



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 17-401-CJ

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 8/2/2017 8:02 AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Cherokee County
Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Address: 272 Underwood St.

Agency City: Rusk

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 75785

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: James

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Campbell

Reporter Name: Robin Parsons

Reporter Email: ccso529@cocherokee.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Ronald

Middle Name: Vernon

Last Name: Jernigan

Suffix: MR

Date of Birth: 6/15/1974

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 42

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 4/30/2017 8:53 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 5/20/2017 4:38 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

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

Medical Examiner/Coroner
Evaluation?: Yes, results are
available

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

Manner of Death: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Per the autopsy: "Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease"

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

Medical Treatment: No

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

Who caused the death?: Not applicable

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

Type of weapon that caused death?: Not Applicable

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

Pre existing medical condition?: Pre-existing medical condition

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

Means of Death: Other, specify

Means of Death Other: "Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease"

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 272 Underwood St.

City: Rusk

County: Cherokee

Zip: 75785

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

Location Category: Law Enforcement
Facility

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

Type of Custody: County Jail

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Jail - multiple occupancy cell

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):

Entry Date Time: 4/30/2017 8:53 AM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Medical facility

General Information

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

Other Agencies Respond?: No

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:

Driving while Intoxicated 3rd or more Motion to Revoke F3

Offense 2:

Driving while Intoxicated 3rd or more Motion to Revoke F3

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Filed

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

Type of Offense: Alcohol / drug
offense

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: No

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

Attempt to Injure Others?: No

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

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or
drugs): No

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health
problems?: No

Exhibit any medical problems?: No

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):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	No	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	No
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:

Inmate Jernigan was resting in bed and complained about heartburn to other inmates. Jernigan set up in his bed and then stepped to the floor then lowered down to his knees. Jernigan began to make noises and was asked by other inmates what was wrong. One inmate contacted the control room via the speaker and advised that Jernigan had something wrong with him. Correctional officers responded and found Jernigan on his back on the floor. CPR was administered after a few minutes of a trained officer arriving. EMT's arrived and found weak vital signs and transported Jernigan to the hospital. Jernigan remained in the hospital for a few days but never regained consciousness. Jernigan was pronounced dead and the autopsy showed that he had a heart attack.