KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	23-1367-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	10/26/2023 11:06 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	El Paso County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	3850 Justice Road
Agency City:	El Paso	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	79938		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	richard
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Wiles		
Reporter Name:	James Belknap	Reporter Email:	jbelknap@epcounty.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Debra

Middle Name: Ashley

Last Name: Drost

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 5/12/1985

Sex: Female

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 38

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 9/27/2023 8:12 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 9/29/2023 10:05 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 are available

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

Manner of Death: Accidental

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Blunt Trauma

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

Medical Treatment:	Not Applicable

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?:	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:	Other, specify
Means of Death Other:	12 floor fall through a Trash Chute

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	601 E. Overland St.	City:	El Paso
County:	El Paso	Zip:	79901

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 - day room/recreation area

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:	9/27/2003 8:12 AM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location:	Law enforcement facility/booking center

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:

Prob. Violation/Dangerous 2 counts

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: 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:	Yes
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 09/26/2023, Drost was booked into the Downtown Detention Facility and was assigned to the 11th floor.

On 09/29/2023 at approximately 0915 hours, Drost was taken to the 11th-floor day room for a virtual court hearing. Drost was the only inmate inside of the day room, the door was locked and secured while the officer went to escort another inmate.

At approximately 0955 hours, officers noticed that Drost was no longer in the day room and appeared to have gone into the trash chute of the 11th floor. Officers immediately notified the officer assigned to the basement that Drost may have slid down the thrash chute to the trash dumpster in the basement area. At approximately 1000 hours, a search of the trash dumpster located underneath the exit of the chute was conducted. Drost was located inside the dumpster and was pulled out by medical staff at approximately 1005 hours to provide medical aid. However, Drost did not show any signs of life.

The trash chute on the 11th floor is also located in the day room and runs through each floor to the trash dumpster of the basement floor.