



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 26-635-CJ

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 8/18/2026 10:53
AM

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: Michael

Middle Name: Ross

Last Name: Kyzer

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 4/8/1961

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 65

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 8/18/2026 1:02 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 8/18/2026 5:09 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: Pending autopsy
results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending autopsy.

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?: Decedent

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?: Other Weapon, specify:

Other weapon, specify:

sheet and towel

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: Hanging, strangulation

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 - holding 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: 8/18/2026 1:14 AM

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?: 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:

TC 545.060 - FAILED TO DRIVE IN SINGLE LANE

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: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Traffic

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?: Unknown

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):	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 August 18, 2026, at approximately 0219 hours, Cherokee County Jail staff located Michael Kyzer unresponsive in Holding Cell #1 following an apparent suicide attempt by hanging/strangulation. Jail staff immediately initiated life-saving measures. EMS responded and transported Kyzer to UT Health Hospital in Jacksonville, Texas.

While at UT Health, Kyzer was pronounced deceased. Justice of the Peace Judge Amber Hood arrived on scene and ordered an autopsy.

This case remains active and is pending further investigation by the Texas Rangers and receipt of the autopsy report.