



Former Alabama corrections officer pleads guilty in assault that led to inmate death



By [The Associated Press](#)

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MONTGOMERY, Alabama — A former Alabama corrections officer has pleaded guilty to civil rights violations and obstruction of justice.

Officials say Matthew E. Davidson pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court in Montgomery to two counts of violating the civil rights of former inmate at Ventress Correctional Facility in Clayton. Davidson also pleaded guilty to conspiring with other corrections officers to try covering the incident up.

The charges stem from a [2010 incident involving 24-year-old Rocrast Mack](#), an inmate who was severely beaten and later died.

Authorities say Davidson assaulted Mack before delivering him to another area of the prison where he knew the man would be beaten again. Davidson and his accomplices have said a supervisor continued beating Mack and instructed them to lie about the incident in later reports.

[Two state correctional officers were fired and four others, threatened with firing, resigned](#) in 2011 after [an investigation by the Alabama Department of Corrections](#).

A former correctional lieutenant, Michael Anthony Smith, of Auburn, was [charged with murder](#) in the incident. That case is pending, according to court records.

AL.com reporter Jeremy Gray contributed to this report.

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