KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	21-1035-PF	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	8/18/2021 2:32 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	5030 Hwy 69S
Agency City:	Beaumont	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	77705		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Zena
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Stephens		
Reporter Name:	John Shauberger	Reporter Email:	john.shauberger@jeffersoncountytx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Benjamin

Middle Name:

Last Name: Criss

Suffix: Jr.

Date of Birth: 3/27/1969 Sex: Male

Race: Black or African American

Age At Time Of Death: 52

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 7/19/2021 7:58 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 8/11/2021 8:23 AM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?: No, evaluation not planned

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

Manner of Death: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Complications due to Coronavirus-19.

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

Medical Treatment:	Yes

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: 2830 Calder Ave
City: Beaumont
County: Jefferson
Zip: 77702

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: Private Facility

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Correctional/Rehabilitation Facility

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: 7/19/2021 7:58 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:

United States Marshals prisoner

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: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

United States Marshals prisoner

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?: 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:

Prisoner Benjamin Criss was received at the Jefferson County Jail-LaSalle, a privately ran facility, on July 19, 2021. Criss was placed in a medical single cell for observation due to mental health issues. While in the medical single cell Criss' behavior was noticed to change. Criss developed a cough and fatigue and tested positive for the Covid-19 virus. Criss was subsequently sent to St. Elizabeth Emergency Room on July 31, 2021 due to respiratory distress and low oxygen levels. He was admitted to the hospital and remained until August 5, 2021, when he was transferred to the Dubuis unit at St. Elizabeth for long-term care. On August 11, 2021 at 8:23 am, Criss passed away from complications due to the Covid-19 virus and was pronounced deceased by Dr. George Davis, M.D.