KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	25-1079-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	12/31/2025 5:02 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Bell County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	104 S. Main
Agency City:	Belton	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	76513		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Bill
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Cooke		

Reporter Name: Erich Morsbach Reporter Email: erich.morsbach@bellcounty.texas.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Cecil

Middle Name:

Last Name: Tamez

Suffix: Jr.

Date of Birth: 4/11/1990 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 35

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 12/25/2025 11:08 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 12/28/2025 12:01 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: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Hanging

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?:	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:	2504 S Loop 121	City:	Belton
County:	Bell	Zip:	76513

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:	6/4/2025 1:52 AM

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:

Murder PC 19.02(C)

Offense 2:

Poss CS PG 3<28g HSC 481.117(b)

Offense 3:

Criminal Trespass PC 30.05(a)

Were the Charges:: Filed

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

Type of Offense: Violent Crime Against Persons; Alcohol / drug offense; 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?: No

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

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): No

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health problems?: No

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?:	No	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	No
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	No	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:

--- Leading up to the Incident ---
At 16:44 Inmate Cecil Tamez Jr. was seen by the nurse and jail staff taking medications during medications pass. All regular thirty (30) minute face-to-face observation checks were conducted on time with no issues or concerns being noted. The last observation check conducted prior to this incident was conducted at 22:40.
--- Incident and Incident Response
At 23:06:54 Jailer Alexis Delavega entered- Cell 203 to conduct a routine thirty (30) minute observation check. At 23:07:33 Jailer Delavega passed Tamez's cell and noticed that Inmate Cecil Tamez Jr. had suspended himself using a sheet. Jailer Delavega immediately called for a "Medical Emergency." Jailer Arissa Erickson responded and opened the door to Inmate Tamez's cell. At 23:08:51, the sheet tied around Tamez's neck is cut Jailer Erickson and he is placed on the ground to begin providing emergency care.

At 23:10:38 Armor medical staff arrived on scene during which time Cpl. Rozana Gonzalez was in the process of calling 9-1-1. Jailers on scene advised Armor medical staff that Tamez had a "very faint" pulse, was purple in color, and was "not responding." Armor Nurse Practitioner Moody, then applied an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to Tamez. At 23:11:54 the AED began analyzing Tamez. The AED did not advise for shock so Moody, began Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). At 23:12:18 the AED was used to analyze Tamez again and Moody resumed CPR at 23:14:33. During this time Jailer Delavega provided assistance with an oxygen pump as instructed. At 23:16:50 the Belton Fire Department arrived on scene as the AED was again being used to analyze Tamez. Moody resumed CPR at 23:17:14 with the Fire Department taking over CPR and further assessment at 23:17:22. The Fire Department continued life saving measures until the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) arrived at 23:24:14.

At 23:32:42 EMS and Fire Department personnel administered fluids to Tamez and he was placed on the gurney. At 23:37:22 a member of the Fire Department checked Tamez's pulse on his right arm and noted that Tamez had a "good pulse". At 23:41:08 Tamez was transported out of the Central Jail Facility and placed in an ambulance. At 23:44:03 Tamez was transported by ambulance to Baylor Scott and White hospital in

Temple. Tamez was escorted in the ambulance by Jailer Delavega followed by Deputy Andrew Loew.

Tamez remained on life support at Scott & White Hospital until it was determined by medical staff that he should be removed from life support. Tamez was pronounced deceased at 12:01 PM 12/28/2025