



County of Sacramento

Department of Coroner
4800 Broadway, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95820-1530

Kimberly D. Gin
Coroner

Autopsy

External Examination

NAME: [REDACTED]

CASE NO. 18-04105

POSTMORTEM DATE: 08/01/18

TIME: 10:00

INVESTIGATOR: Heather Griffiths

AUTOPSY FINDINGS:

- I. Acute lung edema
- II. No evidence of trauma noted
- III. Toxicology is positive for methamphetamine, cannabinoids, and low level of ethanol (0.01% in femoral).

CAUSE OF DEATH: Methamphetamine intoxication

OPINION: According to our Deputy's report, Mr. Knox was put in handcuffs and placed in the back of a patrol car. An officer noticed that Mr. Knox was shaking and sweating in the car later. Mr. Knox became unresponsive in the ambulance. From the autopsy, there is no evidence of trauma noted. Toxicology shows a very high level of methamphetamine (26445 ng/mL in femoral blood) which indicates that Mr. Knox died of methamphetamine intoxication.

Keng-Chih Su, M.D.
Forensic Pathologist/Neuropathologist
August 13, 2018

WITNESSES:

Detective B. Murawski (#871) and Detective J. Nollette (#837) witnessed.

IDENTIFICATION:

The body is identified by a Sacramento County Coroner's ID band attached to the left big toe, labeled with the decedent's listed name and case number.

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL INTERVENTION:

The following are present, and are in proper position: EKG pads at the left abdomen and the right lower leg; endotracheal tube; orogastric tube; intravenous lines at both antecubital fossae; and puncture at the right anterior forearm.

Signs of cardiopulmonary resuscitation are as follows:

- A. Rib fractures located at the right anterior 4th and left anterior 5th ribs with adjacent hemorrhage.

There has not been organ procurement.

CLOTHING:

None.

EVIDENCE OF EXTERNAL TRAUMATIC INJURY AND ASSOCIATED INTERNAL TRAUMATIC INJURY:

None.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The body is identified by toe tags and is that of an unembalmed refrigerated, adult male who appears about the reported age of 42 years. The body weighs 174 pounds, measures 68 inches, and is well-nourished (Body Mass Index/BMI= 26.5, Obesity= BMI of 30 or greater). Wrist scars are absent. There is an irregular scar at the right medial forearm, 1 x 1/2 inch. There is an irregular scar at the right inguinal area, 1 x 1/2 inch. There is a linear scar at the right anterior thigh, 6 x 1/16 inches. There is a linear scar at the right lateral thigh, 8-1/2 x 1/2 inches. There is an irregular scar at the left medial forearm, 3/4 x 1/2 inch. There is a linear scar at the right posterior wrist, 1-1/2 x 1/16 inch. There are multiple scattered linear scars at both knees, ranging from 1/2 to 1 inch in length. Tattoos are present including: Names of "Gealisa" at the right chest and "Jacqueline" at the left chest; and word "G-1" at the abdomen. Rigor mortis is present. Livor mortis is present and fixed at the posterior side of the body.

The head is normocephalic. There is complete balding. Mustache is present. Beard is present as goatee. Examination of the eyes reveals irides that appear to be brown in color and sclerae that are unremarkable. There are no petechial hemorrhages of the lids and/or sclera. The oronasal passages are unobstructed. Upper and lower teeth are present. Dentures are absent. The neck is unremarkable.

There is no chest deformity. There is no increased anterior-posterior diameter. The abdomen is not unusual. The genitalia are those of an adult male. The penis appears circumcised. The external genitalia are without trauma or lesions. The extremities show no edema, joint deformity, abnormal mobility, non-therapeutic punctures or needle tracks.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The following observations are limited to findings other than injuries, if described above.

INITIAL INCISION:

The body cavities are entered through the standard coronal incision and the standard Y-shaped incision.

NECK:

The neck organs are removed en bloc with the tongue. No lesions are present nor is trauma of the gingiva, lips or oral mucosa demonstrated. There is no edema of the larynx. Both hyoid bone and larynx are intact and without fractures. No hemorrhage is present in the adjacent throat organs, investing fascia, strap muscles, thyroid or visceral fascia. There are no prevertebral fascial hemorrhages. The tongue when sectioned shows no trauma.

CHEST/ABDOMINAL CAVITY:

Both pleural cavities contain scanty clear fluid and have no adhesions. The lungs are voluminous. Soft tissues of the thoracic and abdominal walls are well preserved. The subcutaneous fat of the abdominal wall measures 1 inch. The organs of the abdominal cavity have a normal arrangement and none is absent. There is no fluid collection. The peritoneal cavity is without evidence of peritonitis. There are no adhesions.

SYSTEMIC AND ORGAN REVIEW**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:**

No abnormalities of the bony framework or muscles are present other than those noted above.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:

The aorta is fairly elastic and of even caliber throughout with vessels distributed normally from it. The thoracic and abdominal aorta has no atherosclerosis, calcification or aneurysms. The major branches of the aorta show no abnormality.

Within the pericardial sac, there is a minimal amount of serous fluid. The heart weighs 410 grams. It has a normal configuration. The right ventricle is 0.3 cm thick, the left ventricle is 2.1 cm thick, and the septum is 2.1 cm thick. The chambers are normally developed and are without mural thrombosis. The valves are thin, leafy and competent. The circumference of the valve rings are: Mitral valve 10.5 cm, aortic valve 6.5 cm, tricuspid valve 13.0 cm, and pulmonic valve 7.5 cm. There is no endocardial discoloration. There is no abnormality of the apices of the papillary musculature. There are no defects of the septum. The great vessels enter and leave in a normal fashion. The ductus arteriosus is obliterated. The coronary ostia are widely patent. There is a normal pattern of coronary artery distribution. There is no coronary atherosclerosis and no narrowing of the major coronary arteries. The blood within the heart and large blood vessels is liquid.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:

Scant mucus secretions are found in the upper and lower bronchial passages. The mucosa is intact and pale. The lungs are unremarkable and there is dependent congestion. The left lung weighs 910 grams. The right lung weighs 1070 grams. The visceral pleura are smooth and intact. The parenchyma is congested and edematous. The pulmonary vasculature is without thromboembolism.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:

The esophagus is intact throughout. The stomach is distended. It contains about 300 cc of dark brown fluid including vegetables. The mucosa shows unremarkable. Portions of tablets and capsules are not seen in the stomach. The small intestine and colon are opened along the anti-mesenteric border and no mucosal lesions are present with fluid green/brown stool. The pancreas occupies a normal position. There is no trauma. The parenchyma is lobular and soft. The pancreatic ducts are not ectatic and there is no parenchymal calcification.

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM:

The liver weighs 2070 grams, is of average size and is red-brown. The capsule is intact and the consistency of the parenchyma is soft. The cut surface is smooth. There is a normal lobular arrangement. The gallbladder is present. The wall is thin and pliable. It contains about 20 cc of

bile and no calculi. There is no obstruction or dilation of the extrahepatic ducts. The periportal lymph nodes are not enlarged.

URINARY SYSTEM:

The left kidney weighs 220 grams. The right kidney weighs 240 grams. The kidneys are normally situated and the capsules strip easily revealing a surface that is tan-red and smooth. The corticomedullary demarcation is preserved. The pyramids are not remarkable. The peripelvic fat is not increased. The ureters are without dilation or obstruction and pursue their normal course. The urinary bladder is unremarkable. It contains about 160 cc of clear urine.

GENITAL SYSTEM:

The prostate is without enlargement or nodularity. Both testes are in the scrotum and are unremarkable and without trauma.

HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEM:

The spleen weighs 170 grams and is of average size. The capsule is intact. The parenchyma is dark red. There is no increased follicular pattern. Lymph nodes throughout the body are small and inconspicuous. The bone is unremarkable. The bone marrow of the rib is unremarkable.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:

The thyroid is unremarkable. The parathyroid glands are not identified. The adrenals are unremarkable. The thymus is not identified. The pituitary gland is of normal size.

SPECIAL SENSES:

The eyes are not dissected. The middle and inner ear are not dissected.

HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:

There is no subcutaneous or subgaleal hemorrhage of the scalp. The external periosteum and dura mater are stripped showing no fracture of the calvarium and base of the skull. There are no tears of the dura mater. There is no epidural, subdural or subarachnoid hemorrhage.

The brain weighs 1250 grams. The leptomeninges are thin and transparent. A normal convolutionary pattern is observed. Coronal sectioning demonstrates a uniformity of cortical gray thickness. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical. There is no softening, discoloration, or hemorrhage of the white matter. The basal ganglia are intact. Anatomic landmarks are preserved. Cerebral contusions are not present. The ventricular system has a normal appearance without dilation or distortion. The pons, medulla and cerebellum are unremarkable. There is no evidence of uncal or cerebral herniation. Vessels at the base of the brain have a normal pattern of distribution. There are no aneurysms. Cranial nerves are intact, symmetrical and normal in size, location and course. The cerebral arteries are without arteriosclerosis.

SPINAL CORD:

The superior portion of the cervical spinal cord is examined through the foramen magnum and is unremarkable.

HISTOLOGIC SECTIONS:

Representative sections of various organs are preserved in one storage jar in 10% formalin. No sections are submitted for slides.

TOXICOLOGY:

Femoral blood, heart blood, liver tissue, bile, stomach contents, urine, and vitreous humor have been obtained.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES:

Blood is obtained for DNA.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Photographs have been taken prior to and during the course of the autopsy.

DIAGRAMS:

One diagram was used during the performance of the autopsy. The diagram is not intended to be a facsimile and is not drawn to scale.

RADIOLOGY:

None.

EVIDENCE:

None.



**SACRAMENTO COUNTY
CORONER**

Final Case Summary

On 07/31/2018, the Sacramento County Coroner's Office received a report of the decedent's death from UC Davis Medical Center. As required by Government Code, Section 27491, an inquiry was made into the death. The decedent was removed to this office where an examination was performed by Kenny Su, M.D.. The cause of death was determined to be:

Methamphetamine intoxication

Other Significant Conditions: None

On 07/31/2018, the decedent was detained by the Sacramento Police Department and placed in the back of a patrol vehicle. The decedent began to show signs of medical distress and medics were called to the scene. The decedent became unresponsive in the back of the ambulance while en route to the hospital. He was transported to UC Davis Hospital where he was pronounced deceased at 0315 hours on 07/31/2018. Toxicology testing revealed a high level of methamphetamine in the decedent's system. The autopsy findings were consistent with the death being caused by methamphetamine intoxication.

Based on the circumstances and cause of death, the manner will be listed as Accident.

18-006099 (0001)



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT
District Attorney

Stephen J. Grippi
Chief Deputy

Michael A. Neves
Assistant District Attorney

Edward M. Pollock
Laboratory Director

August 2, 2018

Sacramento County Coroner
4800 Broadway, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95820

LAB NO: 18-006099
REQUEST NO: 0001
AGENCY NO: COR-18-004105



NAME: [REDACTED]

Blood Alcohol Report

Submission: 001

Ethanol Result: 0.01 %

Source: [REDACTED]

Date Received: 8/1/2018

Date Analyzed: 8/2/2018

Sample Type: blood

Origin: femoral

Kristine Myhre

August 2, 2018

Kristine Myhre, Criminalist
Forensic Alcohol Analyst

Date

Allyson Avina
8/2/2018

Matthew Nakayama
8/2/2018

Technical Reviewer
Allyson Avina, Criminalist
Date

Administrative Reviewer
Matthew Nakayama, Criminalist
Date

LABORATORY OF FORENSIC SERVICES
4800 Broadway, Suite 200 - Sacramento, CA 95820
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www.sacda.org

This report contains the results and conclusions of the signing analyst.
Supporting examination documentation is maintained in the case file.

KS 8/7/2018

Compliance Statements

Uncertainty of the mean concentration (Estimated Uncertainty) is expressed as an expanded uncertainty in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005 at an approximate 99.7% level of confidence using a coverage factor of $k=3$.

Per California Code of Regulations, Title 17:

- The reported result is the truncated mean of the replicate analytical results.

Analysis and Measurement Uncertainty

Instrumentation: Headspace Gas Chromatography

<u>Component</u>	<u>Replicate 1</u>	<u>Replicate 2</u>	<u>Mean Concentration</u>	<u>Estimated Uncertainty</u>
Ethanol	0.017	0.016	0.0165	± 0.001

All concentrations are expressed as % (W/V) unless otherwise noted.

18-006099 (0002)



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT
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Stephen J. Grippi
Chief Deputy

Michael A. Neves
Assistant District Attorney

Edward M. Pollock
Laboratory Director

August 7, 2018

Sacramento County Coroner
4800 Broadway, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95820

LAB NO: 18-006099
REQUEST NO: 0002
AGENCY NO: COR-18-004105



NAME: [REDACTED]

Toxicology Report

Submission: 001

Source: [REDACTED]

Sample Type: blood

Date Received: 8/1/2018

Origin: femoral

Drug Classes Evaluated

amphetamine, benzodiazepines, benzoylecgonine (cocaine metabolite), carisoprodol, methadone, methamphetamine, opiates, oxycodone, zolpidem, tetrahydrocannabinols.

Drugs Confirmed	Concentration	Estimated Uncertainty (99.7% confidence at k=3)	Analyst
methamphetamine	26445 ng/mL	±4496 ng/mL	Triebold, Craig
amphetamine	100 ng/mL	±20 ng/mL	Triebold, Craig
delta-9-THC	1.4 ng/mL	± 0.3 ng/mL	Fogelberg, Chris
11-hydroxy-THC	1.2 ng/mL	± 0.3 ng/mL	Fogelberg, Chris

Craig Triebold, Criminalist

August 7, 2018

Date

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KS 8/7/2018

Matthew Nakayama
8/7/2018

Technical Reviewer
Matthew Nakayama, Criminalist

Chris Fogelberg
8/7/2018

Administrative Reviewer
Chris Fogelberg, Criminalist