

40. Parady La

Who was Parady La? Parady La was a 46-year-old Cambodian American father and longtime Philadelphia-area resident whose life, as described by his family, centered on his children, his community, and a restless, affectionate energy. Born in a refugee camp in Thailand, Parady was 2 years old when his family fled the Cambodian genocide and arrived in Philadelphia in 1982.

His daughter remembered him as adventurous, the kind of father who took her to parks, visited relatives, and tried to teach her tennis, a sport he loved. Parady La had come to the United States from Cambodia as a very young child and spent most of his life in Pennsylvania.

Michael La has “a lot of memories” of the summers he spent with his uncle Parady. “He was like a father figure to me. My parents split up at a really early age of my life . . . I didn’t see my two parents together, and my dad really wasn’t in my life, right? So (Parady) was the one that connected me to that side of my family. Parady La would drive two hours to Michael’s home in Allentown and bring him back to Philadelphia during Michael’s summer vacation. There, Michael recalled that his uncle would give him and other kids money for ice cream.

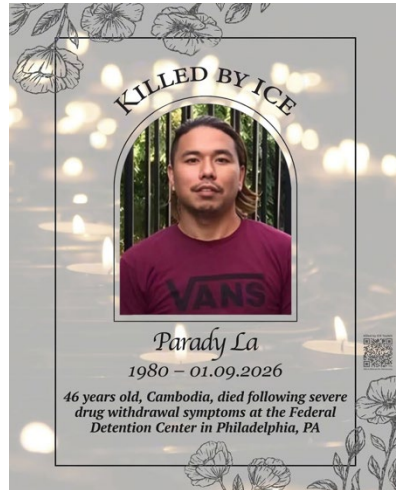
How did Parady La end up in ICE custody? According to his nephew Michael, on Jan. 6, 2026, Parady La asked his cousin if she needed anything from the grocery store. Hours later, family members found his car, empty, parked by the side of the road a half mile away. Parady La called later that day and informed his family that ICE agents had pulled him over and asked for his ID, and then detained him.

How did Parady La die under ICE custody? ICE said he was being treated for drug withdrawal when he was found unresponsive in his cell. Michael La, who lives in Florida, said his cousin called him at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 8th and told him that Parady La was in the hospital, and was brain dead.

What happened after Parady La’s death? His family and advocates later demanded records and answers about the medical care he received before he died on January 9, 2026. For Michael and Parady La’s family, ICE’s account “didn’t add up.” “As we keep fighting for information, we’re finding out that there’s like levels of information that just become locked, you know?” he said. “We’re still fighting for answers and still trying to figure out what’s going on.” Michael La said his family now has a legal team and is going to pursue legal action against FDC Philadelphia and ICE. “This fight isn’t about deportation,” Michael said. “It’s about the care that each and every person needs when they are in custody, whether it is in ICE custody, FDC, or, you know, a different federal agency.”

Sources:

<https://whyy.org/articles/parady-la-upper-day-ice-custody-death/>



KILLED BY ICE



Parady La

1980 - 01.09.2026

46 years old, Cambodia, died following severe
drug withdrawal symptoms at the Federal
Detention Center in Philadelphia, PA