KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	26-753-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	9/24/2026 11:29 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Wise County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	200 Rook Ramsey Dr.
Agency City:	Decatur	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	76234		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Cary
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Mellema		
Reporter Name:	Rex Hoskins	Reporter Email:	hoskins.rex@gmail.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: FRED

Middle Name: DOUGLAS

Last Name: SUTHERLAND

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 3/1/1957 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 69

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 2/10/2026 4:52 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 9/15/2026 3:32 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: Pending autopsy results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

PENDING AUTOPSY

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?: 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: Unknown

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	200 Rook Ramsey Drive	City:	Decatur
County:	Wise	Zip:	76234

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 - single 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:

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?: No

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:

POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Offense 2:

POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

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: Crimes Against Child(ren)

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 9/13/2026 at approximately 2240 hours a Medical Emergency was called for the Separation Cell 2329 due to the inmate Fred Sutherland being found unconscious. Mr. Sutherland had been in our custody, in a single cell, since 02/1/2026. Mr. Sutherland suffered from numerous health issues and relied on a wheelchair for mobility. On the evening of 9/13/2026 Mr. Sutherland was not feeling well and was checked by Jail Nurse as well as routine checks by Detention Officers. At 2240 hours Mr. Sutherland was found unconscious on the floor of his cell and EMS was summoned. Mr. Sutherland was transported to Medical City-Decatur Hospital where medical staff discovered Sutherland was experiencing a brain bleed due to possible hemorrhaging stroke. Due to this, Mr. Sutherland was transported by helicopter to Medical City Plano Hospital and was placed on a ventilator for life support. On 9/15/2026, the family of Mr. Sutherland made the decision and gave the hospital permission to remove the life support efforts and the Medical staff stopped the inmate's heart pacemaker.

Prior to Mr. Sutherland's incarceration into our facility he was seen by Premier Independent Physician's on 12/1/2025 who noted "Medical history is significant for hypertension, rheumatoid arthritis, COPD, anxiety, anemia, alcoholism, cataracts, coronary artery disease, previous myocardial infarction, previous CVA, arterial fibrillation and lung cancer."