



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 22-1548-CJ

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 1/4/2023 8:45 AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Dawson County
Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Address: PO BOX 1268

Agency City: Lamesa

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 79331

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: MATT

Director Middle Name: I

Director Last Name: HOGG

Reporter Name: MATT HOGG

Reporter Email: matt.hogg@co.dawson.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: JOSE

Middle Name: SAUL

Last Name: CRUZ

Suffix: JR.

Date of Birth: 1/22/1988

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 34

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 11/5/2022 2:45 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 11/5/2022 11:12
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: Alcohol/Drug
Intoxication

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Complications of acute methamphetamine toxicity due to illicit drug use

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?: Unknown whether
decedent sustained
a fatal injury

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?: Could not be
determined

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

Means of Death: Unknown

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 401 S. 2nd Street

City: Lamesa

County: Dawson

Zip: 79331

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 - detox 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: 11/5/2022 2:45 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?: 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:

Public Intoxication

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

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: 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?: Yes

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:

The decedent, Jose Cruz, was brought into the Dawson County Jail on November 05, 2022, at approximately 2:45 a.m., asked screening questions and changed out into a jail uniform. Inmate Cruz cooperated during the booking process but appeared to be very fidgety and anxious. Once the booking process was completed, inmate Cruz was placed into the detox cell and given a mattress. Jail staff advised that all through the morning of November 5, Inmate Cruz was observed to be pacing the detox cell and waving his arms and talking to himself. At approximately 10:38 p.m., on November 5, 2022, inmate Cruz was observed to be laying down on mattress and jail staff advised that they heard him snore. Jail staff went to check on inmate Cruz at 11:06 p.m. and observed inmate Cruz to be unresponsive and not breathing. Chest compressions were initiated and EMS was called. EMS arrived at approximately 11:12 p.m. and advised jail staff that inmate Cruz was deceased. County Judge arrived at jail and pronounced death at 11:12 p.m. Autopsy was performed on Monday, November 7, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., and results are pending.

Autopsy results received on January 3, 2023, showing cause of death as Complications of acute methamphetamine toxicity due to illicit drug use. A copy of the report was also emailed to Ranger Zuniga, who is investigating the custodial death.