



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 19-1041-CJ

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 7/22/2020 2:33 PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Henderson County
Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Address: 206-A N. Murchison

Agency City: Athens

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 75751

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: Botie

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Hillhouse

Reporter Name: David Fought

Reporter Email: dfaught@henderson-county.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Randy

Middle Name: Bryan

Last Name: Buchanan

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 11/7/1967

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 51

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 3/22/2019 6:30 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 4/21/2019 8:52 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: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Complications of hepatic cirrhosis due to hepatitis c.

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

Medical Treatment: Yes

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?: Not applicable

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?: Pre-existing medical condition

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death: Unknown

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 206 A North Murchison

City: Athens

County: Henderson

Zip: 75751

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 - multiple occupancy 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: 2/27/2019 8:54 PM

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:

Parole Violation

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: A probation/parole
violation

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

Type of Offense: Alcohol / drug
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): N/A

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health
problems?: No

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)

Escape or attempt to

including law: No

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:

Circumstances of the Death of Randy Bryan Buchanan

Randy Buchanan was received at the Henderson County Detention Center on 2/27/2019 for a Parole Violation. Buchanan stated he had Cirrhosis of the liver, testicular hernia, Hepatitis C, and stated he was unable to feel his hand.

Buchanan was seen by medical staff and they began requesting medical records to begin care for him while in the facility.

Buchanan was housed in the medical dorms on 2/28/2019 at the Henderson County Detention Center until Inmates housed with him made reports of Buchanan urinating on everything. Buchanan was moved into a dorm where he was housed by himself on 3/18/2019.

On the morning of 3/22/2019 Detention Officer Noah Kreie was feeding breakfast and entered the A-6 dorm where Buchanan was being held. Detention Officer Kreie assisted Buchanan by taking the food tray inside the dorm for him. Detention Officer Kreie is joined by day shift detention Officer Randal Price at 6:00 A.M.

Detention Officer Price does a cell check at 6:01 A.M. and stated that Inmate Buchanan was standing in the window looking into the hallway during this check. Video surveillance shows Detention Officer Price in the hallway outside the dorm at 6:15. At this time Detention Officer Price walks to the window to look inside the dorm. Price then walks down the hallway performing his assigned duties. I spoke with Detention Officer Price and asked what he had seen in the window at 6:15 and Price stated he did not see Buchanan standing in the window and looked in to see if he could Buchanan. Price stated he did not see him and thought he may have been in the bathroom or out of view from the hallway.

Detention Officer Price and Detention Officer Kreie enter the A-6 dorm between 6:20 and 6:30 to conduct a walk through of the cell. It was at this time Randy Buchanan was discovered lying on the floor with blood coming from his mouth and nose. Detention Officers immediately called for assistance several officers responded. Randy Buchanan was transported by ambulance to UT Health-Athens.

Randy Buchanan was transferred to UT Health-Tyler and Jail staff notified his emergency contact. Randy Buchanan was placed in ICU and detention staff sat on him until April 9, 2019.

On April 9, 2019 Texas Pardons and Parole sent us paperwork to release Buchanan from our custody. Henderson County had no charges on Buchanan and he was released from our facility.

On April 21, 2019 I was contacted by Smith County Justice of the Peace Andy Dunklin who advised Buchanan was deceased.

On 4/23/2019 Texas Ranger Michael Adcock and I attended the autopsy of Buchanan at Forensic Medical in Tyler, Texas. The results of the autopsy are pending.

Sequence of Events

2/27/2019 Buchanan received at Henderson County

2/28/2019 Buchanan housed in Medical Dorm 2

3/18/2019 Buchanan moved to dorm A-6 where he is housed individually

3/22/2019 Buchanan found on floor of cell and does not respond to Officers.

Buchanan transported by ambulance to UT Health-Athens and then transferred to UT Health Tyler. Emergency Contact notified. 3/22/2019-4/9/2019 Henderson County Detention Officers sit with Buchanan at UT Health-Tyler.
4/9/2019 Texas Pardon and Parole lifts warrant and sends release paperwork to Henderson County. Buchanan is release at 8:11 A.M.
4/21/2019 Notified of Death of Buchanan by Smith County JP
4/23/2019 Autopsy performed at Forensic Medical in Tyler, Texas