



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

PA Number: PA16121CJ

Report Date: 3/24/2016 11:30 AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Department ID: 213

Department Type: SHERIFF

Agency Name: Denton County Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Number: TX0610000

Agency Phone: 9403491600

Agency Address: 127 N. Woodrow Ln.

Agency City: Denton

Agency County: Denton

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 76205

Director Information

Director Salutation:

Sheriff

Director First Name:

William

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name:

Travis

Reporter Name: Michael Tutt

Reporter Email: michael.tutt@dentoncounty.com

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 127 N. Woodrow
Lane

City: Denton

County: Denton

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

Custody Type Facility:

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: 3/9/2016 10:26 AM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: At medical facility

Death Location Elsewhere:

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Jerry

Middle Name: Wayne

Last Name: Bridwell

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 12/2/1968

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Anglo

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

Death Date and Time: 3/21/2016 9:49 PM

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident:

3/9/2016 10:26 AM

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:

Suicide

Manner of Death Description:

Death Reason:

Not applicable

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Hanging

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?:

Not applicable; cause of death was suicide, intoxication or illness/natural causes

Death Causer Other:

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (mark all that apply)

Type of Death Weapon:

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?:

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

General Information

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 Family/Household Member W/Prev Conv

Offense 2:

Assault Family/Household BI Fam/House 2+ W/IN 12 Months

Offense 3:

Bond Insuff-Assault Family/Household Member W/Prev Conv

Were the Charges::

Filed

What were the types of charges or reason for contact?

Type of Offense:

Injuries of Decedent

Injured By: Injured by NA

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

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): No

Exhibit any mental health problems?:

Exhibit any medical problems?:

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

Threaten the officer(s) involved: No

Resist being handcuffed or arrested?: No

Try to escape/flee from custody: No

Grab, hit or fight with the officer(s): No

Other Behavior:



Specify Other Behavior:

Use weapon threaten/assault officer(s): 0

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:

Denton County Sheriff's Office

Internal Memorandum

To: Sheriff Will Travis and Chief Deputy Rex George

From: Captain Michael Tutt #1702

Date: March 22, 2016

Subject: In-Custody Inmate Death Report (Bridwell, Jerry SO#113046)

INCIDENT: On March 21 at approximately 1000 hours, I, Captain Michael Tutt #1702, attended a Jail Update Incident Meeting concerning Inmate Bridwell, Jerry SO #113046. On March 20, 2016 at approximately 1441 hours, Inmate Bridwell was found hanging in his cell by Detention Staff. Inmate Bridwell was found with a strip of fabric tied around his neck and secured the other end to the television shelf. Detention Staff cut the fabric attached to the television shelf and lowered Inmate Bridwell onto the bunk in the cell and began resuscitation efforts. Jail Medical Staff arrived and continued resuscitation efforts. Denton Fire and EMS Personnel arrived and took over resuscitation efforts. Inmate Bridwell was transported to Denton Regional Medical Center.

INVESTIGATION:

On March 21, at approximately 1000 hours, I was notified of a suicide attempt by Inmate Bridwell, Jerry SO#113046. Inmate Bridwell had attempted to hang himself and was brain dead and on life support at Denton Regional Medical Center. I was directed by Chief Deputy Rex George #3872 to conduct the In-Custody Inmate Death Report should the life of Inmate Bridwell expire.

On March 22, 2016 at approximately 1002 hours, I received an email from Lieutenant Larry Kish #1926 of the Denton County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division stating that Inmate Bridwell expired at 2149 hours on March 21, 2016. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office took possession of Inmate Bridwell's body and a full autopsy was ordered. The case number for the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office is 1604575. At approximately 1213 hours, I downloaded the phone calls of Inmate Bridwell from the Securus Phone System. At approximately 1525 hours, I received a large manila envelope from Assistant Chief Deputy Mike Ganzer #1078. The large manila envelope contained, an Incident/Investigation Report, an email, a Unit 2 Daily Assignment Sheets, the inmate file folder of Inmate Bridwell, a disc and a smaller manila envelope with Inmate Bridwell's name and SO number and was marked "Confidential-Protected Medical Information-Not for Public Release." The smaller manila envelope contained a Screening Form for Suicide and Medical/Mental/Developmental Impairments, Incident Reports generated by Jail Medical Staff, Continuity of Care Query (CCQ), Intake Medical Information, Correctional Tuberculosis Program Symptom Screening Form, Denton County Medical Admission Assessment, Denton County Correctional Health Physician's Notes, Denton County Correctional Health Memorandum, Denton County Correctional Health Transport Record, copy of paperwork from Denton Regional Medical Center, Incident Report from Jail Staff, copy of EKG, 10 medical record entries, Medical Administration Record, a Consent to Treatment Form and more paperwork from Denton Regional Medical Center. These items are numbered 1-48. The inmate file folder contained a Mugshot Profile, fingerprint cards, four Personal Bonds (PR Bonds), an Inmate Property Sheet, a Denton County Jail Booking Information, an Order for PR Bond, two Denton County Arraignment Sheets, four Denton County Warrants, a Denton County Sheriff's Office Needs Assessment Form, an Initial Custody Assessment Scale, a Daily Inmate Movement Sheet, a copy of a Denton County Correctional Health Memo, ten Denton County Jail Incident Reports, a Victim Notification Form, an Emergency Protection Order, two Probable Cause Affidavits, a Screening Form for Suicide and Medical/Mental/Developmental Impairments, Intake Medical Information, ADA and PREA information, two Texas DPS Criminal History Reporting Forms, a CCH, two fingerprint returns, two inmate request forms, two attorney visitation requests, a visitation log, 9 blue fifteen minute time check sheets, and a file checklist. At The incident reports indicate that on March 20, 2016 at approximately 1441 hours, Officer Craig Hamilton #4235 was performing a fifteen minute time check on Inmate Bridwell. Officer Hamilton was not able to get a response from Inmate Bridwell, therefore he summoned the assistance of Officer Kenneth Brooks #4140 in order to enter single cell S-1-E. Upon entering S-1-E, Officer Hamilton discovered Inmate Bridwell hanging in the cell. Inmate Bridwell was found with a strip of fabric tied around his neck and the other end secured to the television shelf. Officer Brooks called via radio for medical assistance. Officer Hamilton cut the fabric attached to the television shelf and lowered Inmate Bridwell onto the bunk in the cell and began resuscitation efforts. Jail Medical Staff arrived and continued resuscitation efforts. Denton Fire and EMS Personnel arrived and took over resuscitation efforts. Inmate Bridwell was transported to Denton Regional Medical Center. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office found the manner of death to be suicide by hanging.

On March 23, 2016 at approximately 0840, I received a copy of the handwritten notes found in the cell where Inmate Bridwell was housed from Investigator John Schofield #1450. At approximately 0904 hours, I received a disc from Captain Tim Rich #1389. The disc contains video recorded visits of Inmate Bridwell. I have prepared a Custodial Death Report for the Texas Attorney General's Office as well as an Inmate Death Reporting Form for the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

CONCLUSION:

Based on all the collected and reviewed facts, statements, security camera recordings and medical documents, as well as the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Report, Inmate Bridwell's manner of death is suicide by hanging.