KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	18-781-UF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	6/19/2019 3:49 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Smith County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	227 N. Spring Ave.
Agency City:	Tyler	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75702		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Larry
Director Middle Name:	R		
Director Last Name:	Smith		
Reporter Name:	Larry Smith	Reporter Email:	lsmith@smith-county.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Misty

Middle Name: Pauline

Last Name: Sparks

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 8/18/1976 Sex: Female

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 41

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 8/12/2018 1:41 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 8/12/2018 1:41 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:

Self Inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

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?: 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?: 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:	21321 Neely Drive	City:	Flint
County:	Smith	Zip:	75762

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

Location Category: Residence/Home

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: Scene of incident

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 a 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:	Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Welfare Concern

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; Discharged firearm

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):	Yes	Make suicidal statements?:	Yes
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Yes	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?:	Yes	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:	Yes
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 08-12-2018 Smith County Sheriff's Office responded to a call for service (welfare concern) at 21321 Neely Drive, Flint, Smith County. The initial report noted a resident at 21321 Neely Drive, identified as Misty Pauline Sparks may have taken a lot of drugs. Smith County Sheriff's Office located multiple calls regarding Sparks at the Neely Drive address regarding suicide attempts and disturbances. Deputies arrived on scene and heard voice(s) coming from inside the residence with no response to their request to come speak with them. A relative brought a house key to the location and allowed Deputies entry to the residence to check the welfare of Sparks and Sparks' terminally ill juvenile son. Deputies encountered Sparks in the master bathroom closet along with the juvenile son. Sparks pointed a loaded firearm at one of the Deputies. The Deputy defended himself and shot Sparks in the right arm (non-life threatening injury). The juvenile son was then able to run out of the closet and was rescued by Deputies. Sparks stayed inside the closet. After several hours of negotiating with Sparks to have her come out of the closet without the

firearm, Sparks shot herself in the head. Sparks was determined to be deceased with a gunshot wound to the head. Smith County Sheriffs Office requested an independent investigation into the incident by the Texas Rangers.