U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
(ICE) Detainee Death Report: DAMAS, Emmanuel

Immigration and Criminal History

Mr. DAMAS, a 56-year-old male citizen of Haiti, was taken into ICE custody on September 16, 2025, and detained at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, NY, following his release from the Boston Police Department Nashua Street Jail after arrest on charges of assault and battery. On September 26, 2025, ICE transferred DAMAS to the Florence Detention Center in Florence, AZ, pending his immigration hearing. On October 1, 2025, ICE transferred DAMAS to the Central Arizona Florence Correctional Center.

Synopsis of Events

On September 16, 2025, Mr. Damas underwent medical intake screening, which documented no current or past medical issues and normal vital signs, but noted confusion and difficulty following questions. Subsequent assessments by advance level provider (APP) revealed a history of alcohol abuse, dementia, and high cholesterol, for which routine laboratory tests and chronic care follow-ups were conducted.

Throughout his custody, Mr. DAMAS received regular medical and dental evaluations. Providers addressed complaints including memory loss, insomnia, dry and peeling skin, and dental pain. He was educated on sleep hygiene, diet, and exercise, and received appropriate medications and referrals as needed. Dental assessments identified loose teeth and gingivitis, with recommendations for extractions, which Mr. DAMAS declined and signed refusal forms and was provided instructions on access to care.

February 19, 2026, Mr. DAMAS experienced escalating symptoms including throat and stomach pain, agitation, and low oxygen saturations. Emergency medical services were called, and he was transported to Florence Anthem Hospital, where he was diagnosed with acute respiratory failure due to septic shock, likely secondary to pneumonia. He was subsequently transferred to higher-level care facilities, including John C. Lincoln Medical Center and Scottsdale Osbourn Medical Center, where he remained on ventilated life support and received intensive medical interventions.

On March 2, 2026, at 1: 12 p.m., Mr. DAMAS was pronounced deceased at Scottsdale Osbourn Medical Center.