KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

PA Number:	PA16050CJ	Report Date:	2/17/2016 12:00 PM
Status:	Submitted		

Agency/Facility Information

Department ID:	19	Department Type:	SHERIFF
Agency Name:	Angelina County Sheriff\'s Dept.	Agency Number:	TX0030000
Agency Phone:	9366343331	Agency Address:	2311 East Lufkin Ave.
Agency City:	Lufkin	Agency County:	Angelina
Agency State:	TX	Agency Zip:	75901

Director Information

Director Salutation:

Sheriff

Director First Name:

Greg

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name:

Sanches

Reporter Name: Chad Hooper Reporter Email: chooper@angelinacounty.net

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: Chi St. Lukes Hospital

City: Lufkin

County: Angelina

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:

Hospital/Infirmary

Custody Type Facility:

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: At medical facility

Death Location Elsewhere:

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Vernon

Middle Name: Earl

Last Name: Sparkman

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 12/15/1961 Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Anglo

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

Death Date and Time: 1/25/2016 1:56 AM

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident:

1/15/2016 12:51 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:

Natural Causes/Illness

Manner of Death Description:

Diolated Cardiomyopathy

Death Reason:

Medical condition only (e.g. heart attack)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Diolated Cardiomyopathy

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment:

Yes

Medical Treatment Description:

Below is a list of medications that were being administered to Mr. Sparkman as ordered by the Physician's Assistant that were related to his medical condition.

Carvedilol 6.5mg

ASA 81 mg

Lasix 20 mg

Lisinopril 20 mg

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?:

Not applicable; cause of death was suicide, intoxication or illness/natural causes

Death Causer Other:

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (mark all that apply)

Type of Death Weapon:

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 intoxication or illness/natural causes

General Information

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:

Man/Del CS PG 1

Offense 2:

Parole Violation

Offense 3:

Were the Charges::

Filed

What were the types of charges or reason for contact?

Type of Offense:

Injuries of Decedent

Injured By: Injured by NA

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

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): No

Exhibit any mental health problems?:

Exhibit any medical problems?:

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

Threaten the officer(s) involved: No

Resist being handcuffed or arrested?: No

Try to escape/flee from custody: No

Grab, hit or fight with the officer(s): No

Other Behavior:

Specify Other Behavior:

Use weapon threaten/assault officer(s): 0

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:

While incarcerated at the Angelina County Jail Vernon Sparkman complained of shortness of breath and chest pains on January 22, 2016 at approximately 1950 hours. He was taken to the medical department where he was administered a breathing treatment and vitals were taken. After his blood pressure was taken, it was determined that he needed to be transported to the local hospital. He was admitted at 2315 hours for observation at CHI St. Luke's Memorial Hospital in Lufkin, Texas. Mr. Sparkman's blood pressure dropped again at around 0200 hours on January 23, 2016 and CPR was administered by nursing staff at CHI St. Luke's. A breathing tube and medication was also administered to keep Mr. Sparkman in a medically induced coma. On Saturday morning, January 23, 2016 Mr. Sparkman was released from the Angelina County Jail's custody and into the custody of his family at approximately 1030 hours. On Monday morning, January 25, 2016, Mr. Sparkman's family contacted the jail and stated that Mr. Sparkman had passed away. Hospital records reflect that Mr. Sparkman's death occurred at 0156 hours following the family's request to remove him from the ventilator. Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 1, Billy Ball, ordered an autopsy and we are awaiting the final results, which should taken approximately 8 weeks to complete. The provisional anatomic diagnosis is in and the preliminary cause of death is dilated cardiomyopathy and the preliminary manner of death is natural. An in-house investigation was conducted by our Internal Affairs Officer, Deputy Jeff Farmer. DPS Texas Ranger Steve Rayburn was notified and briefed on the circumstances surrounding the death. Findings were submitted to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to be reviewed. An email was forwarded to administration at the jail that the documentation had been reviewed and that no further action would be taken on the matter at hand by TCJS.