



**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)  
Detainee Death Report: ESCOBAR Mejia, Carlos Ernesto**

General Demographic/Background Information

- **Date of Birth:** May 27, 1962
- **Date of Death:** May 6, 2020
- **Age:** 57
- **Gender:** Male
- **Country of Citizenship:** El Salvador
- **Marital Status:** Single
- **Children:** N/A

Immigration History

- On February 2, 2012, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) received notification of Mr. ESCOBAR's arrest in Los Angeles, California (CA) and lodged an Immigration Detainer (Form I-247) with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD).
- On March 28, 2012, an ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officer assigned to the Criminal Alien Program took custody of Mr. ESCOBAR from the LASD. On the same date, ERO Los Angeles served Mr. ESCOBAR a Notice to Appear (Form I-862) and transferred Mr. ESCOBAR to the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in Adelanto, CA.
- On June 4, 2012, Mr. ESCOBAR posted bond and was released from ICE custody.
- On January 3, 2020, the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) encountered and arrested Mr. ESCOBAR near Campo, CA, on suspicion of smuggling aliens.
- On January 10, 2020, ERO San Diego took custody of Mr. ESCOBAR and transferred him to the Otay Mesa Detention Center (OMDC) in San Diego, CA.

Criminal History

- On October 24, 1989, Mr. ESCOBAR was convicted of Grand Theft, in violation of Section 487.3 of the California Penal Code (CA PC), and was sentenced to 60 days in jail.
- On December 5, 1989, Mr. ESCOBAR was convicted of Possession of a Controlled Substance, in violation of Section 11350(A) of the California Health and Safety Code, and was sentenced to 110 days in jail.
- On May 30, 1990, Mr. ESCOBAR was convicted of Receiving Known Stolen Property, in violation of Section 496.1 of the CA PC, and was sentenced to 365 days in jail.
- On August 17, 1993, Mr. ESCOBAR was convicted of Driving Under the Influence, in violation of Section 23152(B) of the California Vehicle Code, and was sentenced to 20 days in jail.
- On February 2, 2012, the LASD arrested Mr. ESCOBAR for possession of a controlled substance.

Medical History

*OMDC Medical Records*

- **On January 10, 2020**, a registered nurse (RN) completed Mr. ESCOBAR's pre-screening and intake screening, and noted a history of hypertension (HTN), type II insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (T2DM), Vitamin D deficiency, hypercholesterolemia (elevated cholesterol level), and



surgical amputation of his right foot three months prior to detention due to T2DM complications. The RN issued Mr. ESCOBAR a wheelchair to aid his mobility, and scheduled a complex physical exam.

- **On January 11, 2020**, an advanced practice provider (APP) completed Mr. ESCOBAR's physical exam, prescribed Mr. ESCOBAR medications to treat his HTN, T2DM, and hyperlipidemia (elevated lipids in the blood), and ordered laboratory testing. The APP also scheduled a follow-up visit in two weeks.
- **From January 12 to April 20, 2020**, OMDC medical, dental, and nursing staff routinely evaluated Mr. ESCOBAR, including a referral to a prosthetic clinic for an evaluation and fitting of a right foot prosthesis.
- **On April 21, 2020**, an APP evaluated Mr. ESCOBAR for complaints of chills, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath for several days. The APP did not identify abnormal findings, diagnosed a viral infection, and ordered a SARS-CoV-2, NAA (COVID-19 test).
- **On April 24, 2020**, OMDC received positive results on Mr. ESCOBAR's COVID-19 test and reassigned him to a designated housing unit for patients with positive COVID-19.
  - An RN assessed Mr. ESCOBAR noting a temperature (T) of 98.7 degrees Fahrenheit (F), pulse (P) of 106 beats per minute (bpm), respiratory rate (R) of 22 breaths/minute, blood pressure (BP) of 130/94 millimeters of mercury (mmHG), and oxygen saturation (SpO2) of 90 percent (%).
  - On examination, the RN documented sore throat, fatigue, assistance needed with ambulation, shortness of breath with exertion, skin warm and dry to touch, positive non-productive cough, and his SpO2 did not improve with activity or deep breaths.
  - The RN notified the APP on duty and obtained orders to transfer Mr. ESCOBAR, via emergency medical services (EMS), to the Paradise Valley Hospital (PVH) emergency department (ED) for evaluation. The RN placed Mr. ESCOBAR in a wheelchair, administered oxygen (six liters/minute via face mask), and his SpO2 level improved from 90% to 96%.
  - EMS personnel assumed care upon their arrival to OMDC. Mr. ESCOBAR's disposition was calm, cooperative, conversing with staff, alert, and oriented prior to departure.
  - Per OMDC's hospital update, PVH admitted Mr. ESCOBAR as an inpatient with diagnoses of T2DM, HTN, COVID-19 infection, and pneumonia.
- **From April 24 to April 26, 2020**, PVH assigned Mr. ESCOBAR to a regular room and initiated treatment for each of his admitting diagnoses with no appreciable changes in his condition.
- **On April 27, 2020**, PVH transferred Mr. ESCOBAR to the intensive care unit due to Mr. ESCOBAR becoming increasingly hypoxic, an increased respiratory rate (33 breaths/minute), and a decreased SpO2 level of 87%.
- **On April 28, 2020**, Mr. ESCOBAR experienced hypotension (low BP) and his respiratory rate averaged 26 breaths/minute. As a result, Mr. ESCOBAR was sedated and placed on a mechanical ventilator. Hospital staff inserted two central venous catheters and initiated hemodialysis (mechanical filtering of waste products from the blood).
- **On April 29, 2020**, Mr. ESCOBAR developed a pneumothorax (collapsed lung) and a chest tube was inserted to aid breathing. Although Mr. ESCOBAR was aggressively treated, his condition continued to worsen.
- **On April 30, 2020**, PVH physicians continued his current treatments and ICE ERO notified Mr. ESCOBAR's family of his health status.



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- **On May 2, 2020**, PVH decreased Mr. ESCOBAR's sedation to assess his cognition and noted he remained unresponsive. Mr. ESCOBAR received a feeding tube to provide nutritional supplementation.
- **On May 3, 2020**, Mr. ESCOBAR's condition continued to deteriorate.
- **From May 4 to May 5, 2020**, Mr. ESCOBAR's condition remained unchanged.

Synopsis of Death

- **On May 6, 2020**, PVH's physician pronounced Mr. ESCOBAR dead at 2:15 a.m., PST. The preliminary cause of death is complications due to COVID-19.