



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff  
Gary Simpson  
**News**

**For immediate release:**  
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**Monday, May 11, 2020**

## **Inmate injured at Kitsap County Jail**

**PORT ORCHARD, Wash.** -- On Saturday, May 9, at approximately 10:30 a.m., the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division experienced a critical incident.

Sean M. Howell was booked into the KCSO Jail after being arrested by Bremerton Police Department for murder, 1<sup>st</sup> degree (DV). During the booking process the inmate made suicidal statements. Per sheriff's office policy he was placed in a crisis cell with regular observations being conducted. After being observed to be damaging a ceiling fixture, he was removed for his cell and immediately attacked the corrections officers, injuring one officer. The officer was treated at the hospital and released.

The inmate was moved into a restraint chair and observed to be in distress. On-scene corrections officers and medical personnel immediately administered CPR while calling for local fire and rescue personnel. Fire and rescue personnel responded and transported the inmate to the hospital where he remains under hospital observation and care.

In 2019 the State Legislature ratified Washington Administrative Code 139-12, the Law Enforcement and Community Safety Act (formerly known as I-940), for the purpose of creating Independent Investigative Teams (IIT). The IIT are tasked with independently investigating these incidents. The Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (KCIRT) responded to the scene to conduct the investigation into this

incident. Investigators of the Washington State Patrol are leading the investigative team with the assistance of regional team members. To maintain an independent investigation members of the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office are not team participants.

Our corrections officers' mission is to maintain a safe and secure facility. They are trained and experienced in managing suicidal and combative inmates. However, even in the best of situations the unpredictability of people in their care may result in injuries to inmates and corrections officers.

Sheriff's office personnel value Teamwork, Integrity and Professionalism in all aspects of our work. In time, I trust the outcome of this independent investigation will support these ethical standards.

For additional information and media releases please contact the KCIRT public information officer:

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