

York County Coroner's Office
Coroner's Report:

RE: [REDACTED]
DOD: August 17, 2008

Summary: On the above date, Chief Deputy Coroner David Chambers responded to Piedmont Medical Center emergency department to investigate a death. The decedent, [REDACTED] 3 months of age was transported in full arrest from her home by paramedics where she was found unresponsive in her crib by her father. Father states when he went to check on her, she was on her side with her face wedged between a pillow and the crib railing with bumper pads. He called 911 and started CPR until emergency medical services arrived. Family states a medical history of prematurity, weighing 3 lbs and 9oz at birth and acid reflux. She was last known to be alive at approximately 0130 when she was fed and put back to bed. Family states she normally sleeps on a pillow. Family denies any signs of distress or sickness within the last 24 hours. She was transferred to the morgue at Piedmont Medical Center for further examination.

Autopsy findings were negative for trauma or disease. Toxicology results are negative.

After investigation, it was found that the cause of death is positional asphyxia. Manner of death is accident. This is consistent with clinical history of being found wedged between pillow, bumper pad and crib railing.

Sabrina Gast,
York County Coroner



DECEDENT'S NAME: [REDACTED]
 AGE: 3 MONTH OLD WHITE FEMALE (DOB: [REDACTED])
 AUTOPSY AUTHORIZED BY: DAVID CHAMBERS, YORK COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE
 DATE AND TIME OF DEATH: 8/17/08, 1100 HOURS
 DATE AND TIME OF AUTOPSY: 8/18/08, 1330 HOURS
 PROSECTOR: [REDACTED], M.D.
 PERSON(S) PRESENT: DAVID CHAMBERS/[REDACTED] FORENSICS

CLINICAL SUMMARY



The decedent was a 3 month old white female who was born seven weeks premature. She had been doing well until approximaely one month prior to death when she was hospitalized for dehydration and a gastrointestinal illness. No abnormalities were noted at the time. Allegedly she slept in a crib on top of a pillow. Allegedly she was unable to sleep without the pillow. She was placed on the pillow after being fed at approximately 0130. At approximately 1030, the father found her wedged between the pillow, mattress, and edge of the crib rail with her right face down. The left face was partially rouching the rails on the crib. Resuscititation was begun and continued to no avail.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of a well nourished, well nourished white female infant appearing her stated age. The decedent weighs 3900 grams and measures 22 inches in overall length. The crown to rump measurement is 15 inches. The head circumference is 15 inches and the chest circumference is 14 inches. External examination reveals the head and neck to be unremarkable. The anterior fontanelle is soft. The posterior fontanelle is closed. No hemorrhages are in the sclerae. The mouth is unremarkable. No foreign material is identified. The chest and abdomen is unremarkable. The perineum is unremarkable. The anus is unremarkable. The upper extremities are unremarkable. No abrasions or hemorrhages are identified. The lower extremities are unremarkable.

2+ rigor mortis and 2+ posterior livor mortis are present.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is opened with a Y-shaped thoracoabdominal incision.

SEROUS CAVITIES: The serous cavities are free of significant fluid or disease. No petechiae are noted.

HEART: The heart weighs 25 gms. and appears unremarkable. The cut surface is unremarkable. The valves are unremarkable. The septum is unremarkable. The great vessels are in normal position.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION (Continued)

LUNGS: The lungs weigh 150 gms. total. The lungs are slightly congested. The cut surfaces are not remarkable. The bronchi are unremarkable. The vessels are hilar nodes are not remarkable.

GREAT VESSELS: The aorta and venae cavae are unremarkable.

LIVER: The liver weighs 156 gms. and is not remarkable. The gallbladder is present and is unremarkable. The cut surface reveals congestion. The biliary tree is patent.

PANCREAS: Unremarkable.

SPLEEN: The spleen weighs 15 gms. and is unremarkable.

GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT: The pharynx and esophagus are unremarkable. The stomach is void of food. The small intestine has a small amount of digested food present. The large intestine is unremarkable. The appendix is present.

ADRENALS: Unremarkable.

KIDNEYS: The kidneys weigh 28 gms. each. The surfaces are unremarkable. The cut surface are not remarkable. The pelves and ureters are unremarkable. The bladder contains approximately 2 cc. of clear urine.

NECK ORGANS: The thymus weighs 20 gms. and is unremarkable. The larynx is unremarkable. The airway is patent. The thyroid is present and unremarkable. The cut surface reveals unremarkable vocal cords.

SKELETAL SYSTEM: No fractures or dislocations are identified. The cervical spine is intact.

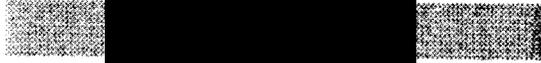
SCALP AND SUBGALEA: No contusions, abrasions, or lacerations are present.

SKULL: Unremarkable.

BRAIN: The brain weighs 560 gms. The surface is slightly congested. The cut surface is unremarkable. No hemorrhages, masses, or atypia are identified.

Total body x-rays are obtained.

DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE: One tube of blood is given to Ray Barnwell, York County Forensics. The remainder of the blood is taken by David Chambers to SLED. Portions of the organs are retained.



FINAL PATHOLOGIC DX

- I. POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA
 - A. CLINICAL HISTORY OF DECEDENT FACE DOWN IN MATTRESS/
PILLOW
 - 1. DECEDENT FOUND WITH FACE, NOSE, AND MOUTH IN MATTRESS
AND PILLOW
 - B. DECEDENT ALLEGEDLY SLEEPING ON PILLOW
 - 1. DECEDENT APPARENTLY ROLLED OFF PILLOW
 - C. NO EXTERNAL INJURIES IDENTIFIED
 - D. NO INTERNAL ABNORMALITIES PRESENT
 - E. POSTMORTEM KIDDIEGRAM X-RAYS NEGATIVE
- II. POSTMORTEM TOXICOLOGY:
--PENDING



SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION FORENSIC SERVICES LABORATORY REPORT

MARK SANFORD
Governor



REGINALD I. LLOYD
Director

Coroner Sabrina Gast
York County Coroner's Office
P.O. Box 1156
York, SC 29745

TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT
January 20, 2009
SLED No. [REDACTED]
Your Case No. [REDACTED]
Incident Date: 08/17/2008
[REDACTED]

This is an official report of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Forensic Services Laboratory and is to be used in connection with an official criminal investigation. These examinations were conducted under your assurance that no previous examinations of person(s) or evidence submitted in this case have been or will be conducted by any other laboratory or agency.

Reginald I. Lloyd, Director
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

ITEMS OF EVIDENCE

Item: 1 Sample Type: Blood (Toxicology) - labeled [REDACTED]

Analysis by Headspace Gas Chromatography (GC) and/or Headspace Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS)

Analyte	Result	Units	Threshold
Ethanol	Negative	% w/v	0.01
Methanol	Negative	% w/v	0.01
Acetone	Negative	% w/v	0.01
Isopropanol	Negative	% w/v	0.01



1/20/09

Screen by Enzyme Linked Immunosorbant Assay (ELISA)

Analyte	Result	Units	Threshold
Amphetamine	Negative	mg/L	0.15
Benzodiazepines	Negative	mg/L	0.05
Methamphetamine	Negative	mg/L	0.15
Oxycodone	Negative	mg/L	0.10
Cannabinoids	Negative	mg/L	0.03

Screen by Fluorescence Polarization Immunoassay (FPIA)

Analyte	Result	Units	Threshold
Cocaine Metabolite	Negative	mg/L	0.10
Opiates	Negative	mg/L	0.10
Acetaminophen	Negative	mg/L	10.00
Salicylates	Negative	mg/L	50.00

Comprehensive Analysis

A comprehensive drug screen was performed on this sample. No drugs or poisons of concern were found.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For any additional interpretation of results please contact the Toxicologist above at the SLED Toxicology Department, (803) 896-7385.

Biological specimens processed for testing which are not consumed during analysis will be maintained for 180 days from the completion date of the analysis and then destroyed unless otherwise notified.

