



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 26-425-UF

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 5/29/2026 7:31 AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Office of the
Attorney General

Agency Address: PO BOX 12548

Agency City: Austin

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 78711

Director Information

Director Salutation: Director

Director First Name: Brent

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Dupre

Reporter Name: Cody Smirl

Reporter Email: cody.smirl@oag.texas.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Matthew

Middle Name: Thomas

Last Name: Cruz

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 5/2/1990

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 36

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 5/5/2026 9:15 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 5/5/2026 10:46 AM

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)

Manner of Death: Homicide (includes
Justifiable
Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Justifiable gunshot

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

Medical Treatment: Not Applicable

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?: Law
enforcement/correctional
personnel

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?: Rifle/shotgun

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: Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 15420 Northcreek
Road Apt 4112

City: Fort Worth

County: Denton

Zip: 76177

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Residence/Home

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use
of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

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:

Entry Date Time N/A: ☒

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:

Indecency With a Child Sexual Contact - Warrant Execution

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: Crimes Against
Child(ren)

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: Yes, mark all that apply

Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details: Displayed other weapon, specify:

Specify Weapon Displayed:

Brandished knife

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?: Yes (select all that apply)

Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others: Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel

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?:	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?:	Yes	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	Yes
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Yes	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:

Officers of the Arlington Fugitive Unit Apprehension Team arrived at the residence of Matthew Thomas Cruz to attempt to serve a confirmed warrant of arrest for the offense of Indecency with a Child out of the Justin Police Department. Officers obtained a key to the residence from apartment complex management and attempted to make entry into the residence while verbally announcing their legal justification and law enforcement purpose. An additional interior deadbolt lock was utilized from inside the residence alerting officers that someone was inside the apartment and had locked the door from the inside. Officers utilized assigned breaching equipment to gain access to the apartment while verbally announcing their lawful authority and wearing issued ballistic vests that clearly donned insignia of "STATE POLICE". Once inside the apartment officers continued to verbally announce their lawful authority with no response. While searching the

residence Lieutenant Chris Webb observed the fugitive's reflection in the bathroom mirror. Fugitive Cruz was standing in the bathtub with his right arm obscured from view by the shower curtain. Officers gave loud verbal commands for fugitive Cruz to show his hands to which Cruz initially complied. Fugitive Cruz was given verbal commands to exit the bathtub and walk out of the bathroom. Fugitive Cruz eventually started to comply with the officer's verbal commands to exit the bathtub and walk out of the bathroom. Once in the bathroom doorway fugitive Cruz stopped complying with officer's verbal commands to come out of the bathroom. Fugitive Cruz stopped in the bathroom doorway placing his hands on the door frame. As officers moved closer in proximity to fugitive Cruz to take him into custody, fugitive Cruz took a step back and reached into his pants pocket. Fugitive Cruz brandished and opened a folding knife and took a fighting stance. Lieutenant Chris Webb shouted "Knife!" to warn his other officers that fugitive Cruz had brandished a weapon and it was his belief that fugitive Cruz was attempting to utilize the knife to kill the officers. In self-defense and defense of the other officer's lives, both Lieutenant Chris Webb and Sergeant Ivan Bozovic discharged their service weapons striking Cruz. Once officer's neutralized the immediate threat, Lieutenant Webb utilized his issued police radio to request an ambulance for medical treatment for fugitive Cruz as well as informing officers outside of the residence what had occurred. Sergeants Ray Mullikin and Sergeant Daniel Avalos immediately began medical treatment for fugitive Cruz. Lieutenant Webb informed his commanding officers what had occurred and notified the Texas Rangers of an officer involved shooting and requested they respond to the scene for an investigation.

Fugitive Cruz was pronounced dead at the scene and an autopsy is pending for official cause and manner of death results.