KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	25-1010-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	12/12/2025 10:10 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Orange County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	PO BOX 1468
Agency City:	Orange	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	77631		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Robert
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Smith		
Reporter Name:	Robert Smith	Reporter Email:	bsmith@co.orange.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Joshua

Middle Name: Deshawn

Last Name: Williams

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 1/25/1985

Sex: Male

Race: Black or African American

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: 11/4/2025 11:25 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 12/8/2025 11:30 AM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?: Yes, results are available

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

Manner of Death: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Hanging

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?: Other Weapon, specify:

Other weapon, specify:

bed sheet

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: Hanging, strangulation

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	205 S. Border Street	City:	Orange
County:	Orange	Zip:	77630

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:	11/4/2025 11:25 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:

Unlawful Possession of Firearm by Felon

Offense 2:

Theft of Property<2,500 w/previous convictions

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;
Crime Against Property

Type of Offense, Other:

Possession of Firearm

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?:	Yes
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Yes	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:	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 Sunday, December 7, 2025, Joshua Williams was alone in single cell #18 at the Orange County Jail. Williams had been standing at the front of the cell facing the hallway and verbally communicating with jail staff about using the phone when the jail staff made rounds. While making a round at 7:54 PM, a jailer observed Williams suspended from cell bars facing the hallway. Williams had tied one end of a blue bed mat sheet to the cell bars, and the other end of the sheet around his neck. Williams lowered his body causing the bed sheet to tighten around his neck. The jailer immediately called for assistance and entered single cell #18, lifting Williams to release the tension from his neck while other jailers arrived to assist lowing Williams onto the cell floor. Jailers, Staff LVN, and patrol deputies began performing life saving measures on Williams until paramedics arrived. Williams had a pulse and was transported by ambulance from the jail in Orange to St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont. Williams continued to receive medical treatment at the hospital. Williams was eventually placed on a ventilator. On December 8, 2025, at 11:30 AM, Williams died while being treated at the hospital in Beaumont. An autopsy of Williams was ordered by Jefferson County Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Ben Collins and performed at Forensic Medical of Texas. Forensic Pathologist Dr. Miguel found Williams cause of death as Hanging and Manner of Death Suicide.