KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	21-649-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	5/25/2021 2:21 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Howard County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	3613 West Hwy 80
Agency City:	Big Spring	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	79720		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Anita
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Buchanan		
Reporter Name:	Anita Buchanan	Reporter Email:	irene.buchanan@howardcountytx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Darrin

Middle Name: Jay

Last Name: Crooks

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 7/20/1959 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 61

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 2/2/2021 1:52 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 5/8/2021 4:00 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:

1. Arteriosclerotic and hypertensive cardiovascular disease; post pacemaker placement
2.Hepatic cirrhosis with ascites
3. Pleural effusions, left pleural exudate
4. History of SARS-CoV-2 infection

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?: 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?: 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:	3611 W Hwy 80	City:	Big Spring
County:	Howard	Zip:	79720

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:	2/2/2021 1:04 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:

Parole Violation

Offense 2:

Theft of Property>=$100<$750 Shoplifting

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: A probation/parole violation

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?: 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:

Narrative
• February 1st 2021 1:54PM – Darrin Crooks was brought into custody. Crooks was seen by Jail Physician, Dr. Les White. Dr. White ordered lab work, medications, and for the monitor and recording of weight.
• February 2nd 2021 – Blood work was drawn, and a request was sent for a medication list from known pharmacies in the area.
• February 3rd 2021 – CVS Pharmacy responded to request.
• February 4th 2021 - Wal-Mart responded to request with a list of known medications for the Mr. Crooks.
• February 8th 2021 – Lab results from 2/2/21 blood draw, were reviewed by Dr. Les White.
• February 23rd 2021 – Crooks was seen by Dr. Les White. At which time Dr. White referred Crooks for a surgical consult for a Gallbladder Evaluation.
• Beginning of March Inmate Darrin Crooks began to refuse medication.
• March 8th 2021 – Crooks was sent surgical consult with Dr. Cox at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Dr. Cox ordered labs, and a sonogram of the right upper quadrant.
• March 16th 2021 – Labs ordered by Dr. Cox during 3/8/21, consult were completed.
• March 23rd 2021 – Crooks was transported to SMMC at approximately 0519 for Congestive Heart Failure, Anemia, and Petechia. Crooks was released by SMMC and referred to the known Cardiologist for Mr. Crooks, Dr. Haddad. Crooks mentioned he was scheduled for an appointment this day.
• March 23rd 2021 – Medical Clerk, Vickie called Dr. Haddad's office to verify the appointment scheduled that was mentioned by Mr. Crooks. Office staff mentioned that an appointment was not scheduled for Mr. Crooks on this day, and that previous scheduled appointments for Mr. Crooks had been missed.
• March 23rd 2021 – Dr. White followed up with Crooks following the Emergency Room visit. Dr. White referred Crooks to a cardiologist.
• March 29th 2021 – Appointment was made for Crooks to see Cardiologist Melissa Hogg APRN, FNP. Crooks was treated by Hogg for Edema and Shortness of Breath. Labs were ordered and drawn in office. Labs returned following the appointment. Hogg called to inform the Medical Department at the Jail of the results of those labs. Hogg ordered that Crooks be taken to the Emergency Room due to the result of these labs.
• March 29th 2021 – At approximately 1606/1400 Crooks was taken to the ER and admitted at approximately 6:00PM and evaluated due to the abnormal Lab Results found by Melissa Hogg APRN, FNP. Crooks was

diagnosed with Type 2 DM, CHF, Anemia, Petechia, and Alelactasis. Medication was adjusted and Crooks was released on March 31st 2021 at approximately 1343.
• April 27th 2021 – Crooks had an ECO (Echocardiogram) Procedure done.
• May 4th 2021 – Crooks was seen in a virtual visit by Rachel Bizot, PA. Bizot stated that she would order Labs to be done on Crooks. Jail Medical staff did not receive lab orders until May 10th 2021, when Jail Staff called to inquire about the order being sent.
• May 8th 2021 – While at the ER, with Lieutenant Pineda, Sheriff Parker, and myself, Chief Buchanan were waiting on the doctor to give an update on the status of the inmate. Sheriff Parker made a phone call to the inmate's family to notify them of Mr. Crook's status. At which time the family advised Sheriff Parker that they did not wish for any extraordinary or life saving measures be taken for Crooks.
• May 8th 2021 – Inmate Darrin Crooks later died while at the hospital.

Appointment History

• October 2020 – Electrophysiology Dr. Ohada/Laci Martin, APRN – CANCELLED
• November 2020 – Scheduled for Cardiology appointment with Lisa Vannoy & Laci Martin, APRN – Provider cancelled appointment and rescheduled for 11/17/2020. Crooks cancelled appointment due to COVID, was waiting on test results.
• December 2020 – Cardiology appointment with Rebecca Taylor – NO SHOW
• January 2nd 2020 – Appointment with Dr. Ohada – CANCELLED
• February 2nd 2020 – January appointment was rescheduled to this day – NO SHOW
• January 26th 2021 – Appointment with Laci Martin – CANCELLED
• February 2nd 2021 – January 26th appointment was rescheduled to this day – NO SHOW
(was in custody)