



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 23-1237-CJ

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 9/19/2023 1:56 PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Garza County
Sheriff's Office

Agency Address: 412 E. 15th

Agency City: Post

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 79356

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: Terry

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Morgan

Reporter Name: Michael
Copeland

Reporter Email: michael.copeland@co.garza.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: John

Middle Name: David

Last Name: Snell

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 6/12/1972

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 51

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 6/24/2023 2:45 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 7/12/2023 3:09 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: Accidental

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Subdural Hematoma

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

Medical Treatment: Yes

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?: 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: Other, specify

Means of Death Other: Inmate fell and hit his head on the wall.

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 412 East 15th

City: Post

County: Garza

Zip: 79356

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: 6/20/2023 2:56 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:

VIOL BOND/PROTECTIVE ORDER

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: Violent Crime
Against Persons

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?: 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 Saturday June 24, 2023, approximately 17:00 hours, inmate John D. Snell was found unresponsive in cell 188. Sergeant Perez entered cell 188 and called inmate Snell's name several times with getting no response from him. Sergeant Perez tried multiple times to wake inmate Snell up but was unsuccessful. Sergeant Perez exited cell 188 to call for EMS. At approximately 17:20, EMS arrives at the facility and takes control of the situation. At approximately 17:35, inmate Snell is loaded into the ambulance and taken to Covenant Hospital in Lubbock. At approximately 19:00, the Neurologist from Covenant Hospital calls Captain Copeland inquiring about a traumatic injury to the right side of inmate Snell's brain. The Neurologist stated that it seems inmate Snell was in a fight or something. Captain Copeland stated that inmate Snell was in a detox cell by himself. At approximately 21:00, Sergeant Perez informed Captain Copeland that after reviewing the camera in cell 188, that at approximately 14:40, inmate Snell had passed out and hit his head on the wall in the cell. Sergeant Perez stated that inmate Snell called on the emergency intercom and stated he needed medicine for a headache at approximately 15:14. On Sunday June 25, 2023, the neurologist at Covenant Hospital stated that he did not think inmate Snell was going to recover for his injury and stating that his brain was swelled for too long before the surgery. At approximately 14:30, Borden County Judge signed an order to release from custody for inmate Snell so his family could take over the direction on his care. On July 12, 2023, the Medical Examiner's Office in Lubbock, Texas informed Garza County that Mr. Snell had passed away at 15:09 that day.