KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	26-651-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	8/21/2026 10:08 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	El Paso County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	3850 Justice Road
Agency City:	El Paso	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	79938		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Oscar
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Ugarte		
Reporter Name:	Samuel Magallanes	Reporter Email:	smagallanes@epcounty.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: James

Middle Name:

Last Name: Tavares

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 8/22/1986 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 39

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 8/1/2026 2:40 AM

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

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

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Associated with Acute Methamphetamine and fentanyl Toxicity
Autopsy Report 2026-0411

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:	Other, specify
Means of Death Other:	Accident-Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Associated with Acute Methamphetamine and fentanyl Toxicity

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	601 E. Overland Ave	City:	El Paso
County:	El Paso	Zip:	79901

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 - multiple occupancy 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:	7/30/2026 5:03 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:

Aggravated Robbery

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: 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): No

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health problems?: No

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?:	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 July 30,2026 at approximately 1703 hours, James Tavares was arrested for Aggravated Robbery under warrant JMAG26-07076, bond was set at $150,000.00.

On August 1, 2026, at approximately 0240 hours, Detention Officers were conducting a physical check of the housing floor when they observed Inmate Tavares lying on the floor of cell 610 room 1, unresponsive and with fecal matter present.

At approximately 0242 hours, Jail Medical Staff was requested and arrived on scene at approximately 0245 hours. Medical personnel immediately initiated life-saving measures. At approximately 0246 hours, the El Paso Fire Department was requested and responded to the facility, where they continued life-saving efforts. Medical Control was subsequently contacted and directed that resuscitative efforts be discontinued. Life-saving measures were then terminated, and El Paso Fire Department personnel cleared the scene.

At approximately 0759 hours, an investigator with the Medical Examiner's Office arrived at the detention facility. James Tavares was officially pronounced deceased at 0828 hours.

The incident was captured by the detention facility's sixth-floor surveillance cameras, as well as the body-worn cameras of the supervisors who responded to the scene. The investigation remains ongoing and no indications of foul play.