KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	23-1411-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	10/26/2023 11:15 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Hockley County Sheriff's Office.	Agency Address:	1310 Ave. H
Agency City:	Levelland	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	79336		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	James
Director Middle Name:	R		
Director Last Name:	Scifres		
Reporter Name:	James Scifres	Reporter Email:	rscifres@hockleycounty.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Henry

Middle Name:

Last Name: Arambula

Suffix: Jr.

Date of Birth: 10/13/1962 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 60

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 9/9/2023 4:42 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 9/30/2023 7:30 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:

We were informed the death resulted from complications related to cirrhosis, sepsis, and organ failure. We are awaiting final reports and documents from the hospital and the Texas Rangers.

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?: 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:	1310 Avenue H	City:	Levelland
County:	Hockley	Zip:	79336

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: 9/9/2023 4:42 AM

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:

Possession CS PG1/1-B <1gram

Offense 2:

Tamper/Fabricate Physical Evidence w/Intent to Impair

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: 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):	Unknown	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

Resist being handcuffed or

standoff?:	No	arrested?:	No
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:

Synopsis of Events

H. Arambula was booked following an arrest by the Levelland Police Department for Possession CS, and Tampering w/Evidence offense, on 9/9/2023 at approximately 0442 hours. During his time in the jail, he entered two medical requests to see a doctor, first on 9/13/2023 at 2100 hours, and second on 9/21/2023 at 2148 hours due to medication and fluid retention. Both requests were answered by jail staff to schedule an appointment with a doctor or inquire about medication changes, as needed per the requests.

On 9/15/2023 EMS responded to the jail related to Arambula for nausea and pain. He refused treatment and was instead transported by jail staff to the local medical clinic for treatment. On 9/24/2023, he was taken to the ER by jail staff for treatment. He was prescribed multiple medications related to nausea/vomiting, and abdominal pain. The physician requested follow up with a gastroenterologist on or about 10/1/2023. On 9/28/2023, he was taken to the clinic to see the doctor with complaints of pain and nausea/vomiting. He was again prescribed medication, which was provided. During visits, jail staff were given information that he may have gall bladder issues/gall stones.

While Arambula was in the jail, he was moved to the holding area several times for observation due to his statements of nausea and pain. Additionally, he refused to eat in the previous days before being transported to the hospital on 9/29/2023, and had been observed multiple times by staff attempting to induce vomiting by sticking his fingers in his mouth and throat. Beginning 9/25/2023, he refused multiple meals until 9/29/2023. All refusals are documented in jail file, as are jail incidents observed by staff. During the time in the jail, he continued to take medications as prescribed.

On 9/29/2023, our staff contacted the DA office regarding a possible personal bond due to the medical issues and potential for specialists, and/or surgery. The judge arrived with the bond, however when we went to get him from his cell he was not coherent. He was escorted to the front booking area to speak to the judge. Based on observations of the staff and judge, EMS was contacted. He was transported to the local emergency room via ambulance and multiple tests and scans were performed. He was later transported to Covenant Lubbock for further treatment.

When Arambula was transported, law enforcement staff began searching for emergency contacts for him. He

provided none at the time of booking, but deputies were able to locate his sister after multiple attempts at locations in Levelland. His family was notified of the transport and where he was receiving treatment. Family was allowed to visit him at the hospital in Lubbock. In Lubbock, staff were informed he may be septic and suffer from a bowel obstruction, among other issues. He was moved from the ER to MICU at Covenant Lubbock, were he stayed overnight being given medications until he passed away on Saturday morning, 9/30/2023.

I was notified at approximately 0745 hours that Arambula had passed away. Following that phone call, I began making notifications to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards by calling our inspector, as well as the Texas Rangers, Company "C" in Lubbock to investigate the death. I opened an online report with the Office of Attorney General through the portal, notified our county judge via telephone, and sent an email through the TCJS online reporting system.

I met with deputies and the Ranger at Covenant Lubbock. I was notified by hospital staff of the bowel obstruction and the basic circumstances of the death. I was informed that, in consultation with the Lubbock County Medical Examiner's Office, hospital staff determined no autopsy was necessary as a cause of death was established.

As of this date we are awaiting reports from the hospitals and from the Texas Rangers. All information is up-to-date, yet incomplete, as we are awaiting information from other entities.