



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 26-531-CJ

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 7/14/2026 2:25 PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Dewitt County
Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Address: 208 E. Live Oak

Agency City: Cuero

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 77954

Director Information

Director Salutation: Chief Deputy

Director First Name: John

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Garoni

Reporter Name: Carl Bowen

Reporter Email: carl.bowen@dwcotx.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Santana

Middle Name: Cruz

Last Name: Uresti

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 11/26/1997

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 28

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 7/13/2026 10:45 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 7/13/2026 10:45 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:

Hanging

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment: Unknown

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: Other, specify

Means of Death Other: Hanging

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 208 E Live Oak St #
A

City: Cuero

County: DeWitt

Zip: 77954

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: 9/22/2025 2:45 AM

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:

Murder

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

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

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: Killed 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): Yes

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health problems?: Yes

Exhibit any medical problems?: Yes

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: 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:

Case Summary:

Jail personnel found jail inmate, Santana Ureste wm 11/26/1997, hanging in his single jail cell. He was quickly brought down to the floor where he was unresponsive. CPR was administered with negative results. EMT's arrived at the scene within a few minutes later while CPR was in progress. Unfortunately, inmate Santana Ureste did not regain consciousness and was pronounced dead at approximately 10:54 am.

Sheriff Bowen advised that the DPS TX Rangers would be notified and requested that the scene remain secured until the rangers' arrival.

DOA Victim / Inmate:

Santana Ureste wm 11/26/1997 (age: 28)

5'9" / 145 lbs

FBI: 1232228KD8

SID: TX04905796

TDL: 38035359

SS: 633-60-9571

Home address: 124 W. 6th Street; Yorktown, Texas 78164

Jail Cell: A-S4

Emergency contact: Filimina Ureste: 832-529-7537
Original in-custody charge: Murder in DeWitt County, Texas
Date of Arrest: 09/22/2025 Time: 1am
DeWitt County Sheriff's Office Murder case# 25-0246

Suicide means:

The victim inmate used a blue bed sheet for the suicide. One end of the sheet was tied to the fire smoke alarm that was located at the center of the ceiling. The sheet was cut by Bressler (maintenance jailer) while the victim was hanging and while Serrano (jailer) was lifting up the victim. There was a wet gray towel on the floor that had dental floss and a toothbrush wrapped to the towel.

Investigative actions:

Upon my arrival at the scene (jail cell A-S4), I saw jail Cpl Serrano performing CPR on the inmate. The jail nurse was also with Cpt. Serrano. Deputy Sgt. Ruiz took over the CPR procedure while I went to the sally port to escort the EMTs to the jail cell. I returned to the scene with EMTs. After the victim was pronounced doa, the scene was kept secured and the was photographed by DeWitt County Deputy Wilson unit 1216.

DPS TX Ranger Tinsley arrived on the scene at approximately 12:35 pm. Ranger Tinsley took over the investigation at that point. Ranger Schultz also arrived shortly afterwar. Crime Scene Technician Carl Smith unit 1219 took additional photos of the scene at the direction of the rangers.

EMTs:

Unit 361

Michael Varela – licensed paramedic

Carlton McBride – EMT-B

Unit 362

Steven Stang – EMT-P

Victoria Clark – EMT-P

Jailers:

Serrano – unit 1259

Espinoza – unit 1260

Mongia – unit 1265

Bressler – 1251 (works maintenance)

Jail nurse: Denise Bradley - LVN

Justice of the Peace: Blanca McBride – DeWitt County Pct. 2

Judge McBride arrived and conducted her scene investigation at approximately 11:06 am.

Oral Statement of Jailer Serrano:

I obtained an oral statement from jail Cpl. Serrano. Serrano told me that he was assigned to conduct jail checks from 6 am to 9 am this morning. He was relieved from the jail check duties by jailer Mongia. Jail check duties include scanning each jail cell with a wand and visibly looking inside the cell to verify the safety and well-being of each inmate. Serrano advised that the jail checks are approximately every 15 minutes. He stated that Mongia checked on inmate victim Ureste at approximately 10:30 am. Serrano began the lunch feeding of prisoners around that time and had reached Ureste's jail cell at approximately 10:44 am with Ureste's lunch tray. He said that he looked inside the cell and saw Ureste hanging. He yelled for Bressler, who was also in the corridor, to assist him in life saving procedures. He held Ureste up by his legs while Bressler cut the sheet to allow Ureste to come back down to the floor. The blue bed sheet was used for the hanging. Serrano was asked if his body worn camera was on. He stated that he had tried to turn on the recording device but wasn't sure if it recorded.

All involved jailers were asked to handwrite a statement of the incident.

I obtained copies of the jail cell scan report from Cpt. Garza, jail captain. According to the scan report, Ureste's cell was checked and scanned through the morning. More importantly, the scan report showed that the cell was checked and scanned at 10:22 am and 10:36 am by Jailer Mongia unit 1265. Please note that Cpl. Serrano did not get a chance to scan the jail cell with his wand due to the emergent circumstances. However, according to Serrano, the time was approximately 10:44 am.

Note: Copies of cell scans were given to Ranger Tinsley.

Note: A copy of inmate Santana Ureste's jail booking was given to Ranger Tinsley.

Body Removal:

Freund Funeral Home

John R. Scott

213 N. Gonzales

Cuero, Texas 77954
361-275-2343
Arrival time: 1:18 pm
Custody time and departure from jail: 1:28 pm

Sgt. Steven Guerra
Investigations
DeWitt County Sheriff's Office

"In accordance with Article 2.1397 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, I Sgt. Steven Guerra hereby acknowledge that all documents, items, and information in the possession of this officer that is required to be disclosed to the defendant in this case under Art. 39.14 of the Code of Criminal Procedures has been disclosed to DeWitt County Sheriff's Office to then be turned over to the DeWitt County District Attorney's Office. I further acknowledge that if I discover or acquire any further documentation, item, or information, I shall promptly disclose same to the DeWitt County District Attorney's Office".