

16. Johnny Noviello

Who was Johnny Noviello? Johnny Noviello was a 49 year old Canadian citizen who died in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody on June 23, 2025. He was 49 years old and suffered from epilepsy. He was described by his lawyer, Daniel Leising, as a "very polite, quiet, unassuming man with a very simple life" who did not pose a danger to anyone. Attorney Daniel Leising represented Johnny Noviello in his 2023 drug case. Noviello had been working as a cashier and did some janitorial work, and had no prior law enforcement contact prior to his 2023 drug arrest.

Despite having Canadian citizenship, Noviello had been in the U.S. since 1988, wanting to be closer to his family. He became a lawful permanent resident in 1991. "This comes as an obvious shock," said Leising. "He was just working, nothing out of the ordinary, no violations, nothing else. There was nothing on my mind that would've created any circumstance where Johnny Noviello would have been a danger to anyone."

How did Johnny Noviello end up in ICE custody? On May 25, 2025, Johnny Noviello was arrested by ICE at his probation office. He was then brought to and detained at a Federal Detention Center in Miami, Florida. During his initial intake exam at Krome Service Processing Center, Johnny informed the staff of his seizure disorder and also of his hypertension diagnosis. Per his lawyer, Noviello's family told the Center that he had epilepsy and they "worked painstakingly to make sure that he got his meds." Additionally, Canada Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand said Canadian consular officials had been in touch with Mr. Noviello as soon as they heard of his detention.

On June 8th, medical professionals requested a mental health evaluation after Johnny reported feeling "sad and depressed". The next day, he was evaluated by a medical professional who noted that he was having difficulty maintaining proper hygiene and hadn't eaten in "a while".

How did Johnny Noviello die under ICE custody? On June 23, 2025, Johnny Noviello was found unresponsive with low blood sugar and a dangerously low temperature. He was administered CPR and AED by Krome Service Processing Center staff. Minutes later, the City of Miami Fire Rescue Department arrived and took over with advanced cardiac life support. Johnny did not respond to those measures and within minutes Miami Fire Rescue pronounced him deceased.

Said the Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, "At this point we are also seeking additional information relating to the circumstances of his passing away, and I'd like to extend my condolences to his family."

Sources:

<https://people.com/canadian-citizen-dies-ice-custody-florida-detention-center-11762842>

<https://icememorialportraits.org/johnny-noviello/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canadian-died-ice-custody-lawyer-1.7573184>