KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	26-429-UF	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	6/1/2026 10:36 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Edinburg Police Dept.	Agency Address:	1702 S. Closner
Agency City:	Edinburg	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78539		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Jaime
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Ayala		
Reporter Name:	Orlando Garcia	Reporter Email:	ogarcia@cityofedinburg.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Steven

Middle Name: Lewis

Last Name: Orth

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 2/8/1945 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 81

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 5/6/2026 1:28 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 5/6/2026 1:46 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:

Death due to gunshot-related trauma

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?: Law enforcement/correctional personnel

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?: Handgun

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: Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	2510 West Sprague Street	City:	Edinburg
County:	Hidalgo	Zip:	78539

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Residence/Home

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

N/A

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:

Entry Date Time N/A: ✓

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 Assault on a Peace Officer (1st degree felony)

Offense 2:

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:	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:	Yes, mark all that apply
Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details:	Displayed firearm without discharge

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?:	Yes (select all that apply)
Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others:	Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel

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):	Yes	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Yes	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 May 6, 2026, at 1:28 pm, Edinburg police officers responded to a 911 call for service regarding a male subject who was threatening Hidalgo County contract workers performing excavation work along an irrigation ditch adjacent to 2510 West Sprague Street in Edinburg, Texas. As per the reporting party, the male suspect was angry that they were working in the area and threatened to return with a gun. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the reporting party and the suspect, owner of the property located at 2510 West Sprague Street.

Officers advised the suspect that the workers were conducting authorized excavation work on behalf of Hidalgo County. During the encounter, the suspect became increasingly agitated and uncooperative. Officers made several attempts to de-escalate the situation through verbal communication; however, the suspect made verbal threats towards the officers and brandished a handgun from his waistband.

Officers issued multiple verbal commands directing the suspect to drop the firearm. The suspect failed to comply and instead pointed the handgun at the officers. In response to the threat of serious bodily injury or death, the officers discharged their department-issued firearms, striking the suspect and stopping the threat.

The suspect sustained gunshot wounds during the incident and was pronounced deceased as a result of those injuries.