KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	26-577-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	7/30/2026 1:57 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Cherokee County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	272 Underwood St.
Agency City:	Rusk	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75785		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Brent
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Dickson		
Reporter Name:	Brent Dickson	Reporter Email:	bdickson@cocherokee.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Joseph

Middle Name: Ronald

Last Name: Russell

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 1/1/1977 Sex: Male

Race: Black or African American

Age At Time Of Death: 49

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 4/3/2026 12:00 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 7/29/2026 6:35 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 pending

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

Manner of Death: Pending autopsy results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

pending

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

Medical Treatment:	Unknown

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:	272 UNDERWOOD	City:	RUSK
County:	Cherokee	Zip:	75785

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:	
Entry Date Time N/A:	☑

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:

Possession of a controlled substance X2

Offense 2:

Assault on a public servants and harassments of a public servant (occurred while in the jail facility)

Offense 3:

Tampering / fabricating evidence

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; 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: Unknown

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

Attempt to Injure Others?: Unknown

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

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): Unknown

Make suicidal statements?: Unknown

Exhibit any mental health

problems?:	Yes	Exhibit any medical problems?:	Unknown

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

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:

Subject was located unresponsive in his cell. Medical efforts were attempted by jail staff and EMS. Subject was transported to a medical facility where he was pronounced decease.