KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	25-293-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	4/18/2025 11:50 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	San Patricio County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	PO BOX 1382
Agency City:	Sinton	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78387		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Oscar
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Rivera		
Reporter Name:	Cesar Brosig	Reporter Email:	cbrosig@sanpatriciocountytx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: THOMAS

Middle Name: MICHAEL

Last Name: WHELAN

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 5/11/1957 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 67

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 4/16/2025 11:37 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 4/17/2025 12:55 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: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Individual had heart health issues which is possibly the cause of death

Autopsy Report reports the cause of death to be natural causes with cause of death Ischemic Heart Disease due to Critical Coronary Atherosclerosis with contributing condition Cardiomegaly.

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:	300 N. Rachal	City:	Sinton
County:	San Patricio	Zip:	78387

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:	5/10/2024 3:21 PM

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?: 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:

POCS PG1/1-B<1G

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):	Unknown	Make suicidal statements?:	Unknown
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Yes	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?:	Unknown
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Unknown	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:

Correctional Officer Luis Diaz last spoke with inmate Whelan on April 16, 2025 at approximately 22:30 while doing his rounds. Whelan was standing at the window and appeared to be fine. According to Diaz report at approximately 23:30 he started his rounds and passed out meds for A Block. When he got to inmate Whelan he opened the cell door and called Whelan's name but he did not respond. Diaz called him a second time and he still did not respond. Diaz saw Whelan laying on his back with his eyes and mouth open, unresponsive. According to reports he was cold to the touch with no pulse. The Jail Nurse arrived at approximately 23:40 and requested EMS. EMS was called, arrived at 23:49 and began CPR with negative results. Justice of the Peace Leslie DeAses pronounced Whelan deceased at 00:55 on April 17, 2025. Texas Ranger Lankford was on scene before Whelan was pronounced deceased by DeAses. Whelan suffered from a heart condition and was under medication. An autopsy was performed on April 18, 2025 and results are pending.

On April 28, 2025 I received Final Autopsy Report from Dr. Ray Fernandez office. The report showed the cause of death to be of Natural Causes with cause of death Ischemic Heart Disease due to Critical Coronary Atherosclerosis with contributing factor of Cardiomegaly.