well and was dizzy and fainting. When he did not contact his mother after that phone call, she travelled to Krome Processing Center to get information about her son for herself, but was not told anything. It was not until a month after his death, on February 24th, 2025, that his mother was informed of her son's death. She has said that the pain she is feeling cannot be measured.

How did Genry Ruiz-Guillen end up in ICE custody? Genry was arrested by ICE on Oct. 29, 2024, after a local law enforcement encounter in Pinellas County Florida. He had no known prior criminal convictions. Genry was transferred to the Krome Service Processing Center on Oct. 30, 2024. Four times prior to December 9th he was sent to the Larkin Community Hospital for hospital evaluations. He did not die suddenly, Genry deteriorated over the course of weeks, with frequent complaints of dizziness, falls, and seizures. Despite being in the hospital and being treated for multiple ailments, he became more and more disoriented, incoherent, and sleepless. Hospital records indicate he was being treated for psychosis, seizures, elevated sodium levels, and rhabdomyolysis. On the morning of January 23, he began to struggle to breath. Genry was pronounced dead at 8:07 AM.

How did Genry Ruiz-Guillen die under ICE custody? He was pronounced dead by medical professionals at the Larkin Community Hospital Palm Springs campus in Hialeah, Florida, Jan. 23 at 8:07 a.m. The autopsy ruling for Genry Ruiz-Guillen — that he died of “complications of schizoaffective disorder” — shocked doctors, who described it as an insufficient explanation for how he might have died. “Mental illness, by itself, is not a proper cause of death,” said Dr. Michael Baden. Toxicology showed an excessive mix of antipsychotic and antidepressant drugs, and doctors suspect neuroleptic malignant syndrome, a treatable but potentially fatal reaction to medications. Psychiatrist Jim Recht called the diagnosis “infuriating” and suggested that deaths such as Genry's raise major concerns about medical mismanagement. Dr. Michael Ostacher, a professor of psychiatry at Stanford, said: "It's very unusual for somebody to die of the complications of schizoaffective disorder while they're in the hospital being treated for schizoaffective disorder. I'm concerned that the care failed to meet the standard of care expected of a reasonable medical provider."

“That’s a worrisome pattern,” said Paul Appelbaum of Columbia University. “People who are being confined under government supervision are dying for unexplained reasons.”

What happened after Genry Ruiz-Guillen's death: ICE states that per their protocols, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, and the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility were notified. They say that next of kin were also given appropriate notification.

Genry Ruiz-Guillen's body was repatriated to Honduras.

Sources: <https://www.knowyourrightscamp.org/post/families-of-two-immigrants-who-died-in-ice-custody-question-their-death-due-to-natural-causes>

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