KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	18-184-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	9/19/2018 4:46 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Palo Pinto County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	PO BOX 279
Agency City:	Palo Pinto	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	76484		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Brett
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	McGuire		
Reporter Name:	Gregg Doyle	Reporter Email:	gregg.doyle@co.palo-pinto.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: James

Middle Name: Richard

Last Name: Little

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 6/8/1944 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 73

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 3/8/2018 5:00 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 3/13/2018 6:30 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:

Bilateral pulmonary thromboemboli deep venous thromboses of the lower extremities (non-traumatic)

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?: Deceased developed condition after admission

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:	420 Cedar Street	City:	Palo Pinto
County:	Palo Pinto	Zip:	76484

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:	3/8/2018 5:00 PM

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?:	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:

Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon

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: Violent Crime Against Persons

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: Yes, mark all that apply

Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details: Used other weapon, specify:

Specify Weapon Used:

Knife

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

Attempt to Injure Others?: Yes (select all that apply)

Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others: Injured civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

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?:	Yes	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?:	Yes	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	Yes
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Unknown	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Yes	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 3-8-18 at appx. 1700 hours Mineral Wells Police Department brought in Little, James Richard, W, M, dob 06-08-1944 on a charge of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Mr. Little had been involved in an altercation at a motel in Mineral Wells, where he had been staying, and had stabbed a clerk. A short standoff ensued before Mr. Little was taken into custody and transported to Palo Pinto General Hospital ER to be checked. It was determined at the ER that Mr. Little had a broken right clavicle; however, he was medically cleared at the ER and then transported to the Palo Pinto County Jail.
Upon arrival at the jail a wheelchair was taken to the sally port and Mr. Little was removed from the patrol car and placed in the wheelchair. When Mr. Little entered the booking area of the jail he was obviously suffering from an extreme state of agitation. Mr. Little was mad to the point of being enraged, and continually screamed obscenities and vulgarities at anyone with whom he came into contact or that tried to communicate with him. Mr. Little refused to answer any of the intake questions and continued to scream and curse. Due to this enraged state Mr. Little was placed in Holding One cell, which is equipped with a camera, under constant observation as there was no medical information available on him at that time.
Mr. Little remained in Holding One cell under constant, one on one, observation that evening until appx 2018 hours when Lt. Doyle ordered that Mr. Little be placed in a paper gown and put on a 15 minute watch. At no time did Mr. Little’s state of agitation seem to diminish except when approached by the Sheriff. Over the course of the next few days he seemed to develop a rapport with the Sheriff and seemed to respect the authority figure or rank. On at least one occasion the Sheriff had actually talked him into taking his meds.

On Friday morning the Sheriff contacted Robin Greer, the VA advocate with Pecan Valley MHMR, who came to visit with Mr. Little. Mr. Little continued to treat Ms. Greer in the same manner that he was treating every one else; however, Ms. Greer was successful in getting a signed release from Mr. Little so we could obtain his medication records from the VA. Ms. Greer was also successful in getting in touch with his VA psychiatrist and allowed Mr. Little to visit with the psychiatrist over the phone. Mr. Little talked with the Psychiatrist for a few seconds and then became distrustful of her and began to scream and curse at her as well, therefore, the call was then ended. During the day the clinic coordinator was successful in obtaining those records from the VA. The Palo Pinto County Jail physician also paid a visit to Mr. Little and again, Mr. Little refused to communicate with him and continued to exhibit the behavior as earlier observed. Next, Lt. Doyle was contacted by Mr. Little's daughter, Tracey Gibbs. A request was made of Ms. Gibbs to provide any medical or mental health history she was aware of. Ms. Gibbs explained that Mr. Little was a decorated Vietnam War veteran and had quite a colorful past. Ms. Gibbs also informed Lt. Doyle that as a result of his service Mr. Little had developed PTSD as well as bipolar disorder and had been under the care and treatment of the same VA Psychologist for over twenty years. According to Ms. Gibbs, Mr. Little had, in the last few weeks, stopped taking his medications. Ms. Gibbs said that she had observed his condition decline rapidly during that time. Ms. Gibbs agreed to go by Mr. Little's residence and try to find his medications and deliver them to the jail. Later that day, Ms. Gibbs arrived at the jail with a large baggie of medications which were identified and placed on the med cart as per procedure. Ms. Gibbs appeared to try to provide as much information as she could and that she thought would be helpful concerning Mr. Little's medical and mental state.

Mr. Little's condition remained about the same over the weekend; however seemed to calm down as long as he was not disturbed. The only apparent breakthrough was he seemed to respect the Sheriff and would communicate with him somewhat civilly. As previously stated, the Sheriff had actually convinced Mr. Little to take his medications on at least one occasion. It was the goal of Administration to get Mr. Little back on his meds in hopes he would respond well to them and begin to come out of his state of agitation.

Monday, March 12, 2018 was much the same as the weekend; however, Tuesday, during the late afternoon Mr. Little seemed to become agitated and angry once again and would scream and curse at anyone who attempted to communicate with him. At 1725 hours kitchen personnel were picking up trays and Mr. Little was overheard cursing at them by Lt. Doyle. Mr. Little was checked again at 1735 hours and appeared to be fine. Shortly before 1745 hours Mr. Little threw a drinking cup at the cell door. The shift Sergeant, Sgt. McCoy, looked into the cell to see Mr. Little standing up and then collapse onto his mat, landing on his left side. The Sergeant and two male officers entered the cell and reported Mr. Little was unresponsive with apparent difficulty breathing. Sgt. McCoy then called for Lt. Doyle who entered the cell and observed this as well. Lt. Doyle then ordered an ambulance be called and at 1748 hours Mr. Little stopped breathing. CPR was initiated and oxygen was administered. At 1759 hours Sacred Cross Med 7 arrived and took over medical care for Mr. Little who was removed from the holding cell. Mr. Little was transported to the Palo Pinto General Hospital ER in Mineral Wells at 1805 hours. At appx. 1831 hours Lt. Doyle was notified by the Detention Officer, Wes Byrum, who had gone on the transport to the ER that resuscitation efforts had been terminated by the ER Doctor with a noted time of death at 1830 hours. EOR / GD #2505