KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	22-1870-UF	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	1/30/2025 1:45 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Llano County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	2001 N. State Highway 16, Suite A
Agency City:	Llano	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78643		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	William
Director Middle Name:	D		
Director Last Name:	Blackburn		
Reporter Name:	Suzanne Wesson	Reporter Email:	swesson@co.llano.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Justin

Middle Name:

Last Name: Harrod

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 4/14/1982 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 40

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 10/23/2022 5:40 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 10/23/2022 7:11 AM

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)

Pending autopsy

Manner of Death: results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending

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?: Law enforcement/correctional personnel

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?: Firearm, unspecified

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?: Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death: Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 1193 Eula Ln

City: Kingsland

County: Llano

Zip: 78639

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

Location Category: Residence/Home

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

N/A

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: Elsewhere, specify

Death Location Elsewhere:

Back of Ambulance, enroute to landing zone.

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:

Aggravated Assault with a deadly weapon

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

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: Yes, mark all that apply

Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details: Displayed firearm without discharge

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?:	Unknown

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs):	Yes	Make suicidal statements?:	Unknown
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Unknown	Exhibit any medical problems?:	Unknown

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	Yes	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	Yes
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Unknown	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:

On October 23rd, 2022 at approximately 0553 hours, Llano County Dispatch advised there was an active disturbance with weapons, with shots fired already. While in route dispatch advised the female caller went across the street to a neighbor's residence and advised she had heard one gunshot. Dispatch also advised there were four children inside the residence.

While in route I heard Deputy Ronny Bowman check out on scene and a short time later he advised there was a male subject, later identified as Justin Harrod, on the ground. He then advised the subject had a gun in his hand. A short time later Deputy Byron Cervantez checked out on scene and advised dispatch to shut the channel down.

Upon my arrival, I observed Deputy Travis Glosson running from the driveway toward my patrol vehicle. I

asked Deputy Glosson where we were going and he advised he was coming to get his less lethal. He then retrieved a taser from his patrol vehicle and I followed him back down the driveway. Once down the driveway I observed Deputy Bowman, Deputy Cervantez, Deputy Idol Jackson lined up with guns drawn speaking with a white male subject lying face down on the ground (with his left side facing deputies) with his hands above his head. Deputy Glosson got in line with the others and as I approached Deputy Jackson advised the subject had a gun in his hand. I got in the line beside Deputy Jackson with my gun drawn, pointed at the subject. I observed the firearm in his hand but was unable to determine what direction it was pointed. At that time, I asked Deputy Jackson where the firearm was pointed and he advised towards us.

Deputy Cervantez then advised me and Deputy Jackson to go for the gun if the subject is successfully tased, while himself and Deputy Bowman provided cover.

I stood by providing cover while Deputy Bowman and Deputy Cervantez attempted to get Justin to comply by taking his hand off the firearm. I then asked Deputy Cervantez if he wanted me to try to make my way around the subject and he stated yes. I then observed concrete steps at the feet of Justin. I made my way around through vehicles parked in the driveway and stood on the steps at the feet of Justin, which was off to the right of the other deputies. Deputies continued to plea with Justin to comply. I then observed another deputy arrive on scene and line up with the other deputies. I was unable to tell what deputy arrived due to a light shining in my direction from the other deputies.

At this time, I pulled my taser with hopes of being able to use it if Justin moved his hand away from the firearm. The whole time I was standing there I had a clear view of the backside of Justin, but was unable to see his hands or the firearm.

Deputies continued to speak with Justin in attempt to get him to comply and remove his hand from the firearm. I observed Justin to be raising up partially bobbing his head up and down as he spoke with deputies. I observed Justin to appear to get even more frustrated with the law enforcement presence. I then heard Justin say “Ya'll want to fucking do this”, which was the first time he referenced actually taking any actions against law enforcement. I then heard deputies say “no, no” and then Justin started to scream again. I then heard what sounded like a taser go off and then gunshots. I then holstered my taser, pulled my firearm and gave commands to Justin to drop the firearm. I then told other deputies I was retrieving the firearm, but before I got to it Deputy Cervantez pushed it away from Justin. I observed blood on the face of Justin, Deputy Cervantez advised we needed to render aid. I then observed a deputy run towards his patrol vehicle to get a medical kit.

EMS was then called for and dispatch advised they were already staging. I picked up the firearm and moved it further away from Justin and stood over it for safe keeping. Almost immediately I observed EMS drive around the corner to our location. Deputies continued to speak with Justin, telling him to keeping breathing. I could hear Justin saying he was dying. Deputy Cervantez then advised dispatch to get additional help on scene to assist with shutting down the roadway. EMS then walked up with their stretcher to assist with Justin. I then heard Deputy Bowman radio dispatch and advise them to get the fire department out and to set up a landing zone for a helicopter.

Deputy Jackson then advised over the radio he was out at the roadway trying to keep the family back. Deputy Cervantez then advised me to go assist him. I pointed out to Deputy Cervantez where the firearm was located before I left to assist Deputy Jackson. I then went down the driveway to Deputy Jackson and then started checking patrol vehicles until I located crime scene tap. Once located I placed crime scene tap from each corner post of the fences blocking off the intersection of Eula Lane from anyone entering from Nina Street. After this I went over to Deputy Jackson to make sure everything was alright. I advised him I was going to put up more crime scene tap and if he needed me to call me on the radio.

I then walked northwest on Eula Lane to the edge of the property line and placed crime scene tap across the roadway to prevent anyone from entering from that direction. I then heard Deputy Bowman ask for the mother to return to the residence for the children. I then started over to Deputy Jackson's location to assist and advised him I would walk the mother, later identified as Jillian Harrod, to the residence. Deputy Cervantez met me over at the crime scene tap where Jillian was coming through. Jillian began asking question about Justin and Deputy Cervantez advised her we were worried about the kids right now and weren't talking about Justin. I then escorted Jillian towards the residence, we could hear Justin screaming from inside the ambulance.

I then walked Jillian inside and she went over to check on the children. I observed Deputy Bowman to be standing just inside the door of the residence. Deputy Bowman then walked out of the door and back outside, while I stood by inside with Jillian and the children.

While standing just inside the door of the residence a young boy, later identified as Noah Heflin, walked around the corner and said thank you. I then asked him if everyone was alright inside and he stated yes, but they were really scared and were about to call 911. Jillian then started telling the kids to get their things together to go to Grandma's.

I then asked how many kids were there and Jillian advised there were three there. Jillian then asked if they could go to her mother's residence. I advised her I need to identify her and the children. Jillian provided her Texas driver's license. I then told her I had to speak with someone else to see if the kids could go to her mother's residence. She then asked if she would be allowed to go with Justin and I told her no. She provided her mother's address as 703 Skyline. She then provided all three children's information as her son, Parker Harrod, her best friend's son, Noah Heflin, and her daughter, Jacey Hill .

I then advised Jillian I would step outside to see about them going to her mother's residence. Deputy Bowman advised for them to stay where they were for now and asked for me to get a statement form to try to get a statement from Jillian. When I advised Jillian everyone had to stay for now, she asked if her mother, who was already outside could come in to help with the children. I then asked Jillian what her mother's name was and she replied Julie and stated she was out by the white truck. I then asked Deputy Bowman about me letting Julie in to help with the children and he stated it was fine.

I then walked out to the crime scene tape blocking off Nina Street and asked for Julie, who stepped forward. I advised her Jillian wanted her to come inside to be there for her and the children. I then started to escort Julie to the residence; she asked if Justin was alive since the ambulance was still sitting there. I told her the last time I walked by the ambulance I could hear him inside; I also heard a helicopter in the air and advised her that the helicopter was for him. Once up to the residence Julie observed the blood on the ground and got very upset and started crying. Jillian met us outside the door and told Julie she could go in around the children being as upset as she was.

Julie then asked Jillian if they had just got home and she stated about two hours ago. She stated Jillian had just had surgery and shouldn't even be out. Jillian then stated he, referring to Justin, had her on the ground and was throwing her against the wall.

I advised them Noah had thanked me and that he told me he was scared. Jillian then stated Noah and Parker had been asleep on the couch in the living room and had saw everything. She then stated they thought Justin was going to shoot her.

I then asked Jillian what had occurred. She stated they had gone to the movies, to the Halloween Store and they had good day. Once I saw that Jillian and Julie were settled down a little I advised her since they were a little calmer they should go in to see after the children. I then opened the door, let them in and shut the door, remaining outside. I then went out to my patrol vehicle to retrieve a statement form to attempt to get a statement from Jillian. While going to get the statement form the ambulance left with Justin inside.

When I walked back up to the residence I observed Jillian outside. I walked up and asked her if she wanted to have a seat so we could talk. Jillian was very upset and asked what was going on right now. I advised her he was being transported to the helicopter for further treatment. She then asked where they would be taking him and I advised her I wasn't sure. Jillian then had a seat on the steps and asked if I had found out where Justin had been shot, I advised her I wasn't sure and had not asked anyone.

I then set down on the steps beside Jillian, I advised her we normally try to get a written statement from everyone but told her I didn't believe she was in the condition to that right now. She then stated she should have just went back inside. I then told here she was worried about her safety and she stated yes, but she could have talked him down. She stated she was scared and thought he might have shot himself.

Jillian stated they had a great day with the kids. She stated they had been working on the home and property trying to get everything fixed up and cleaned up. She stated today they took the day off from working. She stated they were hanging out with friends and their children all day. She stated they came home and rested a little then went to the Granite Shoals Trick or Treat. She stated afterwards they went to Bay View to eat with a friend. She stated they then went dancing at Pardner's. She stated after dancing they went to a friend's house and listened to music and played games. She stated Justin had too much to drink tonight and normally doesn't drink liquor, but did tonight.

I then asked her if Justin had stated being a problem at their friend's house and she stated yes. She stated they started arguing and he was acting weird and she knew it was because he had drunk too much. I then asked her where the residence was and she stated it was her friend, Amanda's place, which was a condo on the water on Rio Vista.

She stated when they went to leave, she told him she had to drive and he agreed. She stated once they got to their residence, she threw the keys to the truck, somewhere. I asked her if they were arguing on the way home and she stated no that she had told him they weren't going to talk, that they could talk tomorrow since he had been drinking. She stated once they got home Justin wanted to talk. I then asked her what made her throw the keys and she stated because she was worried, he might try to drive somewhere. She stated she then she told him she was going inside.

At this time, I stopped speaking with Jillian because Julie walked out of the residence. I asked Julie if everything was alright. Julie stated Parker was fine now, but he was starting to hyperventilate. She said she

was able to calm him down though. Julie and Jillian then began speaking back and forth about what had occurred.

Jillian then picked up where she left off, telling me they went inside the house and that's when things got bad. She stated the boys, Parker and Noah, were on the couch and Jacey was upstairs. She stated the boys ended up waking up and saw Justin shoving her against the wall and at one point he was on top of her screaming at her. She stated Justin had never been physical with her before tonight. I then asked if he had hit or hurt her and she stated no. She stated she was just trying to get away from him to go upstairs and he was bumping her with is body. She stated she told him to let her go upstairs but he wouldn't let her. She stated she ended up against the wall and on the floor.

Jillian stated Justin then picked her up and forced her outside. She stated she was on the steps, where I was speaking with her. She stated he was standing in front of her, refusing to allow her to go back in the house. She stated she told him this was abuse and she would not be in an abusive relationship. Jillian then went into how wonderful of a father and man Justin is. She stated the problem tonight was because of the liquor he had drunk.

Jillian stated she told Justin if he was going to be abusive then they were done, speaking of their relationship together. She stated he then said “Well if you are done with me then I guess I'm done. I'm going to end it right now. I'm going to get my gun.” She stated she then told him she was going to be there to watch and took off running toward the roadway, thinking he would follow her, but he didn't. She stated when she got out to the street she heard one gunshot.

Julie then stated something about the children, and Jillian stated “I know they thought he was going to kill me.” I then asked Jillian if Justin was on top of her and she stated “yes, well leaning over me.” She then said he was on his knees leaning over her screaming at her. I then asked her if she felt any pain or had any marks from any point of the assault and she stated no. She then advised me she had recently had a surgery and had stitches across her stomach, but still stated she did not feel any pain. I then asked her if she had thought Justin had shot himself and she stated yes, since there was only the one shot. She stated she then stood in the street trying to figure out what to do, go back to see if he needed help and if she did would he be standing there with the gun and they might get into an altercation.

Jillian stated she then went to a neighbor's residence, who is a good friend of hers, and asked for his phone and call 911. I then asked her if after the gunshot she heard anything from Justin or the kids and she stated no. Jillian then started talking to her mother, Julie telling her this was her fault because she called the police.

I then started asking about the children and Julie asked Jillian if she got a hold of Cody and she stated no her phone was busted. I then asked Jillian what happened to her phone and she stated he took it from her and threw it down and busted it. I asked her when this occurred and she stated when she was trying to go upstairs and he wouldn't let her. She stated she was getting her phone out to call 911 when this occurred.

Deputy Glosson then walked up to get everyone's information for what I believed to be the crime scene log. While with him I was advised to turn off my body worn camera and turn it over to Captain Robert Nichols for him to take it to the Sheriff's Office to start downloading the video.

At that time I stopped collecting information and only did anything when asked to do it, such as putting up more crime scene tap.

I called and contacted my CLEAT representative and was told someone would be in route and to not answer any questions until their arrival.

I stood by with other deputies awaiting the arrival of their representatives.

The only further action I did was providing a brief summary of what Jillian Harrod had told me to District Attorney Sonny McAfee.

After speaking with my CLEAT representative, he advised me the onsite Texas Ranger had no questions for me today. I then waited until being told by my administration I could leave with my patrol vehicle.