



Office of State Medical Examiners

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AUTOPSY REPORT

NAME: ██████████ **CASE#:** ██████████
PLACE OF DEATH: ██████████ RI 029█████ **AGE:** 37-year-old
GENDER: Female

DATE/TIME OF DEATH: ██████████ 2021 ██████████
DATE/TIME OF AUTOPSY: ██████████ 2021 ██████████

I hereby certify that I, Ariel Goldschmidt, MD, have performed an autopsy on the body of ██████████ on ██████████ 2021 commencing at ██████████ in the mortuary of the Rhode Island Office of State Medical Examiners.

There are no outside witnesses. I am assisted by ██████████

The body is received in a secured body bag (Lock #: ██████████) and is identified by Medical Examiners tags attached to the body bag and left great toe.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:
The body is of a well developed, well nourished, ██████████ female whose appearance is consistent with the reported age of 37 years. The length is ██████████ inches, and the weight is ██████████ pounds as received.

The body is received unclothed.

Rigor mortis is departed. Livor mortis is posterior and fixed. The body shows some mild to moderate changes of decomposition, including areas of green and red skin discoloration, skin slippage, and blood vessel marbling. There is gas distention of the head, chest, abdomen. The body is cold to touch.

The scalp hair is ██████████. The nose and ears are normally formed. There is corneal clouding present. There are no visible petechial hemorrhages present. The teeth are ██████████. There is red-brown purge fluid present in the mouth and nostrils.
The neck is normally mobile and the chest and abdomen are symmetrical. There is a postmortem gas distention of the chest and abdomen. The external genitalia are unremarkable. There is perianal fecal material.

The upper and lower extremities are well-developed. There is moisture induced wrinkling of the skin of the bilateral hands and left foot.

Identifying Tattoos: ██████████

Evidence of Medical Therapy: None.

External Evidence of Injury: None.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

Body Cavities: There is approximately 100 ml of red decomposition fluid present in each pleural cavity and the peritoneal cavity. The peritoneal and pleural cavities are otherwise unremarkable. The pericardial cavity is unremarkable.

Tongue, Neck Organs and Ribs: The tongue is unremarkable. There are no hemorrhages of the neck muscles. The hyoid bone, thyroid, and cricoid cartilages are intact. There are no rib fractures.

Respiratory System: The larynx and trachea are unremarkable. The right lung weighs 560 grams, the left lung weighs 580 grams. The pleural surfaces are purple and smooth. Cut sections reveal congested parenchyma. No masses are identified.

Cardiovascular System: The epicardial surface is smooth. The heart weighs 300 grams. The heart is saved in formalin for examination by a cardiovascular pathologist.

Gastrointestinal System: The esophagus is unremarkable and without varices. The stomach contains about 200 ml of brown, partially digested food. The small and large intestines are unremarkable. The appendix is unremarkable.

Hepatobiliary system: The liver weighs 1360 grams. Cut sections reveal brown parenchyma. The gallbladder is unremarkable.

Hemolymphatic system: The spleen weighs 180 grams. The capsule is smooth. Cut sections are unremarkable.

Genitourinary System: The right kidney weighs 160 grams; the left kidney weighs 160 grams. The cortical surfaces are smooth. Cut sections are unremarkable. The urinary bladder is empty. The uterus and bilateral fallopian tubes and ovaries are unremarkable.

Endocrine System: The thyroid, adrenal glands, and pancreas are unremarkable.

Central Nervous System: There is a 1.25 x 1 inch hemorrhage of the medial left frontoparietal scalp. The calvarium is intact. There is no evidence of intracranial hemorrhage. The brain weighs 1350 grams. Cut sections show postmortem softening and are otherwise unremarkable. The blood vessels are unremarkable. There is fluid present in the sphenoid sinus.

Postmortem X-rays: X-rays show no evidence of acute fractures.

Specimens: Samples of cardiac blood, decomposition fluid, bile, urine, vitreous fluid, liver, and gastric contents are collected for toxicology.

Photographs: Routine digital photographs are taken.

DIAGNOSES:

- I. Drowning.
 - A. Decedent found submerged in bathtub full of water, in supine position, with neck extended (investigation).
 - B. Fluid in sphenoid sinus, consistent with underwater submersion.
 - C. Moisture induced wrinkling of skin of bilateral hands and left foot.
- II. Scalp hemorrhage.
- III. Heart, focal lymphocytic myocarditis involving cardiac conduction system (see Cardiovascular Pathology report)
- IV. See Toxicology report [REDACTED]

CASE SUMMARY AND OPINION: This 37-year-old [REDACTED] female, [REDACTED], was found submerged in a bathtub full of water, in a supine position, with her neck extended. Personal items on and surrounding the bathtub appeared undisturbed. Police investigation [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Lividity was partially blanching on the posterior aspect of the body at the scene, and fixed on the posterior aspect of the body at the time of autopsy. A temporary bathroom floor tile pattern of postmortem lividity was present at the scene during handling of the body by the scene investigators/body transport personnel. The body was mildly to moderately decomposed at the time of autopsy. At autopsy, a small hemorrhage of the left frontoparietal scalp was identified, suggestive of a possible fall; no intracranial injuries were identified. There was evidence of underwater submersion, to include fluid in the sphenoid sinus and moisture induced wrinkling of the skin of the bilateral hands and left foot. The cause of death is deemed drowning.

Examination of the heart by a cardiovascular pathologist shows focal lymphocytic myocarditis involving the cardiac conduction system; it is believed that the decedent was at risk for a sudden cardiac arrhythmia/event, and that it is likely that such an event preceded/contributed to the drowning of the decedent. Comprehensive toxicology testing was positive for alcohol (may in part or whole represent a postmortem artifact of decomposition). The manner of death is [REDACTED].

CAUSE OF DEATH: Drowning. Contributing factor: lymphocytic myocarditis.

MANNER OF DEATH: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Medical Examiner
Date Signed: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Dictated: [REDACTED]
Transcribed [REDACTED]
Revised: [REDACTED]