

28. Victor Manuel Diaz

Who was Victor Manuel Diaz? Victor Manuel Diaz was a 36-year-old Nicaraguan immigrant, the only member of his family who was in the United States. His mother stated that the reason he went to the United States was to work to support his family, to earn money for his mother's needed house repairs, and to support the education of his two sons, aged 10 and 15 years old. A media outlet reported that he arrived in the U.S. from Mexico in March of 2024. He requested asylum and was released into the U.S.

How did Victor Manuel Diaz end up in ICE custody? Yorlan Diaz said his brother was apprehended by immigration authorities in Minnesota. He was detained on January 6, 2026. The Diaz family last spoke with him on January 9th, 2026, and that they learned of his detention through his employer.

How did Victor Manuel Diaz die under ICE custody? Victor died on January 14, 2026 at Camp East Montana, El Paso, Texas. ICE records this as a "presumed suicide" after he was found unresponsive in his cell.

What happened after Victor Manuel Diaz's death? An attorney, Randall Kallinen, hired by Victor Diaz's family, denies that he was depressed or that he would have committed suicide, as he wanted to be deported back to Jinotega, Nicaragua to be with his mother, his two sons, and his five siblings. There was no autopsy. "I don't believe he took his life," Yorlan Diaz said. "He was not a criminal; he was looking for a better life, and he wanted to help our mother." Randall Kallinen, the Diaz family's attorney, said they are suspicious of the claim that his death was a suicide because he was not depressed. He would simply have reunited with his mother and other family in Nicaragua if he had been deported.

Sources:

<https://abcnews.com/US/dont-life-family-nicaraguan-man-seeks-answers-after/story?id=129497484>

<https://apnews.com/article/ice-detainee-deaths-suicide-camp-east-montana-victor-manuel-diaz-54b6ad1a5715567ccc351739bbb25e57>