



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 25-459-UF

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 6/17/2025 3:00 PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Tyler Police Dept.

Agency Address: 711 West Ferguson

Agency City: Tyler

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 75702

Director Information

Director Salutation: Chief

Director First Name: Jimmy

Director Middle Name: E

Director Last Name: Toler

Reporter Name: Brian Bulman

Reporter Email: bbulman@tylertexas.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: John

Middle Name: Augustine Tangn

Last Name: O'Kelly

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/28/1986

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 38

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 6/5/2025 7:23 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 6/5/2025 8:23 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: Homicide (includes
Justifiable
Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Died as a result of rifle wounds.

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?: Law
enforcement/correctional
personnel

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?: Rifle/shotgun

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: Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 3143 Cascades Ct.

City: Tyler

County: Smith

Zip: 75709

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Residence/Home

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use
of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

N/A

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?: 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:

Residential Burglary

Offense 2:

Assault

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Violent Crime
Against Persons;
Medical / Mental
Health assistance
call; Crime Against
Property

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?: Yes (select all that apply)

Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others: Attempted to injure civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

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?:	Yes
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Yes	Exhibit any medical problems?:	No

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

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	Yes	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	No
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Unknown	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Yes	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 June 5, 2025, Tyler Police Officers were dispatched to a residence at 3143 Cascades Ct, Tyler, Texas, in reference to a suspicious person call. Stephanie Gottsch called and reported she was going through divorce proceedings with her husband John O'Kelly, and a current court order was in effect restricting O'Kelly from coming to Gottsch's residence at 3143 Cascades Ct. Gottsch reported O'Kelly came to her residence and assaulted Gottsch's father who confronted O'Kelly outside. Gottsch was not at the residence at the time, but observed via home security cameras, O'Kelly break into the residence. Responding Officers arrived on scene, observed the back door damaged and attempted negotiations with O'Kelly to come outside. Officers learned John O'Kelly had a history of using methamphetamine and alcohol. O'Kelly stated he had been been "kicked out" of a rehabilitation facility earlier in the day. O' Kelly told Officers that he had a gun and O'Kelly threatened to shot officers. While Officers attempted a peaceful resolution with O'Kelly, Gottsch watched O'Kelly inside the house on a live video feed from the security camera system. Gottsch relayed O'Kelly's actions and information to responding officers via dispatch. Gottsch informed the police response that O'Kelly had created a noose, placed it around his head and was in the process of hanging himself. Based on this exigency, Officers made entry through the open back door and ordered O'Kelly to show his hands as officers began up a stairway to contact O'Kelly. While officers ascended up the stairway, O'Kelly emerged at the top of the stairway, and presented an object, later determined to be a black electrical razor. O'Kelly held the black razor in a two hand-grip and thrust forward the remote, presenting it as a firearm. The lead Officer climbing the stairway, believed the item to be a firearm and shot 4

rounds from his patrol rifle, striking O'Kelly at least two times in the chest area. O'Kelly fell and began hanging from the noose he had placed around his neck.

Officers quickly cut the noose from O'Kelly's neck and began life saving measures. Emergency Medical Services responded and transported O'Kelly to UT Health hospital in Tyler where O'Kelly later died from his injuries. The Texas Rangers were notified and responded to conduct an investigation into the Officer Involved Shooting. An autopsy was ordered on O'Kelly's body and results showed O'Kelly died as a result of rifle wounds. The manner of death was Homicide. The Texas Rangers presented the case to a Smith County Grand Jury, and the case received a No Bill.