



# KEN PAXTON

## ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

### CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

## Agency Information

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CDR Number: 17-190-C

Version Type: ORIGINAL  
VERSION

Report Date: 4/13/2017 11:24  
AM

Status: Submitted

## Agency/Facility Information

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Agency Name: Texas Department  
Of Public Safety

Agency Address: PO BOX 4087

Agency City: Austin

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 78773

## Director Information

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Director Salutation: Director

Director First Name: Steven

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: McCraw

Reporter Name: Joanne  
Scarbrough

Reporter Email: joanne.scarbrough@dps.texas.gov

## Decedent Information

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## Identity of Deceased

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First Name: Dennis

Middle Name: Ray

Last Name: Wasson

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 7/4/1989

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 27

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

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Date/Time of Custody or 3/29/2017 11:30  
Incident: PM

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

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Death Date and Time: 3/30/2017 1:08 AM

## Manner / Cause of Death

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Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

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Medical Examiner/Coroner Yes, results  
Evaluation?: pending

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

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Homicide (includes

Manner of Death: Justifiable  
Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

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Medical Cause of Death:

Pending Autopsy Results

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

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Medical Treatment: Not Applicable

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

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Who caused the death?: Law  
enforcement/correctional  
personnel

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

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Type of weapon that caused  
death?: Handgun

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

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Pre existing medical  
condition?: Not Applicable;  
cause of death was  
accidental injury,  
intoxication, suicide  
or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

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Means of Death: Firearm

## Location / Custody Information

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Where did the event causing the death occur?

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Street Address: FM 1752 - North of  
FM 898

City: Unincorporated

County: Fannin

Zip: NA

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

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Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

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Type of Custody: Police Custody  
(pre-booking)

Specific type of custody/facility:

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Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

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Entry Date Time:

Entry Date Time N/A: ☒

Where did the death occur?

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Death Location: Medical facility

## General Information

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Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: Yes

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Aggravated Assault Against Public Servant

Offense 2:

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle

Offense 3:

Evading Arrest or Detention

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Violent Crime  
Against Persons;  
Crime Against  
Property

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: Yes, mark all that apply

Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details: Used vehicle as weapon

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?: Yes (select all that apply)

Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others: Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel; Attempted to injure civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

|                                        |         |                                |         |
|----------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): | Unknown | Make suicidal statements?:     | Unknown |
| Exhibit any mental health problems?:   | Unknown | Exhibit any medical problems?: | Unknown |

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

|                                           |         |                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| Barricade self or initiate standoff?:     | No      | Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:     | No  |
| Physically attempt/assault officer(s):    | Yes     | Gain possession of officer's weapon:      | No  |
| Verbally threaten other(s) including law: | Unknown | Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody: | Yes |
| Attempt gain possession officer's weapon: | No      |                                           |     |

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint: No

## Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On 03/29/17 at approximately 11:11 PM, a Texas DPS Trooper attempted to stop a vehicle for speeding on U.S. 82 in Fannin County. The vehicle failed to stop and a pursuit began. During the pursuit, the Trooper learned the vehicle was stolen from Paris, Lamar County, Texas. The pursuit traveled several miles over several different roadways. The Bonham Police Department (PD) and the Fannin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) assisted with the pursuit. FCSO eventually spiked the stolen vehicle. After the spike deployment, the stolen vehicle failed to stop and the pursuit continued on a Farm to Market (FM) Road. The Trooper pulled up close to the evading vehicle in an attempt to execute a PIT maneuver on the fleeing vehicle. The driver of the evading vehicle swerved over and rammed the patrol unit causing damage to the front left. The Trooper dropped back and pulled over on the other side of the evading vehicle and performed a successful PIT maneuver, causing the evading vehicle to spin around and was now facing the Trooper's patrol unit. The Trooper exited his patrol unit and drew his service weapon and pointed said weapon at the driver of the stolen vehicle. The driver then accelerated and began traveling directly toward a Bonham PD unit that had been assisting in the pursuit. The Bonham PD unit had to take evasive action to keep from being stuck head on by the stolen vehicle. The Trooper, fearing for the safety of the Bonham PD officer, fired his DPS issued handgun at the driver, striking the driver one time. The driver of the stolen vehicle continued driving approximately 100 yards north where he eventually drove off into the ditch on the east side of FM 1752 and stopped. The driver was sent to a hospital by Air Ambulance where he was pronounced dead at said hospital. There was a female passenger in the stolen vehicle, who was not injured, and who cooperated with the Texas Rangers, who responded to the scene and are conducting the investigation. The female passenger indicated the driver had told her he was not going to stop and she made the comment if the officer had not shot the driver, she believed she would have died due to the driver's reckless driving. A subsequent search of the stolen vehicle yielded a small quantity of marijuana and syringes, containing a clear liquid (believed to be methamphetamine).