KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	24-1572-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	12/2/2024 10:48 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Cherokee County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	272 Underwood St.
Agency City:	Rusk	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75785		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Brent
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Dickson		
Reporter Name:	Brent Dickson	Reporter Email:	bdickson@cocherokee.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Mason

Middle Name: Tanner

Last Name: Johnston

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 2/13/1995 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 29

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 12/2/2024 5:11 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 12/2/2024 8:00 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 pending

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

Manner of Death: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

strangulation / suicide

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?: Decedent

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?: 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: Hanging, strangulation

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	272 UNDERWOOD	City:	RUSK
County:	Cherokee	Zip:	75785

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:	7/30/2021 2:01 PM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location:	Law enforcement facility/booking center

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:

Aggravated Sexual Assault of a child X 4

Offense 2:

Sex abuse of a child continuous

Offense 3:

Assault on a Public Servant

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):	Unknown	Make suicidal statements?:	Unknown
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	No	Exhibit any medical problems?:	Unknown

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

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	Unknown	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	Unknown
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Unknown	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Unknown	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 December 2, 2024 inmate Mason Johnston (WM DOB 02/13/1995) died from apparent strangulation by means of hanging. Johnston was able to make a rope in a his cell and use the the rope to hang himself from the shower head. Jailers located an attempted life saving measures that were unsuccessful.