



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 26-704-UF

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 9/8/2026 9:58 AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Texas Department
Of Public Safety

Agency Address: PO BOX 4087

Agency City: Austin

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 78773

Director Information

Director Salutation: Director

Director First Name: Freeman

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Martin

Reporter Name: Melinda Grieves

Reporter Email: melinda.grieves@dps.texas.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Jose

Middle Name: S.

Last Name: Velazquez Cerda

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 1/4/2003

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 23

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 8/25/2026 11:01 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 8/25/2026 11:40 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 pending

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

Manner of Death: Accidental

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending autopsy report

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: Other, specify

Means of Death Other: 36 foot fall from overpass

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: IH-35 E exit ramp to
IH-30

City: Dallas

County: Dallas

Zip: 75207

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

Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

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:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

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: Scene of incident

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: No

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:

Evading Arrest with a Motor Vehicle

Offense 2:

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: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Class C Traffic Offense

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?:	Unknown	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?:	No	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	Yes
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:

On August 25, 2026, law enforcement officers observed a black Cadillac Escalade traveling westbound on Illinois Avenue in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, with an inoperative front headlight. The Escalade's driver changed lanes without activating a turn signal. An NCIC inquiry revealed the vehicle's registration had expired in 2024.

Officers initiated a traffic stop. The Escalade stopped and a passenger exited. The Escalade fled the traffic stop. Officers initiated a pursuit. The vehicle continued westbound on Illinois Avenue before turning northbound onto IH-35. The driver continued to flee at a high rate of speed with the Escalade's headlights off.

The Escalade subsequently exited onto IH-30 eastbound. While traveling on the exit ramp, the driver abruptly slowed in response to another vehicle traveling ahead. The driver lost control of the Escalade, causing it to crash into the side barrier of the overpass and spin around. Following the collision, the officers utilized their patrol vehicle to pin the Escalade against the barrier.

After the vehicle was pinned, the driver exited and ran behind the Escalade. Officers repeatedly commanded the driver to show his hands. Due to the positioning of the vehicles and damage to the Escalade's hood, officers were able to maintain visual contact with the driver.

Officers approached the Escalade believing the driver may have gone over the overpass. Officers then observed the driver on the ground below the overpass. Other officers located the driver and determined he had suffered severe head trauma.

Emergency medical services responded. The driver was transported by EMS to a hospital where he was subsequently pronounced deceased.