



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detainee Death Report: OWEN, Ben James

General Demographic/Background Information

- **Date of Birth:** September 16, 1980
- **Date of Death:** January 25, 2020
- **Age:** 39
- **Gender:** Male
- **Country of Citizenship:** United Kingdom
- **Marital Status:** Married
- **Children:** 2

Immigration History

- On July 23, 2019, U.S. Customs and Border Protection admitted Mr. OWEN into the United States (U.S.) at the Miami Sea Port, Florida (FL), as an O2 non-immigrant with authorization to remain in the U.S for a temporary period not to exceed December 10, 2019; however, he remained beyond that date without authorization.
- On January 14, 2020, Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), Orlando Federal Criminal Alien Program, encountered Mr. OWEN while he was detained at the Volusia County Branch Jail (VCBJ) in Daytona Beach, FL. ERO determined Mr. OWEN to be removable under Section 237(a)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and issued him a Notice to Appear, Form I-862.
- On January 15, 2020, VCBJ released Mr. OWEN to the custody of ERO Miami, pursuant to the immigration detainer. ERO brought Mr. OWEN to the Orlando Hold Room in Orlando, FL, where he was subsequently transferred to Baker County Detention Center (BCDC) for housing.

Criminal History

- On November 17, 2019, Mr. OWEN was charged with domestic violence (NCIC Code 13AB).
- On January 12, 2020, Mr. OWEN was arrested in Port Orange, Florida and charged with felony violation of a court order (5016), felony false imprisonment (10AA), misdemeanor simple assault (1313), and violating the conditions of his pre-trial release (5013).

Medical History

- **On January 16, 2020** at 12:56 a.m., a licensed practical nurse (LPN) completed Mr. OWEN's medical intake screening and reviewed the VCBJ transfer summary. Mr. OWEN's vital signs were normal, and he denied having any medical, mental health conditions, past suicide attempts, and/or current suicidal ideations.
 - The LPN scheduled Mr. OWEN's full physical assessment for January 24, 2020; however, he refused the evaluation.
- **During January 16 to 25, 2020**, Mr. OWEN did not submit any sick call requests and BCDC's medical staff did not conduct any further medical or mental health evaluations after his initial medical intake screening and refusal of further assessment.

Synopsis of Death

- **On January 25, 2020**, at approximately 5:39 p.m., Mr. OWEN made a telephone call to a female.



- At approximately 7:29 p.m., Mr. OWEN’s cellmate discovered him hanging in their cell and alerted other detainees who pushed the emergency call button to alert BCDC custody staff.
- At approximately 7:30 p.m., a custody officer found Mr. OWEN in his dorm hanging from a bed sheet tied around his neck and anchored to a shower partition. The custody officer immediately radioed for all available staff to respond for a possible hanging. Additional custody staff arrived and removed the linens from Mr. OWEN’s neck, placed him on the floor, and initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to Mr. OWEN, who was unresponsive, pulseless, and was not breathing.
- As CPR continued, medical staff responded to the scene at approximately 7:33 p.m. and assisted custody staff with transferring Mr. OWEN to the booking area. A nurse evaluated Mr. OWEN, who remained unresponsive, pulseless, and not breathing. The nurse noted he had pale, cool skin and his pupils were fixed and dilated. The medical team started Mr. OWEN on supplemental oxygen, at 25 liters per minute, and applied an automated external defibrillator (AED) that advised “no shock.”
- At approximately 7:35 p.m., a custody officer called for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Staff continued CPR until EMS arrived.
- At approximately 7:48 p.m., EMS personnel arrived and evaluated Mr. OWEN’s heart activity, which showed asystole (also known as flatline, a condition of cardiac arrest where there is no discernible electrical activity in the heart). The BCDC staff informed EMS personnel of their initiation of CPR and use of an AED, and that no shock was advised. EMS personnel determined that continued lifesaving efforts would not change Mr. OWEN’s chance of survival and discontinued CPR.
- At approximately 7:52 p.m., the EMS personnel pronounced Mr. OWEN deceased.