KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	26-401-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	5/19/2026 1:46 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Galveston County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	601 54th St., Ste 2100
Agency City:	Galveston	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	77551		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Jimmy
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Fullen		
Reporter Name:	Cody Schlageter	Reporter Email:	cody.schlageter@co.galveston.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Bessie

Middle Name: Lee

Last Name: Burgan

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/29/1967 Sex: Female

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 58

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 1/26/2026 6:51 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 4/29/2026 2:06 PM

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 pending

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

Manner of Death: Homicide (includes Justifiable Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending autopsy results.

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

Medical Treatment:	No

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?:	Other detainee(s)

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:	Fell after being struck in by another inmate, causing possible blunt force trauma.

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	5700 Ave H	City:	Galveston
County:	Galveston	Zip:	77551

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:

Correctional/Rehabilitation Facility

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:	1/26/2026 6:51 PM

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:

Poss CS PG 1/1-B<1G

Offense 2:

N/A

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Convicted

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:	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 04/29/2026, at approximately 1:25 p.m., Bessie Burgan, BK# 440759, was assaulted by Crystal Walker, BK# 441846, in the laundry room of the Galveston County Jail.

Deputy Griffis, who was assigned to lunadry, immediately responded, securing inmate Walker and observed inmate Burgan to appear to be in a seizure. Deputy Griffis called over the radio for additional deputies and medical to come to the area for assistance.

Deputy Griffis immediately began CPR on inmate Burgan until other jail and medical staff arrived, who assumed CPR. EMS arrived at approximately 1:37 p.m. and began life saving measures on inmate Burgess.

Inmate Burgess was transported via EMS to the University of Texas Medical Branch at 1:55 p.m.

Inmate Burgess was pronounced deceased by UTMB officials on 04/29/2026 at 2:06 p.m.

The above incident is currently under investigation by the Texas Ranger's Office.