KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	17-715-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	2/15/2018 9:36 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Hopkins County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	298 Rosemont Street
Agency City:	Sulphur Springs	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75482		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Lewis
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Tatum		
Reporter Name:	Kenneth Dean	Reporter Email:	kdean@hopkinscountytx.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Melvin

Middle Name:

Last Name: Williams

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 1/20/1957 Sex: Male

Race: Black or African American

Age At Time Of Death: 60

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 11/14/2017 5:40 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 11/14/2017 6:52 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 are available

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

Manner of Death: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Hypertensive intracerebral hemorrhage

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?: 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:	298 Rosemont St.	City:	Sulphur Springs
County:	Hopkins	Zip:	75482

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: 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: 11/10/2017 12:00 PM

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?: 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:

Commitment for 10 days to County Jail for "Delivery of Marijuana"

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Convicted

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: 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: 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):	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?:	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:	No	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	N/A
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 November 10, 2017 at approximately 12:00 noon Williams, Melvin DOB 1/20/1957 was received at the Hopkins County Jail on a Commitment of 10 days CJ for Delivery of Marijuana. Mr. Williams was booked in and housed in Segregation Cell 4. Mr. Williams was housed in Segregation due to him being elderly and walked very slow. In an attempt to avoid Mr. Williams from having to walk much he was housed in Segregation. At the time of book in he was asked all of the required medical questions and answered no to all the questions. He stated to staff he was alright and did not have a medical condition.
Mr. Williams remained in the assigned housing of Segregation 4 and had been taking his meals daily. Upon interviewing staff it was determined Mr. Williams was normally waiting at the door for his meals and each morning wanting to be served coffee. A review of the rounds was conducted and all rounds were made within the required time frames and there were no noted concerns on the rounds (See attached round sheets). On the morning of November 14, 2017 at approximately 0540 hrs., Mr. Williams did not come to the door of the cell to receive his breakfast meal. The officer (Dillon Scott) attempted to wake Mr. Williams and he did not wake up. Officer Scott determined Mr. Williams was breathing and watched his chest rise and fall. Officer Scott still felt something was not right with Mr. Williams so he entered the cell to check on Mr. Williams. Officer Scott could not get Mr. Williams to wake up and observed his breathing to be somewhat obstructed and immediately called for assistance and requested EMS. (See attached statement from Officer Dillon Scott)

EMS arrived and assessed Mr. Williams and could not get him to wake up. Mr. Williams was taken to Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs, Texas. At approximately 0550 hrs. I, Kenneth Dean – Jail Administrator, contacted Sheriff Lewis Tatum and informed him of the situation and he contacted Judge Eddie Northcutt. Judge Northcutt communicated, through a text message, to Sheriff Tatum that Mr. Williams' sentence was satisfied (See attached text message). Mr. Williams was released from custody on 11/14/17 from the Hopkins County Jail at approximately 0700 hrs. This investigation is being considered an in custody death due to Mr. Williams unresponsiveness while he was in the custody of Hopkins County. Mr. Williams reported no medical conditions at the time of book in and due to not being aware of any medical condition we will consider the death an in custody death although he was released at 0700 hrs.
Mr. Williams was assessed at Christus Mother Frances hospital in Sulphur Springs, Tx. and it was determined

Mr. Williams needed further care due to a possible stroke. Mr. Williams was transported to Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas by ambulance for further medical care. Mr. Williams was pronounced deceased at 1852 hrs. at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas.