KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	18-443-MJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	6/5/2018 8:15 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	San Antonio Police Dept.	Agency Address:	315 S. Santa Rosa
Agency City:	San Antonio	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78207		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	William
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	McManus		
Reporter Name:	Richard Richardson	Reporter Email:	richard.richardson@sanantonio.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Charlene

Middle Name: Marie

Last Name: Kurkowski

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 12/11/1960 Sex: Female

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 57

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 5/17/2018 6:50 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 5/20/2018 5:39 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: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Anoxic Encephalopathy/Hanging

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?:	Decedent

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?:	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

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	401 S Frio	City:	San Antonio
County:	Bexar	Zip:	78207

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: Municipal 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: 5/17/2018 8:23 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?: 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:

Public Intoxication

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: 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):	Yes	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:	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:

SAPD Officers Christopher Ramos #0300, David Ramos #1675, and UEDI Jacob Garcia #2036 were dispatched to the home of Charlene Kurkowski (Suspect) and her husband, Grady Baird beginning at 1903 hours on May 17, 2018, after Kurkowski alleged that she had been assaulted by Baird (SAPD18102945). When the officers arrived at their home, they found Kurkowski to be obviously very intoxicated and involved in an argument with Baird. During the investigation, Kurkowski reported she had been slapped once to her face by Baird, and Baird admitted to slapping Kurkowski the one time. Kurkowski did not complain of any bodily injury as a result of the assault and Baird agreed to leave the residence to end the disturbance. Officer C. Ramos subsequently decided to list Baird as a suspect in the offense of Assault-Physical Contact (Family), in lieu of an immediate arrest. After Baird left their residence, Kurkowski refused to go back inside the home because Baird's sons were still at the location. The officers offered to find alternate lodging for Kurkowski for the night, including the Battered Women's Shelter, but she declined the officers' assistance. The officers continued trying to convince Kurkowski to go inside her home, but she refused to do so and said she was going to leave the location. While the officers were still at the scene, Kurkowski walked out of a gate on the premises and toward the roadway of St. Anthony Avenue. Knowing that Kurkowski was very intoxicated, and believing she posed an immediate danger to herself in her intoxicated condition, UEDI Garcia arrested Kurkowski for Public Intoxication. After relocating to a nearby area to have a female officer search Kurkowski, UEDI Garcia drove Kurkowski to the City of San Antonio Detention Center to book her for the Public Intoxication charge. Due to Kurkowski being uncooperative and belligerent, and using passive resistance during her arrest and transportation, UEDI Garcia booked her at the Detention Center instead of transporting her to the Public Safety Unit, where she would probably be rejected by their staff. UEDI Garcia arrived at the Detention Center with Kurkowski at 2023 hours on May 17, 2018.
After Charlene Kurkowski was searched by Detention Center personnel and cleared by nursing staff, she was escorted into Detention Center cell #15 at 2030 hours. Due to her uncooperative and belligerent demeanor she was the only arrestee placed in the cell. A routine cell check was conducted by Detention Center Guard G. Gonzalez at 2045 hours and Kurkowski was found without any apparent harm. Afterward, the surveillance video shows Kurkowski looking around inside her cell, walking to the left rear of the cell, and placing the cord of the cell telephone around her neck at 2050 hours. Kurkowski then sits on the floor with her back against the wall and appears to lean forward, which tightens the cord around her neck. Kurkowski remains in this position until 2102-2103 hours, when Gonzalez sees her with the cord around her neck while he is conducting another routine cell check. At this time, Gonzalez enters cell #15 and removes the telephone cord from around Kurkowski's neck. When the cord is removed, Kurkowski falls forward and her forehead hits the floor. Detention Center nurses enter the cell soon afterward and begin performing CPR on the apparently unconscious Kurkowski. Sometime later, Kurkowski is transported to Baptist Medical Center by EMS

ambulance.

Patrol Officer Andrea Murray #1152 was dispatched to Baptist Medical Center at 2014 hours on 05-20-18 to investigate an Apparent Sudden Death. When she arrived at the hospital, she was informed by hospital staff that Charlene Kurkowski had died at the facility and was pronounced deceased by a physician at 1739 hours the same date. Kurkowski was subsequently transported to the Medical Examiner's Office for investigation into the cause of her death. (Reference case# SAPD18105208)