



# KEN PAXTON

## ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

### CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

## Agency Information

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CDR Number: 21-1773-CJ

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 2/22/2024 3:22 PM

Status: Submitted

## Agency/Facility Information

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Agency Name: Cherokee County  
Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Address: 272 Underwood St.

Agency City: Rusk

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 75785

## Director Information

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Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: Brent

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Dickson

Reporter Name: Brent Dickson

Reporter Email: bdickson@cocherokee.org

## Decedent Information

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### Identity of Deceased

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First Name: Clara

Middle Name:

Last Name: Edwards

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 8/3/1946

Sex: Female

Race: Black or African  
American

Age At Time Of Death: 75

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

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Date/Time of Custody or  
Incident: 2/12/2021 5:22 PM

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

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Death Date and Time: 8/22/2021 4:30 AM

## Manner / Cause of Death

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Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

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Medical Examiner/Coroner Yes, results  
Evaluation?: pending

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

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Manner of Death: Pending autopsy  
results

## Medical Cause of Death:

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Medical Cause of Death:

unknown at this time

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

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Medical Treatment: Unknown

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

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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)

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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?

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Pre existing medical condition?: Pre-existing medical condition

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

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Means of Death: Not applicable, cause of death was illness/natural cause

## Location / Custody Information

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Where did the event causing the death occur?

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Street Address: 272 UNDERWOOD

City: RUSK

County: Cherokee

Zip: 75785

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

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Location Category: Law Enforcement  
Facility

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

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Type of Custody: County Jail

Specific type of custody/facility:

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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):

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Entry Date Time: 2/12/2021 5:22 PM

Where did the death occur?

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Death Location: Law enforcement  
facility/booking  
center

## General Information

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

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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?

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Offense 1:

Aggravated assault with deadly weapon

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)

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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?

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Decedent display/use of  
weapons: No

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

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Attempt to Injure Others?: No

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

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Appear intoxicated (alcohol or  
drugs): No

Make suicidal statements?: No

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:

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Barricade self or initiate

Resist being handcuffed or

standoff?:	N/A	arrested?:	N/A
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	N/A	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	N/A
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	N/A	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	N/A
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	N/A		

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

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Under Restraint: No

## Summary of Incident

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Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

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Summary:

Subject was located deceased in her cell while completing cell checks.