KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	26-66-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	1/26/2026 3:44 PM	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: George

Middle Name:

Last Name: Vargas

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 1/11/1999 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 27

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 1/23/2025 6:48 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 1/25/2026 2:10 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 are available

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

Manner of Death: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Bilateral pulmonary thromboembolism due to Deep Venous Thrombosis of Lower Extremities
Other significant contributing condition: Class 3 Obesity

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:	Not applicable, cause of death was illness/natural cause

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:	3/31/2025 11:00 AM

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:

Intransit/ Importation of Controlled Substance-Methamphetamine
No Bond Issued/ U.S Marshals

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: 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:

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Case# 2026-01048

Date of Incident:
01-23-2026 @1848 Hours

Location:
601 E. Overland Ave, El Paso County Texas 79938

Name of Inmate:
Vargas, George 01-11-1999

In Custody for the following:
Intransit/ Importation of Controlled Substance-Methamphetamine
No Bond Issued/ U.S Marshals

Investigator:
Detective Cesar Paredes
(915) 235-5044

Texas Ranger Israel Delgado
(915) 710-9022

On March 31, 2025, Inmate George Vargas was arrested by the United States Marshals Service for In-Transit/Importation of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine). No bond was issued.
Inmate Vargas was assigned to Cellblock 490 at the El Paso County Detention Facility located at 601 E. Overland Ave, El Paso County, Texas 79901.

On January 23, 2026, Medical staff were requested to the 4th floor to evaluate Vargas due to him not feeling well. Officer A. Caro #10641 and Nurse J. Keener #10732 arrived at cellblock 490 and observed Inmate Vargas sitting on his lower bunk and was having trouble breathing. Nurse Keener proceeded to ask him

questions and requested that he sit on the gurney to be transported to the clinic for further medical evaluation.

At approximately 1852 hours, Inmate Vargas arrived at the clinic where he continued undergoing medical evaluation. Nurse Keener advised detention officers that Inmate Vargas was referred to the hospital and that EMS needed to be activated. EMS was requested to respond.

Inmate Vargas was then transported by El Paso Fire Department to University Medical Center located at 4815 Alameda Ave, El Paso County, Texas.

Inmate Vargas was admitted to the hospital and continued to be medically evaluated.

On January 25, 2026, at approximately 2108 hours, Inmate Vargas succumbed to medical complications and was pronounced deceased by Dr. Eder Luna Ceron.