KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	20-1448-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	6/1/2021 11:04 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Starr County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	102 East 6th Street
Agency City:	Rio Grande City	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78582		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Rene
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Fuentes		
Reporter Name:	Jose Molina	Reporter Email:	rmolina@starrcountyso.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Edgar

Middle Name:

Last Name: Garza

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 3/2/1988 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 32

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 10/18/2020 9:22 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 10/18/2020 11:59 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:

Asphyxia by hanging while under the influence of drugs.

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?:	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:	100 East 6th Street	City:	Rio Grande City
County:	Starr	Zip:	78582

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:	County 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:	10/18/2020 9:35 PM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location:	Law enforcement facility/booking center

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 Of a Motor Vehicle

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Filed

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Crime Against Property

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?

Under Restraint:	No

Summary of Incident

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

Summary:

On October 18,2020 at 9:22pm inmate Edgar Garza D.O.B. 3/2/1988 from 374 Victoria Ave. Roma, Texas was brought in to the Starr County Detention Center, 100 East 6th Street Rio Grande City, Texas 78582. Edgar Garza was arrested by Starr County Sheriff's Office Deputies for the charge of Unauthorized use of a Motor Vehicle. Inmate Edgar Garza is screened for suicide and mental developmental impairments and answers negative to all the questions. After being processed and booked, inmate Garza was placed in the holding cell with another inmate at 9:57pm. At 11:15pm Guard conducts a face to face check on the holding cell inmates. At that time inmate Garza is laying on the bench by the door. At 11:19pm inmate Garza gets up and removes his pants, exposing basketball shorts being worn under his pants. Inmate Garza then makes his way to the restroom stalls, which are covered with metal partitions. Inmate Garza is seen on camera moving around over the top of the partition. At 11:27pm the Guard does a cell check on the detox cell, which is next to holding cell, to check on a problematic inmate in that cell. At 11:36 the Guard does a cell check on the holding cell while inmate Garza is in the restroom stall. At 11:59pm the Guard does another round of checks when he notices inmate Garza's feet through the bottom of the partition. The Guard immediately makes his way into the holding cell to find inmate Garza hanging from the partition support beam. The Guard calls for assistance. Other Guards arrive to assist. The first Guard M undoes the knot from the beam and the second Guard removes the rope around Inmate Garza's neck and begins to administer first aid. Shortly thereafter EMS arrives and it is determined that Edgar Garza has no vital signs. I, Chief Jailer , was notified of the situation as it was happening via telephone. As I arrived at the Jail, I contacted The Texas Rangers and briefed them of the situation. I also requested a patrol officer and Starr County Investigators to assist. The rope that inmate Garza used appeared to be the waist draw string from his shorts. Texas Rangers arrived and took over the investigation. Justice of the Peace arrived and pronounced Inmate Edgar Garza deceased and ordered an autopsy.