KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	26-18-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	1/8/2026 4:33 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Anderson County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	1200 E. Lacy Street
Agency City:	Palestine	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75801		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	William
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Flores		
Reporter Name:	TJ Choate	Reporter Email:	tchoate@co.anderson.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Charles

Middle Name: Blake

Last Name: Defore

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/27/1993 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 32

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 12/26/2024 1:36 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 1/8/2026 3:28 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:

Asphyxia by hanging

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: Unknown

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	1200 E. Lacy Street	City:	Palestine
County:	Anderson	Zip:	75801

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:	12/26/2024 1:36 PM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location:	Scene of incident

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 Robbery

Offense 2:

Unlawful Possession of Firearm by Felon

Offense 3:

Parole Violation

Were the Charges:: Filed

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: 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?:	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?:	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 01-08-2025 at 3:08 AM, Jailer K. Butler and LVN B. Sessums were performing assigned duties in the hallway near SEP Cell 2. Sessums alertedd Butler to a problem with inmate Charles Blake DeFore (32) in that cell. Bulter and Sessums entered the cell together and found DeFore with a ligature around his neck. Bulter and Sessums immediately removed the ligature and notified the dispatcher that EMS was needed. Subsequently, personnel from the Palestine Regional Medical Center EMS arrived and assessed DeFore. The EMS personnel detected no viable signs of life and informed the Jail personnel DeFore was deceased. Texas Ranger Josh Jenkins was notified. Jenkins arrived and initiated a Custodial Death Investigation. Judge James Wesltey, Justice of the Peace – Pct. #4, performed the inquest and ordered an autopsy be performed.

Sheriff’s Office personnel are conducting an administrative investigation of the incident. The Texas Rangers are conducting the Custodial Death Investigation.