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Sudden Deaths in Police Custody (and Other Detention Facilities) – Analysis of Causes and the Need for Prevention

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When a suspect or delinquent is taken into custody, the custodian (state authority) has to ensure, that custody is safe for the detainee and fulfills human rights standards. Nevertheless, (sudden) deaths in custody occur, that provoke questions and/or allegations towards the custodian. In these cases, independent (medico-legal) investigations are essential to clarify the circumstances of death and to identify risk-factors that can be considered in prevention campaigns.

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