KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

PA Number:	PA16085CJ	Report Date:	3/4/2016 12:30 PM
Status:	Submitted		

Agency/Facility Information

Department ID:	199	Department Type:	SHERIFF
Agency Name:	Dallas County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Number:	TX0570000
Agency Phone:	2146533450	Agency Address:	133 N. Riverfront Blvd.
Agency City:	Dallas	Agency County:	Dallas
Agency State:	TX	Agency Zip:	75207

Director Information

Director Salutation:

Sheriff

Director First Name:

Lupe

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name:

Valdez

Reporter Name:	Det. A. Phelps #402	Reporter Email:	aphelps@dallascounty.org

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 5201 Harry Hines

City: Dallas, Tx 75246

County: Dallas

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: Joseph

Middle Name: Ray

Last Name: Caves

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 7/2/1962 Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Anglo

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

Death Date and Time: 2/26/2016 10:28 AM

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident:

2/21/2016 7:11 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 Causes/Illness

Manner of Death Description:

Melanoma

Death Reason:

Medical condition only (e.g. heart attack)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Metastatic Melanoma

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?:

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?:

Don\'t know

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:

Fail to Register/Sex Offender

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges::

Not filed at time of death

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:

Yes

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On February 26, 2016 at approximately 11:55am, I received a telephone call from the Communication Section and Dispatcher Debbie Harvey told me that there had been a custodial death of an inmate. Dispatcher Harvey told me that the inmate was at Parkland Memorial Hospital and had been remotely booked into the Jail. Distatcher Harvey told me that I needed to call the S.H.O.T. Supervisor, DSS Lang, to obtain the information. I called and talked with DSS Lang who told me that inmate Joseph Ray Caves had been remotely booked into

the Jail on February 21, 2016. She told me that inmate Cave had been transported to Parkland Memorial Hospital that same day and that there had been a Detention Service Officer sitting with him. She told me that today DSO Knighten #3785 had been sitting with inmate Caves. She told me that at approximately 10:28am, inmate Caves had been pronounced deceased by Dr. Claudia Perez at PMH. I then went to the Intake Section and talked with Lt. Burke who told me that Officers with the Dallas Police Dept. had arrested Joseph Caves on Feb. 21, 2016 for outstanding felony warrants from the Dallas Sheriff's Office. He told me that during the bookin procedure the Jail Nurse had sent the Dallas Police officers to Parkland with inmate Caves. He told me that the Medical Staff at PMH had apparently cleared him medically and sent the Officers back to the Jail. He told me that during the bookin procedure the Jail Nurse again sent the Officers back to PMH with inmate Caves. He told me that the Medical Staff at PMH then admitted inmate Caves to the Hospital. He told me that at this time inmate Caves was remotely booked into the Jail. He provided me with a copy of the DPD Arrest Report. In reviewing the DPD Report I found that on Feb. 21, 2016 at approximately 4:50pm Officers with the DPD were dispatch to the 1200 block of Jackson Street in Dallas, Texas in regards to a 40/01 (other in progress). I found that the Officers made contact with Mr. Caves and had conducted a computer check and found that he had two outstanding felony warrants for his arrest for the offense of Sex Offender Duty to Register. The Officers then arrested Mr. Caves, without incident, and transported him to the Dallas County Jail. Upon returning to the CIS Office I called the Medical Examiner's Office and talked with Field Agent Crista in regards to this investigation. She told me that they had already been notified by PMH and that it appeared that Mr. Caves had some sort of cancer that had spread to his head. On March 1, 2016, i called the Medical Examiner's Office and talked with Field Agent Cody who told me that an Autopsy had been conducted and found that Mr. Caves had passed away due to natural causes and the Medical Cause of Death was Medistatic Melanoma.