KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	21-925-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	7/27/2021 2:54 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Smith County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	227 N. Spring Ave.
Agency City:	Tyler	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75702		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Larry
Director Middle Name:	R		
Director Last Name:	Smith		
Reporter Name:	William Phariss	Reporter Email:	wphariss@smith-county.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: George

Middle Name:

Last Name: Sparks

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 4/24/1945 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 76

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 5/17/2021 3:57 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 6/29/2021 11:35 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 pending

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

Manner of Death: Pending autopsy results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending autopsy results

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?:	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: 800 E Dawson
City: Tyler
County: Smith
Zip: 75701

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Christus Trinity Mother Frances Hospital

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:

Hospital/Infirmary

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:

Entry Date Time N/A: ☑

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 of Child Pornography

Offense 2:

Escaped While Arrested/Confined

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; Crimes Against Child(ren)

Type of Offense, Other:

Escape charge

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?:	Unknown
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Unknown	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:	Yes, mark which restraint devices were used

Type of restraint

Type of Restraint:	Leg Shackles

Summary of Incident

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

Summary:

George Sparks was arrested on May 27, 2021 and booked into the Smith County Jail the same day. He was transported to the hospital on 6/8/2021 due to medical conditions. He returned on to the jail on 6/11/2021 in the early afternoon. He was later found having difficulty breathing that night in his cell and later transported back to the hospital on 6/8/2021. Mr. Sparks remained under medical care at the hospital until his death on 6/29/2021.