KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

# CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

## Agency Information

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|---|---|---|---|
| CDR Number: | 17-283-C | Version Type: | AMENDED |
| Report Date: | 5/25/2017 4:55 PM | Status: | Submitted |

### Agency/Facility Information

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agency Name: | Victoria Police Dept. | Agency Address: | 306 S. Bridge |
| Agency City: | Victoria | Agency State: | TX |
| Agency Zip: | 77901 | | |

### Director Information

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Director Salutation: | Chief | Director First Name: | Jeff |
| Director Middle Name: | | | |
| Director Last Name: | Craig | | |
| Reporter Name: | Jason Turner | Reporter Email: | jrturner@victoriatx.org |

## Decedent Information

### Identity of Deceased

First Name: Alton

Middle Name: Lance

Last Name: Sparks

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 1/18/1967 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 50

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 4/14/2017 6:49 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 4/15/2017 1:43 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: Accidental

## Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Acute methamphetamine intoxication

## 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

## 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: Drug overdose

# Location / Custody Information

## Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 2701 Hospital Dr. City: Victoria

County: Victoria Zip: 77901

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

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Hospital

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

Type of Custody: Police Custody (pre-booking)

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Hospital/Infirmary

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: 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:

Possession of Controlled Substance

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

## 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 Violation

## 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): Unknown

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health problems?: No

Exhibit any medical problems?: Yes

## 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: | Unknown | 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: | Yes, mark which restraint devices were used |

## Type of restraint

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of Restraint: | Handcuffs |

# Summary of Incident

## Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On Friday, 4/14/2017, at 1842 hours, a traffic stop was conducted on a gray 1989 Lincoln Towncar. The driver, Alton Sparks, had a suspended driver's license . He was asked if he had anything illegal in the vehicle and he gave consent to search the vehicle. Methamphetamine was found and he was subsequently arrested (he had also been arrested by the same officer in 2016 for Possession of a Controlled Substance, suspended driver's license and another time for Possession of Marijuana and Tampering with Evidence). When he was told that methamphetamine was found, the officer heard a definite increase in breathing rate and that he started to sweat profusely. Sparks denied any knowledge of the methamphetamine and began raising his voice. Due to what appeared to be an increasingly irate behavior, he was placed in handcuffs. He complained that they were too tight, due to his large frame a second set of handcuffs were used and his hands were placed to his front and he was seated in the patrol vehicle. He continued to have labored breathing and sweating and was taken to the hospital and examined by a doctor. At 2345 hours, he was released and cleared for incarceration and the handcuffs were again placed to his front. Upon walking out the back door, he leaned his upper body against a wall and after a short amount of time, stood straight up, took one or two steps before falling to his left and down to the ground. He was taken back into the hospital in a trauma room and was given oxygen as he was having trouble breathing. He expired at 0143.