KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	26-598-UF	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	8/10/2026 8:17 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Texas Department Of Public Safety	Agency Address:	PO BOX 4087
Agency City:	Austin	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78773		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Director	Director First Name:	Freeman
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Martin		
Reporter Name:	Melinda Grieves	Reporter Email:	melinda.grieves@dps.texas.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Stacey

Middle Name: Keith

Last Name: Lerke

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/1/1976 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 49

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 8/3/2026 3:52 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 8/3/2026 4:56 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 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:

Gunshot wounds

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?: 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; Rifle/shotgun

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:	920 Skylline	City:	Amarillo
County:	Potter	Zip:	79108

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

Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

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:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

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: 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:

Evading arrest or detention

Offense 2:

Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon

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: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Traffic violation

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 other weapon, specify:

Specify Weapon Displayed:

Airsoft rifle

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

Attempt to Injure Others?:	Unknown

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?:	Yes
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 August 3, 2026, law enforcement officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Silverado pickup for a traffic violation. The driver refused to stop and evaded detention. During the pursuit, the suspect pointed a weapon at officers. The suspect drove onto a residential road and struck a gas line. The suspect then exited his vehicle holding a rifle. Fearing the suspect was about to discharge his weapon at them, officers fired at the suspect. A foot pursuit ensued before the suspect could be taken into custody. Officers discovered the suspect had been shot. Officers treated the suspect until emergency medical services personnel arrived. The suspect was transported to a local hospital where he died.