

Freddie Gray's death in police custody - what we know

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Source : <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-32400497>. Source image : baltimoresun.com

THE ARREST

Mobile phone video from a bystander shows Gray's arrest on 12 April around 08:40 local time (13:40 BST), on Presbury Street in the Sandtown neighbourhood of the city.

Two men in yellow uniforms with "Baltimore Police" labels are seen pinning the black man to the ground. A **court document** says that Gray had "fled unprovoked upon noticing police presence". It also said that Gray "was arrested without force or incident".

But state prosecutor Marilyn Mosby said that Gray was illegally arrested, assaulted and falsely accused of carrying an illegal switchblade.

An officer said that he had found it clipped inside Gray's trouser pocket after he had been detained.

Ms Mosby said that it was actually a legal knife and therefore did not justify arrest.

Police Commissioner Anthony Batts has also stated that it is not clear why Gray was stopped by the officers as there "is no law against running".

Billy Murphy, a lawyer hired by the Gray family agrees. "Running while black is not probable cause," he said. In the mobile phone video, Gray can be heard screaming repeatedly before a police van arrives to take him away. Ms Mosby said his arms had been handcuffed behind his back and that his requests for his inhaler had been ignored.

Police officers had also put him into a tactical hold before putting him in the back of the van, she said. Police officials have said that Gray should have received medical attention before he was put inside the van. While the van was en route to the police station, officers put Gray in leg irons after an officer determined that he became "irate". Ms Mosby has said that the officers had then loaded him "on his stomach head first into the wagon."

Gray was not restrained with a seat belt, which is a violation of police department policy.

The officers later failed to get medical help even though Gray requested it repeatedly, Ms Mosby said.

The officers then stopped to pick up another suspect in a separate case while on the way to the police station. Ms Mosby called the stop "grossly negligent". She said that Gray had asked for medical help and complained of trouble breathing.

THE INJURIES

Officer Miller's document says that Gray "suffered a medical emergency" while he was being transported and that he was "immediately transported to Shock Trauma via medic".

He arrived in a critical condition.

Briefing the media on the results of an autopsy on Monday, Deputy Commissioner Jerry Rodriguez said Gray "did suffer a very tragic injury to his spinal cord which resulted in his death".

Mr Murphy said that Gray's "spine was 80% severed at his neck".

The other suspect in the van was on another side of a metal barrier preventing him from seeing or making contact with Gray, Mr Rodriguez said.

"I know that when Mr Gray was placed inside that van, he was able to talk, he was upset," Mr Rodriguez said. "And when Mr Gray was taken out of that van he could not talk and he could not breathe."

Gray's family told the **Baltimore Sun newspaper** that doctors at a local hospital performed surgeries to treat three broken vertebrae and an injured voice box. He was comatose until his death on Sunday.

The paper reported on Tuesday that "**significant force**" would be required to inflict those injuries. It said, citing medical experts, that the force would be similar to that of "the impact from a car accident".

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