



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 21-1771-CJ

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 7/28/2022 10:59
AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Bowie County
Sheriff's Office

Agency Address: 100 North State
Line, BOX 18

Agency City: Texarkana

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 75501

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: JEFF

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: NEAL

Reporter Name: Robby McCarver

Reporter Email: robbymccarver@bowiecounty.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Paul

Middle Name: Edwin

Last Name: Schmidt

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 1/26/1966

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 55

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 5/19/2021 4:23 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 5/21/2021 4:04 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: Accidental

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Per medical examiner "Based on the case history and autopsy findings, it is my opinion that Paul Schmidt, a 55-year old white male, died as a result of COVID-19. The toxic effects of methamphetamine and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease contributed to his death."

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

Medical Treatment: Unknown

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: Not applicable, cause of death was illness/natural cause

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 100 N. State Line
Avenue

City: Texarkana

County: Bowie

Zip: 75501

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 - holding 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: 5/19/2021 4:23 PM

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?: 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:

Possession of Marijuana Under 2 Ounces

Offense 2:

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): Yes

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health problems?: No

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

Resist being handcuffed or

standoff?:	No	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 5-19-2021, Bowie County Deputies were called to a suspicious person in the area of Redwater, TX where they located Paul Edwin Schmidt. Schmidt and another male passenger were intoxicated and walking around the area causing citizen concern. Upon contact, it was apparent that Schmidt had been in a physical confrontation that resulted in both his eyes being bruised. According to Schmidt, the injuries were sustained a couple of days prior. He complained of no injuries this date and refused medical treatment at the scene. He was found to be in possession of marijuana and subsequently charged for POM U/2oz and booked into the Bi State Jail (5-19-21 @ 4:23pm). The following morning (5-20-2021), he was taken before a magistrate to have a bond set. He and several others were returned to a holding cell near the processing desk after their hearing. Schmidt collapsed on the floor shortly after he returned and medical personnel responded to find him slow to respond. He eventually became unresponsive and an ambulance was called as life saving efforts were taken. CPR was continued until Life Net personnel arrived and took over along with the Texarkana AR Fire Department. They were able to resuscitate Schmidt and he was transported to Wadley Medical Center where he was admitted and placed into ICU. Hospital staff informed us that Schmidt was positive for the presence of methamphetamine as well as Covid 19. We were contacted on 5-21-2021 and informed that Schmidt had coded and life saving efforts by the hospital were unsuccessful. TX Ranger Joshua Mason was contacted for outside investigation into the death of Paul Schmidt. Investigator Chris Allison responded to the hospital along with Justice of the Peace Nancy Talley. She ordered the autopsy and preparations were made to send Schmidt to the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences at Dallas for forensic exam. Schmidt's sister was contacted and she was not aware of any medical conditions that would contribute to Schmidt's death.

Review of in-house surveillance footage captured Schmidt's collapse in the holding cell. He can be seen sitting on the bench next to another inmate. He had no confrontation or physical contact with anyone prior to his collapse. Shortly after sitting, he leaned to one side and appeared to be in medical distress. He then slumped from the seat and fell to the floor, likely causing a contusion on his head. Another inmate assisted him yelled for medical staff They assisted him up although his movement looked labored. He sat on the bench again but quickly lost consciousness and collapsed again. He was removed from the room and CPR efforts began.

Final autopsy findings indicated Schmidt had pre-existing medical condition (atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease) combined with the toxic effects of methamphetamine. His death was ruled accidental.

