KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	20-1947-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	7/23/2021 12:17 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Mitchell County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	333 Pine Street
Agency City:	Colorado City	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	79512		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Patrick
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Toombs		
Reporter Name:	Patrick Toombs	Reporter Email:	twilliams@co.mitchell.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Howard

Middle Name: Lewis

Last Name: Johnson

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 2/10/1962

Sex: Male

Race: Black or African American

Age At Time Of Death: 58

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 1/21/2020 11:37 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 2/29/2020 11:10 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: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Acute Intraparenchymal Hemorrhage

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?: Pre-existing medical condition

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:	333 Pine Street	City:	Colorado City
County:	Mitchell	Zip:	79512

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 - multiple occupancy 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:	2/12/2020 12:00 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?: 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:

Poss CS PG1<1G SJF

Offense 2:

Operate Motor Vehicle W/O Financial Responsibility MB

Offense 3:

POM <2OZ MB

Were the Charges:: Filed

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

Type of Offense: Alcohol / drug offense

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:

In reference to Inmate Johnson, Howard Lewis

When an inmate first comes into our facility to intake, it is the responsibility of the jail to set up a doctor’s appointment or take them to the ER If needed. If the inmate is coming to us from another facility and makes claims pertaining to their medical history or problems, we look at the Texas Uniform Health Status and go off the information that is available to us. If the inmate continues to complain and submits a medical request, we will then set up a doctor’s appointment for the inmate pending approval from the original housing county, unless it an emergency.
Inmate Johnson was booked into the Mitchell County Jail on 01-21-2019. Mr. Johnson stated during intake, which made the jail aware of him having a pacemaker, cancer and a preexisting condition of high blood pressure. The Texas Uniform Health Status form from Ector County did not indicate any medical health problems. During Mr. Johnson’s stay while he was in population, we did not ever receive a medical request or any kind of complaint from him.
The day of the incident Officer Williams was passing out medication and noticed that Mr. Johnson was not looking well. Officer Williams finished passing out medications and returned to control room. Upon her return Dorm (D-1) buzzed the control room using the emergency intercom button. Officer Williams sent both Officer Miller and Officer Munoz to Dorm, D-1 to check on Mr. Johnson. As the officers approached Dorm, D-1 They noticed Mr. Johnson was throwing up, sweating and complaining of a headache. Officer Miller sent Officer Munoz to get the wheelchair from the medical room. As Officer Munoz went for the wheelchair, Officer Miller returned to the control room to have Officer Williams call Deputy Moore and request him transport Mr. Johnson to the ER. While Officer Williams was calling the deputy, Officer Miller called Sheriff Patrick Toombs and advised him of the situation. Both Officers Miller and Munoz went back to the cell and place Mr. Johnson in the wheelchair. After placing Mr. Johnson in the wheelchair, they moved him, to the booking area. Mr. Johnson continued throwing up periodically, and he also urinated on himself, all while waiting for the deputy to arrive and transport him to the ER. Deputy Moore arrived within a matter 4 minutes, Officer Miller rolled Mr. Jones out to the sally port, and it was noted the Mr. Johnson also threw up did throw up in the sally port. As soon as the Deputy and Officer were able to load the inmate into the sheriff’s office unit, Mr. Johnson he was transported to the ER.
Upon arrival at the ER, Deputy Moore noticed that he did not have all of his duty equipment and requested

Officer Munoz go to the ER and relieve him so that he could get the rest of his equipment. Officer Munoz noticed that the inmate had worsened in health as he relieved Deputy Moore. Officer Munoz called the Deputy and notified him of the situation; the inmate was placed into an ambulance and sent to UMC with 3 attendants to Lubbock TX. Ector County Jail was notified of the situation.

The two inmates, who were in the cell with Inmate Johnson awake at the time of the incident and were interviewed. One inmate claimed that morning Inmate Johnson sat up in his bunk, laid back down and then got up. After he got up, he walked over to his nephew's bunk and said he had a headache and he wasn't feeling well, so they called for help. The other inmate said Inmate Johnson had woke him up and told him that he was not feeling good and asked him for Tylenol. Shortly after, the officers went in to the cell and rendered aide.

After arriving at UMC hospital in Lubbock TX, Mr. Johnson was placed on a respirator. Medical personal reported that he had no response to feeling pertaining to the right side of his body or his legs. The nurse advised that he would open his eyes as a response to a loud noise but there was no eye movement. There was no progress in reference to his health condition while he was at UMC. As a result, Mr. Johnson's family asked that he be taken off of life support on 02-29-2020 around 1326 pm.