KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	18-874-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	3/20/2019 4:22 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: Walter

Middle Name: Joe

Last Name: Royer

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 11/21/1996 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 21

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 6/20/2018 8:24 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 9/12/2018 8:39 AM

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: Accidental

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Acute Pulmonary Thromboembolus Associated With Remote Lower Extremity Trauma.

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: 900 8th Ave
City: Ft. Worth
County: Tarrant
Zip: 76104

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:

Hospital/Infirmary

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: 9/10/2018 4:00 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?: 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:

Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child - Motion To Proceed With Adjudication of Guilt

Offense 2:

Sex Offenders Duty to Register

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: A probation/parole violation

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: Unknown

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

Attempt to Injure Others?: Unknown

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?:	Yes

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:

WALTER JOE ROYER
CUSTODIAL DEATH SYNOPSIS

Walter Joe Royer, a white male, date of birth 11-21-1996 was booked into the Palo Pinto County Jail on June 20, 2018 on felony warrant no. F01583 for Sex Offenders Duty To Register and on felony warrant no. 15961 for Aggravated Sexual Assault Of A Child / Motion To Proceed With An Adjudication Of Guilt. Mr. Royer was delivered to the Palo Pinto County Jail by the Mineral Wells Police Department and upon entry into the facility it was noted that he was using a walker in order to ambulate. All required medical and mental health questionnaires were filled out immediately upon intake.
In these questionnaires it was noted that Mr. Royer indicated that he had been diagnosed with mental illness, specifically depression and bipolar disorder. He also advised that he had been struck by a truck in 2015 and that had left his right hip and leg damaged to the point that he required a walker to be able to walk. No other injuries or ailments were noted or indicated at that time. Mr. Royer was not taking any prescription medications upon intake.
A cellmate of Royer informed the Jail Nurse, Latanya Taylor, LVN, that Royer had a wound on his right leg. Upon inspection Nurse Taylor noted an open wound in Royer’s right leg several inches above the ankle. Royer told Nurse Taylor that the wound was from a gunshot wound that he had received sometime in the past and that a skin graft was done but the graft had failed. On July 13, 2018 Royer was seen by the facility Physician who gave instruction for the care of the wound and referred him to a local surgeon, Dr. Candace Covington, for further evaluation. An appointment was set for August 8, 2018 and Dr. Covington began treatment to try to get the injury to heal. Mr. Royer was transported to Dr. Covington’s office, by jail staff, on a weekly basis thereafter for treatment. Nurse Taylor reported that at the time Mr. Royer was transported from the facility, the treatments provided by Dr. Covington seemed to be making significant progress as the wound had diminished greatly in size. Nurse Taylor also advised that when questioned as to why he (Royer) had not said anything about the wound, he replied that he had had it for a long time, which it would get bigger and smaller and he was used to it and he didn’t want to bother anyone about it.
On Monday morning September 10, 2018, at approximately 08:30 am, while passing out supplies to all of the cells, Detention Officer Bonnie Bolton observed that inmate Royer appeared to be in physical distress. She observed that he was sweating profusely, to the point that his shirt was drenched, and that he appeared very pale or ashen in color. Inmate Royer was also very weak. Officer Bolton immediately sent a trustee to get

Nurse Taylor. Nurse Taylor responded to the cell and immediately started a check of Royer's vital signs. His blood pressure was 110/64, pulse was 141, oxygen saturation was 84% and temperature was 97.1. Nurse Taylor was concerned because of the elevated pulse and low oxygen saturation level. She then contacted the facility physician and informed him of the situation. The physician then advised that Inmate Royer should be transported to the local ER for evaluation.

Nurse Taylor notified dispatch that an ambulance was needed at the jail and at 08:41 am Sacred Cross EMS Unit 17 was dispatched to the jail. Nurse Taylor and Sgt. Megan McCoy placed Inmate Royer into a wheelchair, as he was too weak to get into it on his own, and brought him to the booking area to await the arrival of the ambulance. Royer was questioned by Nurse Taylor as to how long he had felt bad and he told her that he had had chest pains since Friday evening. Nurse Taylor then asked Royer why he had not said anything to any of the staff members about not feeling well. Royer told Nurse Taylor that he thought it was just anxiety and didn't want to bother anyone. The ambulance arrived at the jail at 9:00 am. and Royer was transferred to a gurney and loaded into the ambulance. At 9:23 am the ambulance went en route to Palo Pinto General Hospital accompanied by Clinic Coordinator, DO Shanna Salter, as the guard.

That afternoon DO Salters contacted Lt. Gregg Doyle, the Assistant Jail Administrator, and informed him that the staff at PPGH ER had indicated that they had found blood clots in Inmate Royer's lungs and in his legs. Salter further told Lt. Doyle that they planned to transfer Royer to Medical City Hospital in Ft. Worth for further treatment. DO Salter accompanied Royer in that transfer to the other hospital. DO Salter informed Lt. Doyle that doctors had evaluated Royer upon arrival at Medical City Hospital and determined that he should have a procedure to try to dissolve the clots. However, they did not deem the situation as an emergency and decided to perform the procedure the following morning.

The following morning, Tuesday, September 11, 2018, Lt. Doyle was informed by Cpl. Dennis Scroggum that the procedure had been performed and x-rays would be performed 24 hours later. If all looked good at that time, Royer would be released to come back to the jail with prescriptions for blood thinners some time on Wednesday.

Upon arrival at the jail on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at approximately 8:00, Lt. Doyle was informed by Sheriff McGuire that he had received information from the hospital that Inmate Royer was "coding". Lt. Doyle then contacted DO Taylor Hopkins who was on guard duty at the hospital to find out what was going on. DO Hopkins told Lt. Doyle that at approximately 7:30 am he and Royer had been visiting normally when Royer appeared to have trouble breathing. DO Hopkins stated that moments later Hopkins started hitting the button for the nurse and had requested help. DO Hopkins reported that medical staff responded and immediately started working with Royer in an attempt to resuscitate him at that time.

At approximately 8:40 am Lt. Doyle received a call from DO Hopkins informing him that the attending physicians had pronounced Inmate Royer was deceased at 8:39 am. An autopsy was requested and the Tarrant County Medical Examiners Office was contacted. Upon their arrival at the hospital the body was released to their custody. Sheriff McGuire contacted the Texas Department of Public Safety—Texas Rangers Division and requested that an independent investigation be conducted into Royer's death. Ranger Sergeant Anthony Bradford was assigned to the case. EOR GD #2505