KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	18-232-UF	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	4/2/2018 11:27 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Red River County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	500 North Cedar St.
Agency City:	Clarksville	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75426		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	James
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Caldwell		
Reporter Name:	James Caldwell	Reporter Email:	j.caldwell@co.red-river.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Michael

Middle Name: James

Last Name: Chekel

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 10/4/1961 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 56

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 3/2/2018 11:17 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 3/2/2018 1:40 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 pending

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

Manner of Death: Homicide (includes Justifiable Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Gun Shot wounds sustained during the attack at the sheriff's office and died at the hospital during treatment

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment: Yes

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?: Law enforcement/correctional personnel

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?: Handgun

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: Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	500 North Cedar St.	City:	Clarksville
County:	Red River	Zip:	75426

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:	Pre-Custodial Use of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:
Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

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?:	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 on Public Servant	
	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:	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:	Displayed firearm without discharge

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:	Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel

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?:	Yes
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?:	Yes
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Yes	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:

The incident started at approximately 11 a.m. on 03/02/2018 when a man later identified as Michael James Chekel in a dark dually pick-up truck parked on the exit drive of the jail's Sally Port. Sheriff's Deputy Lance Burdick was returning from a routine patrol arrived at the jail and observed the man parked and blocking the drive. Michael was sitting in the truck smoking, when Deputy Burdick got out to ask Michael if he needed any help, Michael tossed the cigarette butt out the window and exited the vehicles with a gun in his hand, at which time Deputy Burdick drew his weapon. As Deputy Burdick called for the man to drop his weapon, a member of the jail staff who happened on to be in the parking lot and noticed the events that were unfolding outside. The jail staff made a call to 911 and explained the event that was unfolding outside. Sheriff Jim Caldwell exited a door and then along with the Deputy Burdick called for the man to drop his weapon and surrender. Michael refused all orders to drop his weapon and said they would have to shoot him. At some point Michael re-entered his truck and took a second gun out. At that point "Michael had a gun in both hands," City Clarksville officer Colton Gilbert responded as a result of a call put out by dispatch and arrived at the front parking lot. Sheriff Caldwell realized he was in the potential line of fire as a result and retreated inside the door. Officer Gilbert and Deputy Burdick "continued to give Michael instructions. "Michael refused all orders and said 'you're going to have to shoot me'." When Michael raised and pointed his weapons at Deputy

Burdick; Deputy Burdick and Officer Gilbert was left with no choice but to deploy their firearm at Michael striking him several times. Emergency medical personnel responded to treat Michael. A landing zone was readied for an air ambulance at the loop on the edge of the city, but medical personnel decided Michael was not stable enough to transport by helicopter, and he was taken by LifeNet ground ambulance to Paris Regional Medical Center, where Michael later died.