KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

# CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

## Agency Information

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|---|---|---|---|
| CDR Number: | 20-1263-UF | Version Type: | ORIGINAL VERSION |
| Report Date: | 9/23/2020 9:11 AM | Status: | Submitted |

### Agency/Facility Information

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|---|---|---|---|
| Agency Name: | Zavala County Sheriff's Dept. | Agency Address: | 200 East Uvalde St. |
| Agency City: | Crystal City | Agency State: | TX |
| Agency Zip: | 78839 | | |

### Director Information

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|---|---|---|---|
| Director Salutation: | Sheriff | Director First Name: | Eusevio |
| Director Middle Name: | | | |
| Director Last Name: | Salinas | | |
| Reporter Name: | Eusevio Salinas | Reporter Email: | eusevio.salinas@zavalacounty.org |

## Decedent Information

### Identity of Deceased

First Name: Victor

Middle Name: Jeremy

Last Name: Ruiz

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 6/27/1992 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 28

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 7/2/2020 12:18 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 7/2/2020 3:32 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 pending

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

Manner of Death: Pending autopsy results

## Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Unknown

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Medical Treatment: | Unknown |

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

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|---|---|
| Who caused the death?: | Unknown whether decedent sustained a fatal injury |

## If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

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| 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?

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| Pre existing medical condition?: | Could not be determined |

## If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

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| Means of Death: | Unknown |

# Location / Custody Information

### Where did the event causing the death occur?

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|---|---|---|---|
| Street Address: | US Highway 57 West | City: | La Pryor |
| County: | Zavala | Zip: | 78872 |

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

Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

### 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 subsequent to 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: 7/2/2020 1:30 AM

### 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:

Unauthorized use motor vehicle

Offense 2:

Poss. marijuana <2oz

Offense 3:

Citation (no drivers license, no liability insurance)

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:

Traffic stop due to defective equipment (taillights)

## 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): No

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?

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|---|---|
| Under Restraint: | Yes, mark which restraint devices were used |

### Type of restraint

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of Restraint: | Handcuffs |

## Summary of Incident

### Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On July 02, 2020 Sargent Esteban Ramos #787 attempted to conducted a traffic stop on a white ford pickup for defective equipment (taillights). Sargent Esteban Ramos stated that he activated his emergency red and blue lights but the white ford pickup kept traveling on the shoulder for approximately ¾ of a mile, with emergency (hazard lights) on, until the truck came to a stop. Sargent Esteban Ramos contacted the male driver who was later identified as Victor Jeremy Ruiz who seemed very nervous and uneasy and was wanting to call his wife.
Sargent Ramos let Ruiz dial his wife a couple times but no one answered. Sargent Ramos found some marijuana on Ruiz and placed him under arrest. After further investigation the Ford truck came back stolen. Ruiz was acting really nervous and was sweating a lot. Sargent Ramos asked for a backup unit and Deputy Marcial Garza arrived to assist. Deputy Garza placed Ruiz inside his unit. Deputy Garza assisted Sargent Ramos in doing inventory of the vehicle, as he was going to leave, he checked on Ruiz and noticed that he was lying down on his right side and was throwing up. Deputy Garza gave Ruiz some drinking water and they proceeded to the Zavala County Jail.
Deputy Garza stated that he drove about a ¼ mile and Ruiz begun to get aggressive and started kicking. Deputy Garza pulled over and called Sargent Ramos over the radio to make his location due to Ruiz's behavior. They opened the rear left door and noticed that Ruiz was sweating even more. Deputy Garza said

that his AC was on and it was cold inside his unit. Deputy Garza stated that Ruiz kept telling them to tell his wife and kids that he loves them and that he was dying. He started yelling "take these things off my hands". They advised Ruiz to put his leg inside the unit so they can close the door, he placed his leg inside and Deputy Garza continued driving to the Zavala County Sheriff Office. Deputy Garza stated that on the way to the sheriff office Ruiz was trying to pull himself out of the handcuff's, Garza stated that he had to tell him to calm down serval times. Deputy Garza advised the jail staff to have the restraint chair ready just in case Ruiz got combative.

Upon their arrival Deputy Garza met with Deputy Francisco Picazo at the jails sally port entrance, they put on some gloves and opened the rear driver side door to Deputy Garza's unit and asked Ruiz to step out. Ruiz did not respond he was just staring up and he was heavy breathing and spitting saliva. Sargent Ramos arrived at the Sally Port and asked Deputy Garza to contact Crystal City EMS to come check on Ruiz. Sargent Ramos asked Ruiz to tell him what he took so they can know how to help him, but Ruiz didn't respond. They placed a jail mattress on the sally port floor and assisted Ruiz out of the unit. They placed Ruiz on the mattress and waited for EMS to arrive. EMT's arrived on scene and they started to access Ruiz, Deputy Picazo and Deputy Garza removed the handcuff's off of Ruiz and they carried him on to the EMS stretcher. Pete Alva EMT stated that once inside the ambulance he told Ruiz that law enforcement wasn't there anymore and to tell him what he took so they can know how to help him. Pete Alva said that Ruiz said it was something that was going to kill him. EMS transported Ruiz to Dimmit Regional Hospital where he passed away. He was pronounced deceased at 3:32AM and was sent to the Webb County Medical Examiner's office in Laredo, Texas for an autopsy.