



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 17-442-CJ

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 8/7/2020 11:49 AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Collin County
Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Address: 4300 Community
Ave.

Agency City: McKinney

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 75071

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: Jim

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Skinner

Reporter Name: Bruce Sherman

Reporter Email: bruce.sherman@dps.texas.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: JOSEPH

Middle Name: TREVOR

Last Name: LAFOLLETT

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 3/16/1986

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 31

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 8/25/2017 11:39 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 8/26/2017 12:44 AM

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: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Based on the autopsy and history available to Dr. Stephanie Burton, Assistant County Medical Examiner, it is her opinion that Joseph Trevor LaFollett, a 31-year-old white male, died as a result of hanging. Investigative and autopsy findings are consistent with this being deliberate and self-inflicted. Per Asst. Medical Examiner, Burton.

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

Medical Treatment: Not Applicable

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

Who caused the death?: Decedent

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?: Other Weapon, specify:

Other weapon, specify:

Ligature

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?: 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?

Means of Death: Hanging, strangulation

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 4300 Community Ave.

City: Mckinney

County: Collin

Zip: 75071

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: 8/8/2017 4:30 AM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Law enforcement facility/booking center

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:

POSS CS PG 1 <1G

Offense 2:

POSS MARIJ <2OZ

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?: Yes

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:

On 08-26-2017 at approximately 1 AM, the Collin County Sheriff's Office requested my assistance with the investigation of a custodial death of an inmate. The deceased, Joseph LaFollett (W/M, DOB: 03-16-1986) hereinafter referred to as deceased, was initially arrested by the Collin County Sheriff's Office for possession of a controlled substance (suspected methamphetamine) and possession of marijuana earlier this month (August 2017). Last week while in the Collin County Jail, the deceased attempted but was unsuccessful in committing suicide by means of a trash bag over his head. During the investigation it was learned that the deceased made comments on recorded jail calls stating, the suicide thing didn't work and later mentioning that he would have to try harder next time. The deceased was on level 3 suicide watch in a 2-man cell. However, the other cell mate was not present tonight during the deceased's apparent suicide. The deceased engineered his mesh laundry sack with a hole to go over his head as a ligature with the mesh sack looped into one of the manufactured holes in the top bunk bed's frame. The deceased was transported by medical staff to Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in McKinney, Texas where he was pronounced dead at approximately 12:44 AM (08/26/2017).

The manner of death has been ruled a suicide. Stephanie S. Burton, M.D. Assistant County Medical Examiner, concluded that LaFollett deas as the result of hanging, and the investigative and autopsy findings were consistent with this being deliberate and self-inflicted.