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STATE

Family of prison lieutenant killed at Pickaway County firing range hires an attorney

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The family of a corrections lieutenant shot and killed on a prison shooting range hired Columbus attorney Mark Kitrick.

Kitrick said he will investigate the April 9 death of Lt. Rodney Osborne at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction training center in Pickaway County.

"This should never, ever, ever have happened," Kitrick said on Thursday.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating the death as a reckless homicide. The patrol has yet to send an investigative report to Pickaway County Prosecutor Judy Wolford. The corrections department is expected to conduct an internal investigation as well.

Ohio DRC put David Pearson, a firearms instructor and special operations commander, on paid leave the day after the shooting. Pearson started as a correction officer in May 2005 and has been in his current role since January 2021.

"Shooting directly at a fellow officer at close range with live ammo is inconceivable and unforgiveable," Kitrick said. "You never pull a gun and point it at someone unless you have a deliberate intent to shoot it which can cause injury or death."

Laura Bischoff is a reporter for the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau, which serves the Columbus Dispatch, Cincinnati Enquirer, Akron Beacon Journal and 18 other affiliated news organizations across Ohio.