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1 Inmate dies in hospital; another to be buried at Parchman

JACKSON – An inmate at the Mississippi State Penitentiary has died as the Mississippi Department of Corrections prepares to bury another inmate from the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility after exhausting sources to locate his family.

Danny Kaye Watts, 66, died Thursday evening at the prison hospital, where he had been since Sept. 17.

Watts was serving 20 years for two sex crimes. He was sentenced Dec. 2, 2008, for unlawful touching of a child and sexual battery in Pike County.

Charles William Morris, who will be buried at the prison cemetery, died Sept. 14, at Merit Health Central in Jackson.

Morris, 72, was serving life for murder, plus 25 years for rape, at CMCF. He was sentenced Nov. 7, 2002, after being convicted of killing and raping a female homeowner whose body was found in a shallow grave several days after she went missing in Harrison County. The Mississippi Court of Appeals upheld his conviction in 2004.

An autopsy will determine the cause and the manner of death in each case.