



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 23-1779-CJ

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 1/3/2024 8:12 AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Denton County
Sheriff's Office.

Agency Address: 127 N. Woodrow
Ln. Suite 300

Agency City: Denton

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 76205

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: Tracy

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Murphree

Reporter Name: Michael Tutt

Reporter Email: michael.tutt@dentoncounty.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Heath

Middle Name: Aaron

Last Name: Vandeventer

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 1/7/1996

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 27

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 7/8/2023 10:11 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 9/12/2023 1:02 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: Could not be
determined

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Autopsy results were received on January 2, 2024, from the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. Dehydration was listed as the cause of death.

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?: Deceased developed condition after admission

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: 127 N Woodrow Ln

City: Denton

County: Denton

Zip: 76205

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 - single 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: 7/8/2023 10:11 PM

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:

Assault Against Elderly or Disabled Individual

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): No

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?:	N/A	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	N/A
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	N/A	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	N/A
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	N/A	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	N/A
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	N/A		

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 Heath Vandeventer (DOB 01/07/1996) was booked into the Denton County Jail on July 8, 2023 for the charge of Assault Against Elderly or Disabled. At the time of booking, a medical intake assessment was conducted. Inmate Vandeventer refused to participate in this assessment. In accordance with the instructions for the Screening Form for Suicide and Medical/Mental/Developmental Impairments, Inmate Vandeventer was placed under suicide precautions due to his refusal to answer questions.

Denton County Correctional Health attempted on multiple occasions to perform a medical assessment of Inmate Vandeventer which included a psychiatric examination. Inmate Vandeventer refused to participate in the evaluations.

On September 12, 2023, at approximately 12:55PM, a Denton County Jail detention officer and a Denton County Correctional Health staff member went to the cell occupied by Inmate Vandeventer to perform a routine check of vital signs. Inmate Vandeventer was observed in a seated position on the floor sitting on a safety smock with his upper torso leaning forward.

Denton County Jail supervisors and additional Denton Correctional Health staff members were notified. Inmate Vandeventer was determined to be deceased based on a lack of pulse.

The Texas Rangers are conducting the in-custody death investigation. The results of this investigation are pending.

Autopsy results were received on January 2, 2024, from the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. Dehydration was listed as the cause of death and the manner of death was undetermined.