



# MEDIA RELEASE

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
**Sheriff-Coroner**

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**Jim Hart**  
Sheriff-Coroner

## Media Release: October 16, 2019 Suicide at Jail

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 James Kohut was found deceased in his cell at the Santa Cruz County main jail. Correctional Officers found Kohut around 5:45 a.m. at the start of breakfast service.

He did not share a cell with any other inmates.

An autopsy performed by our forensic pathologist determined the manner of death to be a suicide and the cause was an incised wound of left groin with partial transection of the femoral artery.

A note was also found inside Kohut's cell which referenced his determination to take his own life.

Detectives are continuing their death investigation.

### **TIMELINE OF INCARCERATION:**

- Arrested May 14, 2017 housed in our observation unit
- In May he was considered at-risk of self-harm and placed on 5-day watch regimen
- July 2017 Kohut attempted to take his own life and received medical treatment
- Placed on another watch regimen for 24-days
- March 2019 he was moved to the protective housing unit
- September was moved back to the observation unit for 6 days
- Then returned to protective housing unit where he took his own life

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