KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	20-1816-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	2/22/2021 3:02 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Dallas County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	133 N. Riverfront Blvd.
Agency City:	Dallas	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75207		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Marian
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Brown		
Reporter Name:	TERESA HERNANDEZ	Reporter Email:	tahernandez@dallascounty.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Paul

Middle Name: Aaron

Last Name: French

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 6/16/1989 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 31

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 3/7/2020 5:57 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 12/8/2020 10:54 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: Could not be determined

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Undetermined.

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?

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: Unknown

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	111 W. Commerce St.	City:	Dallas
County:	Dallas	Zip:	75207

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 - single 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:	12/5/2020 12:26 AM

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?:	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:

Assault Peace Officer/Judge

Offense 2:

Evading Arrest Detention

Offense 3:

Attempt to take weapon from an officer.

Were the Charges:: Filed

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: 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?:	Unknown	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:	Unknown	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	Yes
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	Yes		

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 December 08, 2020, Dallas County Sheriff's Department Detention Training Officer (DTO) S. Ross #8037 was assigned to monitor the Crisis Prevention and Suicidal Dallas County Jail inmates housed in 3P12-West Tower Detention Facility - Lew Sterrett Justice Center located at 111 W. Commerce Street Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75207.

At approximately 9:16 p.m., DTO Ross heard Dallas County Jail inmate Paul Aaron French W/M 06/16/1989 Book-in #20011044 breathing abnormally from "B" cell. DTO ross approached "B" cell and observed French on the floor with white foam coming from his mouth. DTO Ross knocked on "B" cell door to get a response from French, but French was unresponsive. Dallas County Sheriff's Department DSO J. Funches #9005 entered 3P12 to assist DTO Ross. DTO Ross contacted the control center and requested for "B" cell door to be opened. When "B" cell door opened. DTO Ross and DSO Funches removed French from "B" cell and turned French on his side.

At 9:19 p.m., DTO Ross requested Parkland Jail Health Medical Staff to respond to 3P12 by radioing "Inmate Down".

At 9:22 p.m., Parkland Jail Health Medical Staff arrived to 3P12 and began administering medical aide.

At approximately 9:44 p.m., French stopped breathing and Parkland Jail Health Medical Staff began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Dallas County Sheriff's Department Detention Service Supervisor K. Oparaji #5782 contacted the Dallas County Sheriff's Department Communications section to request for Emergency Medical Services to respond to 3P12. Parkland Jail Health Medical Staff continued to administer CPR until Acadian Ambulance Service #943 responded to 3P12 at 9:54 p.m.

At 10:08 p.m., Acadian #943 exited 3P12 with French on a gurney, while still administering CPR.

At 10:13 p.m., Acadian #943 transported French to Parkland Memorial Hospital (PMH).

At 10:41 p.m., Acadian #943 arrived at PMH with French.

At 10:54 p.m., PMH Emergency Room Physician David Busse pronounced French as Deceased.

DSO Service #20-090349.
Dallas County Medical Examiner ISF #20-23585.

AUTOPSY REPORT:
FINDINGS:
1. Acute Water Intoxication.
2. History of recent COVID-19.
3. History that the decedent was diagnosed with asthma while in jail.
4. Cutaneous contusions and abrasions.
5. Per review of correctional health services medical records, the decedent had a history of major depressive disorder and schizoaffective disorder. Per the records, the decedent had refused his medications in the weeks prior to his death, and had been displaying symptoms of psychosis and suicidal ideation in the days prior to his death.

CONCLUSIONS:
It is my opinion that Paul Aaron French, a 31-year-old man, died as a result of acute water intoxication. Because it is unknown whether the water intoxication was a result of intentional self-harm or due to psychosis, the manner of death is undetermined.

MANNER OF DEATH: Undetermined.

Jill E. Urban, M.D.
Medical Examiner
02/16/2021

Tracy J. Dyer, M.D., J.D.
Chief Deputy Medical Examiner
02/16/2021

Jeffrey J. Barnard, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Examiner
02/16/2021