

**Generic
AUTOPSY REPORT**

ME NO.:

CASE TITLE: **GENERIC AUTOPSY REPORT**

DECEASED:

SEX:

AGE:

DATE AND HOUR OF DEATH:

DATE AND HOUR OF AUTOPSY:

PATHOLOGIST:

FINAL DIAGNOSES:

One-line summary, such as '49-year-old man found dead in his locked apartment'

Outline format, from most significant to least significant findings

I.

A.

B.

II.

A.

B.

III.

IV. Toxicology

A. Volatile screen (source):

B. Drug screen (source):

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL PRESENT AT AUTOPSY:

IDENTIFICATION: (Generally comparison of antemortem and postmortem dental radiographs or fingerprints)

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

[DO **NOT** LIST INJURIES HERE UNLESS THEY ARE FEW, MINOR, AND HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE DEATH]

The body is that of a (*well-developed, well-nourished, cachectic, malnourished, etc.*) appearing, ___ inch tall, ___ pound (*white, black, Native American, Hispanic, etc.*) (*man, woman, boy, girl*) whose appearance is consistent with the reported age of _____ (*years, months*). [Lividity is ___. Rigor is _____. The temperature is ____.]

The scalp is covered with (*closely shaved, short, long, average length, specific measurement, etc.*) (*color*) hair (*in a normal distribution, with bitemporal balding, with vertex balding, braided tightly into cornrows, etc.*) The irides are (*color*)_____, and the pupils are round and equal in diameter. There are no bulbar or palpebral conjunctival petechiae. [*The lobe of each ear has been remotely pierced (#) times*]. The ears are (*otherwise*) unremarkable. The nares are patent and the lips are atraumatic. The nose and maxillae are palpably stable. The teeth appear (*native and in good/fair/poor repair, missing teeth, etc.*).

The neck is straight, and the trachea is midline. The chest is symmetric. [*The breasts are free of palpable masses.*] [*Chest scars here, if any.*] The abdomen is (*flat, protuberant, scaphoid, etc.*) [*Abdominal scars here, if any.*] The genitalia are those of a normal (*circumcised/uncircumcised, prepubertal/adult*) [*The testes are descended.*] Pubic hair is present in a normal distribution. The back, buttocks, and anus are unremarkable.

The upper and lower extremities are symmetric and without clubbing or edema. The hands [*and nails*] are . . . [*Extremity scars here, if any.*]

Don't forget tattoos and decompositional changes on your external.

CLOTHING [AND PERSONAL EFFECTS]:

The following clothing items [*and personal effects*] are (*examined separately from the body, on the body*) at the time of examination:

- Bulleted list

MEDICAL INTERVENTION:

- Bulleted list

RADIOGRAPHS:

Postmortem radiographs of the _____ demonstrate _____.

WEAPON:

LIGATURE:

EVIDENCE OF INJURY:

[All external and internal injuries go here]

Subtitle 1:

Subtitle 2:

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

[DO **NOT** LIST OR RE-DESCRIBE INJURIES HERE]

HEAD: The subcutaneous scalp, galea and subgaleal soft tissues are free of injury. The calvarium is intact, as is the dura mater beneath it. Clear cerebrospinal fluid surrounds the _____ gm brain, which has unremarkable gyri and sulci. Coronal sections demonstrate sharp demarcation between white and grey matter, without hemorrhage or contusive injury. The ventricles are of normal size. The basal ganglia, brainstem, cerebellum, and arterial systems are free of injury or other abnormalities. There are no skull fractures. The atlanto-occipital joint is stable.

NECK: The anterior strap muscles of the neck are homogenous and red-brown, without hemorrhage. The thyroid cartilage and hyoid are intact. The larynx is lined by intact white mucosa. The thyroid is symmetric and red-brown, without cystic or nodular change. The tongue is free of bite marks, hemorrhage, or other injuries. There is no soot staining of the larynx or trachea.

BODY CAVITIES: The ribs, sternum, and vertebral bodies are visibly and palpably intact. No excess fluid is in the pleural,

pericardial, or peritoneal cavities. The organs occupy their usual anatomic positions.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The right and left lungs weigh ___ and ___ gm, respectively. The external surfaces are [description.] The pulmonary parenchyma is [description.] No mass lesions or areas of consolidation are present. The pulmonary vascular tree is free of thromboemboli. The bronchi are [free of blood, vomitus, foreign material, foamy edema, etc.]

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The ___ gm heart is contained in an unremarkable pericardial sac. The epicardial surface is smooth, with [quantitative estimate] fat investment. The coronary arteries are present in a normal distribution, with a _____-dominant pattern. Cross sections of the vessels show _____. The myocardium is (homogenous, red-brown, and firm; infarcts, etc.). The valve leaflets are thin and mobile. The walls of the left and right ventricles are ___ and _____-cm thick, respectively. The endocardium is smooth and glistening. The aorta gives rise to three intact and patent arch vessels. The renal and mesenteric vessels are unremarkable.

LIVER & BILIARY SYSTEM: The _____ gm liver has an intact, smooth capsule and a sharp anterior border. The parenchyma is tan-brown and congested, with the usual lobular architecture. No mass lesions or other abnormalities are seen. The gallbladder contains a [quantitative measurement or qualitative estimate] amount of green-black bile and no stones. The mucosal surface is green and velvety. The extrahepatic biliary tree is patent.

SPLEEN & HEMATOPOIETIC SYSTEM: The ___ gm spleen has a smooth, intact, red-purple capsule. The parenchyma is maroon and congested. No enlarged lymph nodes are identified. Bone marrow, where exposed by the autopsy procedure, is unremarkable.

PANCREAS: The pancreas is firm and yellow-tan, with the usual lobular architecture. No mass lesions or other abnormalities are seen.

ADRENALS: The right and left adrenal glands are symmetric, with bright yellow cortices and grey medullae. No masses or areas of hemorrhage are identified.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The right and left kidneys weigh _____ and _____ gm, respectively. The external surfaces are [description]. The cut surfaces are red-tan and congested, with uniformly thick cortices and sharp corticomedullary junctions.

The pelves are unremarkable and the ureters are normal in course and caliber. White bladder mucosa overlies an intact bladder wall. The bladder contains approximately [quantitative measurement] cc of [color] urine. [The prostate is normal in size, with spongy, yellow-tan parenchyma. The seminal vesicles are unremarkable. The testes are free of mass lesions, contusions, or other abnormalities]. [The uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, cervix, and vaginal vault are without injury or other abnormalities. There is no evidence of pregnancy].

GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT: The esophagus is intact and lined by smooth, grey-white mucosa. The stomach contains [quantitative measurement] cc of [description of gastric contents]. The gastric wall is intact. The duodenum, loops of small bowel, and colon are unremarkable. The appendix is [present/absent].

ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES:

- Documentary photographs are taken.
- Specimens retained for toxicologic testing: [list - the standard specimens would be blood, vitreous, liver, urine, and gastric contents]
- The recovered projectile(s) is/are photographed and placed in a labeled, sealed evidence envelope(s)
- Fingernail clippings are placed in labeled, sealed envelopes
- Pulled head hairs are placed in labeled, sealed envelope
- Appropriate specimens for a sexual assault kit are placed in a labeled, sealed box