



# TEXAS JAIL PROJECT

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March 10 2025

To

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CC:

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*Sent via electronic mail*

## **Re: Unreported Custodial Death - Charles Stephen Johnson 03 March 2025**

Sheriff Waybourn,

Texas Jail Project is aware of the fact that 36 year old [Charles Stephen Johnson died in the custody of Tarrant County Jail on Feb 08, 2025](#) after a suicide attempt. We assume that you are aware that the sheriff of, or jail administrator for, **Tarrant County**, was required by law to report that custody death, on a [prescribed form](#), within

**thirty (30) days after the death**, to the Office of the Attorney General. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 49.18(b) reads in relevant part (emphasis added):

"If a person . . . incarcerated in a jail, correctional facility, or state juvenile facility dies, the director . . . of the facility in which the person was incarcerated shall investigate the death and file a written report of the cause of death with the attorney general no later than the 30th day after the date on which the person in custody or the incarcerated person died. The director shall make a good faith effort to obtain all facts relevant to the death and include those facts in the report."

However, based on our search of the [attorney general's custodial death report database](#), it appears that **as of March 10, 2025 no such custody death report has been filed**. (Please see attached screenshot of OAG website search results for deaths reported by "Tarrant county Sheriff".) We are aware that **this death has been reported to and recorded by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards in its database as a custodial death**. It is also our understanding that a failure to investigate the death and file the report is an offense. Texas Penal Code 39.05 reads in relevant part (emphasis added):

**(a) A person commits an offense if the person is required to conduct an investigation and file a report by Article 49.18, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the person fails to investigate the death, fails to file the report as required, or fails to include in a filed report facts known or discovered in the investigation.**

**(c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.**

Texas Jail Project respectfully requests that you immediately and appropriately cure any violation of this law regarding the death of **Charles Stephen Johnson** and notify us when you have complied with the statute.

Sincerely,

Krish Gundu



Co-founder & Executive Director

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