

AN APPARENT SUICIDE AT WAYNE CO. JAIL PROBED

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The Wayne County Sheriff's Office is investigating the apparent suicide of a 17-year-old inmate at a downtown Detroit jail.

Maurice McClain of Detroit allegedly hanged himself with a bedsheet in his cell on April 29. Preliminary autopsy reports indicate that he died of asphyxiation, although a toxicology report is still pending.

McClain had been convicted of robbery, officials said. He was sentenced April 17 to serve a year in the County Jail.

"As we do with any death of an inmate, we immediately referred the case to the Detroit police homicide section and our own internal affairs for further investigation," said sheriff's spokesman John Roach. "To my knowledge, this is still an open investigation."

Family members have complained to the jail staff that **McClain** was not suicidal and relatives are questioning the cause of his death.

Roach said **McClain**'s suspected suicide, if proven true, is the first in two years at its three jail facilities, which house 35,000 inmates a year. The last suicide was May 4, 2004, he said.

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