KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

PA Number:	PA16545CJ	Report Date:	12/1/2016 12:51 PM
Status:	Submitted		

Agency/Facility Information

Department ID:	685	Department Type:	SHERIFF
Agency Name:	Potter County Sheriff\'s Dept.	Agency Number:	TX1880000
Agency Phone:	8063792900	Agency Address:	608 S. Pierce
Agency City:	Amarillo	Agency County:	Potter
Agency State:	TX	Agency Zip:	79101

Director Information

Director Salutation:

Sheriff

Director First Name:

Brian

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name:

Thomas

Reporter Name: Sgt. M. Dunn 250 Reporter Email: michael.dunn@amarillo.gov

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 13100 NE 9th

City: Amarillo

County: Potter

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

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: Marlene

Middle Name: Uvalle

Last Name: Gonzales

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 5/10/1985 Sex: Female

Ethnicity: Hispanic

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

Death Date and Time: 11/4/2016 4:48 PM

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident:

9/30/2016 11:45 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:

Accidental injury to self

Manner of Death Description:

Death Reason:

Not applicable

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Severe Hyponatemia

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?:

Deceased

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?:

Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death:

Other

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:

Probation Violation Child Abuse

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges::

Probation/Parole

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:

On Thursday, November 3, 2016, I was on-duty in the SCU. LT Bohannon told me he had been contacted by the PCSO. There was a prisoner named Marlene Gonzales HF 5/10/1985 who had been transported to NWTH from their jail. Ms. Gonzales was not expected to survive and was probably brain dead. Lt. Bohannon told me I would be assigned this case should she pass away. I was told Ms. Gonzales had been arrested in Lubbock and then transferred to the PCSO Detention Center. She had served her time on a DWI charge and was awaiting extradition to Las Cruces NM on a Probation Violation warrant. She fell ill in her cell. She had been in a single cell pod called “MiniMax.” PCSO reported she had been drinking a lot of water and trying to make herself vomit before she fell ill. She was found in her cell having “seizure like” behavior. Medical staff was summoned to the pod and Gonzales was moved to Medical. An ambulance was called to the jail and Gonzales was taken to NWTH. PCSO had assigned case #16-16004.

On Friday, November 4, 2016 at about 1600 hours, Lt. Bohannon told me inmate Gonzales was on life support which would be terminated. This was now an In-custody death investigation. I responded to NWTH #C425. I arrived at 1625 hours and found RN Paula Saunders attending Marlene Gonzales with SSN 451-73-4563 in room C425. The room was guarded by PCSO Hunter #1680. I was told the life support had not been discontinued; the hospital had received instructions from PCSO to wait until SCU arrived to discontinue life support. I was told Gonzales’ mother, father and sister had gathered in the waiting room. I allowed them to come into the room while life support was withdrawn by nursing staff at 1630. Gonzales was declared dead by Dr. Salagundla at 1648 hours. Investigation revealed Gonzales inflicted her fatal illness on herself by consuming large quantities of water and coffee, then vomiting. She repeated this process over a period of several hours. The dehydration this caused made her brain swell and her body seized. When she arrived at NWTH she was already brain dead. Autopsy report indicates Severe Hyponatremia as cause of death. Investigation to be presented to Potter County Grand Jury for review per SCU policy. Grand Jury declined charges on 11/30/2016. Sgt Dunn 250