



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 25-788-CJ

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 10/2/2025 10:35
AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Cameron County
Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Address: 7300 Old Alice Rd

Agency City: Olmito

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 78575

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: Manuel

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Trevino

Reporter Name: Rodrigo
Almanza

Reporter Email: rodrigo.almanza@co.cameron.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Fernando

Middle Name:

Last Name: Santamaria

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 5/19/1968

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 57

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 9/16/2025 7:15 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 9/16/2025 7:16 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Yes, results
Evaluation?: pending

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Pending autopsy

Manner of Death: results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending autopsy results

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?: Could not be determined

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: 7100 Old Alice Rd

City: Olmito

County: Cameron

Zip: 78575

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: 10/11/2023 4:18
PM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Scene of incident

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:

Sex Offender Fail to Comply

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: Medical / Mental
Health assistance
call

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?:	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 Tuesday, September 16, at approximately 6:53 AM, Jailer Michael Castaneda, while conducting routine checks, discovered an unresponsive inmate in single cell M-122. He immediately notified jail staff, and shortly thereafter, medical personnel arrived and began chest compressions. Emergency Medical Services were contacted, and Ambulance Medic #10 arrived. At 7:27 AM, medics confirmed the inmate had no pulse.

Ranger Patrick O'Connor and I arrived on scene shortly afterward. We learned that Jailer Bryan Garcia had been assigned to that area the night prior. A brief interview was conducted with him. Jailer Garcia stated that he had interacted with Inmate Santamaria around midnight. Jailer Garcia reported that he continued to perform his checks throughout the night and did not observe anything unusual. He last saw Inmate Santamaria around 5:30 AM, sitting against the cell door, the same position in which he was later found unresponsive by Jailer Castaneda.

We spoke with medical staff, who stated that Inmate Santamaria had received his prescribed schizophrenia medication the evening before, at approximately 7:00 PM. They also reported that he did not suffer from any other known medical conditions.

Judge Cindy Hinojosa has requested a full autopsy. The Sunset Funeral Home has taken possession of the body.

Note: Inmate Santamaria was known for urinating on various surfaces and for damaging mattresses.