

**BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER**

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By _____

Date _____

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY MEDICAL EXAMINER

DECEDENT First-Middle-Last Names (Please avoid use of initials) CARINA SAUNDERS		Age 19	Birth Date [REDACTED]	Race WHITE	Sex F
HOME ADDRESS - No. - Street, City, State [REDACTED]					
EXAMINER NOTIFIED BY - NAME - TITLE (AGENCY, INSTITUTION, OR ADDRESS) DET. CADEL - BETHANY PD				DATE 10/13/2011	TIME 15:07
INJURED OR BECAME ILL AT (ADDRESS) UNKNOWN	CITY	COUNTY	TYPE OF PREMISES	DATE Unknown	TIME Unknown
LOCATION OF DEATH 7101 NW 23RD ST. JUST WEST	CITY BETHANY	COUNTY OKLAHOMA	TYPE OF PREMISES FIELD	DATE 10/13/2011 FOUND	TIME 10:30 FOUND
BODY VIEWED BY MEDICAL EXAMINER 901 N. STONEWALL	CITY OKLAHOMA CITY	COUNTY OKLAHOMA	TYPE OF PREMISES MORGUE	DATE 10/14/2011	TIME 9:00

IF MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT: ☐ DRIVER ☐ PASSENGER ☐ PEDESTRIAN

TYPE OF VEHICLE: ☐ AUTOMOBILE ☐ LIGHT TRUCK ☐ HEAVY TRUCK ☐ BICYCLE ☐ MOTORCYCLE ☐ OTHER: _____

DESCRIPTION OF BODY	RIGOR	LIVOR	EXTERNAL OBSERVATION	NOSE MOUTH EARS			
				BLOOD	OTHER		
EXTERNAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION	Jaw <input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Neck <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Arms <input type="checkbox"/> Passing <input type="checkbox"/> Legs <input type="checkbox"/> Passed <input type="checkbox"/> Decomposed <input type="checkbox"/>	Color _____ Lateral <input type="checkbox"/> Posterior <input type="checkbox"/> Anterior <input type="checkbox"/> Regional _____	Beard _____ Hair _____ Eyes: Color _____ Mustache _____ Opacities _____ Pupils: R _____ L _____ Body Length _____ Body Weight _____	BLOOD <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>		

Significant observations and injury documentations - (Please use space below)
SEE AUTOPSY PROTOCOL

Probable Cause of Death:

VIOLENT DEATH

Manner of Death:

Natural ☐ Accident ☐
Suicide ☐ Homicide ☒
Unknown ☐ Pending ☐

Case disposition:

Autopsy Yes ☒ No ☐
Authorized by CHAI S. CHOI M.D.
Pathologist CHAI S. CHOI M.D.
Not a medical examiner case ☐

Other Significant Medical Conditions:

MEDICAL EXAMINER:

Name, Address and Telephone No.

CHAI S. CHOI M.D.
901 N. STONEWALL
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73117

I hereby state that, after receiving notice of the death described herein, I conducted an investigation as to the cause and manner of death, as required by law, and that the facts contained herein regarding such death are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Medical Examiner

Computer generated report

CHAI S. CHOI M.D.

1104169

1/25/2012

Date Signed

10/20/2011

Date Generated



Board of Medicolegal Investigations
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

901 N. Stonewall
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117
(405) 239-7141 Voice
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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original document. Valid only when copy bears imprint of the office seal.

By _____
Date _____

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

Decedent CARINA SAUNDERS	Age 19	Birth Date [REDACTED]	Race WH	Sex F	Case No 1104169
Type of Death Violent, unusual or unnatural	Means	ID By	Authority for Autopsy CHAI S. CHOI, M.D.		

Present at Autopsy
Sharon Cadel, Bethany Police Department; Dr. Snow

FINDINGS

- I. Dismembered white adult female
- A. Decomposition of body, moderate
 - B. Decapitation from the torso: approximately 20 cut marks at the high neck
 - C. Torso with bilateral thighs, with disarticulation at the knee joint level: nearly transection of right thigh from the torso and large cut at the inner aspect of the left inguinal regional
 - D. Portion of lower legs, with disarticulation at the knee and ankle joints
 - E. Missing forearms, including hands and feet
 - F. Cut marks present, right distal humerus, right distal femur, cervical vertebrae #5, cervical vertebrae #6, right femoral head, left proximal tibia
- II. Suspicious contusions over right cheek and back of right shoulder
- A. Hyoid bone and thyroid cartilage intact
 - B. No evidence of internal thoracic or abdominal injuries

Findings continued on page 2

CAUSE OF DEATH: VIOLENT DEATH
DUE TO:

OSC:
MANNER OF DEATH: HOMICIDE

The facts stated herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Chai S. Choi, M.D. OCME Central Division

CHAI S. CHOI, M.D. Pathologist Location of Autopsy Date and Time of Autopsy

CME-2

FINDINGS CONTINUED

Comment:

The dismembered human body recovered in Bethany, Oklahoma County on October 13, 2011. The remains were presented into two body bags. The body parts were wrapped with plastic wrap, a laundry bag and a duffle bag.

Complete autopsy shows decomposition of body with semi-liquefied brain matter. There are no intrathoracic or abdominal organs that are decomposed and appear to be unremarkable.

There is a tattoo on the upper back showing rectangular cut marks, in attempt made to remove the tattoo.

The remains have been identified by dental compressions as Miss Carina Saunders, white female (wf), date of birth (d.o.b.) is [REDACTED]

Postmortem toxicological studies from the liver were positive for tramadol that is unable to be quantitative at tramadol due to decomposition. (No blood sample available).

It is felt that the cause of death is classified as a violent death.

The manner of death is homicide based upon the circumstances surrounding the death and the autopsy.

Forensic anthropology evidence is submitted by Clyde Collins Snow, Ph. D., Forensic Anthropology Consultant, Norman, Oklahoma.

January 25, 2012
CSC/ad

Chai S. Choi, M.D.

CHAI S. CHOI, M.D.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

DESCRIPTION									
Height	Weight	Eyes	Pupils	Opacities, Etc.	Hair	Beard	Mustache	Circumcised	
in.	kg.		R mm L mm						
RIGOR (jaw, neck, back, legs, arm, chest, abd., complete)				LIVOR (color, anterior, posterior, lateral, regional)				Body Heat	
								COOL	

DESCRIPTION OF CLOTHING:

Received are two body bags of the body parts with no clothing:

#1 Body bag with number – 4732832: containing right and left leg with no foot on each, with plastic wrap measuring approximately 35 inches in width and 90 inches in length that shows irregular cuts versus tears that are wet with brownish-red, foul smelling fluid.

In addition, there is also a double, white plastic bag containing part of neck with head that is tied once. The bag measures approximately 24 inches in width and 25 inches in length, and a black laundry/trash bag with white string that measures 37 inches in length and 24 ½ inches in width. Inside the bag there is maggot infestation.

#2 Body bag, with number 4734507: it contains a black duffel bag (“Nike”), 25 inches in length x 10 ½ inches in height x 14 inches in width that is partly kept open showing a plastic wrap measuring 8 foot in width x 11 foot in length with black duct tape. There are parts of chest and abdomen in the bag including part of thighs and arms, with no forearms including hands. The duct tape is wrapped around both parts of the thighs, twice, and around the right distal femur one time. The overall length is 7 foot, 8 inches, the width is ½ an inch. The black bag shows numerous maggot and insects recovered in and around the bag with the bottom side of the bag showing to be ragged, while the top part of the side bag shows to be thinning, likely singed defect. The bottom body parts are located at the bottom of the bag. The total weight is 48 kg.

The trash bag shows red print (“Don’t put over children’s cribs or beds”).

MEDICAL APPLICATION:

Not found.

BODY MARKS AND SCARS:

- Tattoo on upper back (“Kween Spade”)
- Two bellybutton scars, measuring 0.5 cm each

INJURIES:

1. Decapitation at the high neck level: right, front (x2), lateral (x5), back (x4) of the neck shows approximately 11 vertical, diagonal cut marks at the end margins and are located at approximately 3 inches directly below the right external earlobe. The lengths of the cuts are between 1.2 and 5 cm. The left side of the neck shows, likewise, approximately 9 separate, elongated cuts and are located approximately 2 ½ inches directly below the left external earlobe. Over the submentum, the cut is located approximately 2 ¾ inches from the chin.

The overall face and head are decomposed with skin slippage, somewhat greenish-brown.

There is a somewhat bluish-purple discoloration, at the lateral angle of the right eye region that measures approximately 3.5 x 3.5 cm.

The base of the neck shows disarticulation of the cervical spine at the level of #C-6 and a horizontal transection of the trachea with surrounding soft tissue that is likewise, brownish-gray, decomposed.

The chest is decomposed and shows a large defect of the left breast that measures 20.5 x 21 cm, having sharp margins, exposing the chest musculature tissue that is partly blackened-reddish.

Both arms show disarticulation exposing the distal head of the humerus. The length of the arm is 11 cm from the shoulder, bilateral. Over the anterior surface of the left shoulder, there is purplish skin that measures 3 x 3.5 cm.

At approximately 1 inch above the breast defect, there is a small cut, measuring 1 x 0.8 cm.

The distal end of the left arm shows two horizontal, superficial cuts present.

There is a large cut through the right inguinal region running toward the back of the gluteal fold that is nearly completely cut other than approximately 2 cm of skin remaining attached to the body. Below the cut there is a visible of the head of the femur including transected arteries and musculatures are evident. It is likewise, grayish-brown and decomposed. There is a similar cut through the left inguinal region that measures approximately 16.5 cm in length.

The cut end of the right thigh shows disarticulation at the knee joint with the patella bone remaining attached, while the left thigh shows disarticulation of the knee joint with no patella present.

There are multiple, purplish skin over the right thigh at the anterior surface that measure 1.2 cm, 0.6 cm, and 3 x 2 cm, near the right knee.

The left thigh shows bluish skin measuring 1 cm.

There are 3 areas of purplish skin over the right shin that measure 7 x 9 cm, 2 cm, and 1.5 cm. The left shin shows an area of 3 x 3 cm purplish skin approximately 2 inches below the cut margins. There are 2 areas of bluish, small skin discoloration over the left shin.

At the back of the right ankle, approximately 1 ½ inches above the cut margins, there is a 0.6 cm area of purplish skin.

INJURIES CONTINUED

At the back of the right shoulder there is an area of 2.5 cm purplish skin.

There is somewhat brownish skin over the right lateral chest, and blackish-brown skin over the back of the right thigh.

The weight of the head portion is 2.6 kg; weight of right leg is 2.1 kg and left leg is 2.0 kg.

EXTERNAL:

The body is that of a well developed, well nourished, white female. The scalp hair is straight, approximately 3 inches long, dark brown. The overall weight is at least 58 kg. (#1 bag is 10 kg.; #2 bag is 48 kg.). The overall face is decomposed, clay in color, smudged, with skin slippage. The inside of mouth is in fair condition. The neck is otherwise unremarkable. The chest is otherwise unremarkable. The abdomen is slightly bloated and otherwise unremarkable. The external genitalia are likewise, decomposed. The pubic hair has been shaved. The extremities are otherwise unremarkable. The back is otherwise unremarkable.

GROSS EXAMINATION

The body is opened through the customary "Y" shaped incision.

Subcutaneous fat is decomposed, oily. The musculature through the chest is likewise, decomposed, brownish and focally blackish-red on the left as described above.

PARIETAL PLEURA:

Decomposed, otherwise unremarkable.

PERICARDIUM:

Decomposed, otherwise unremarkable.

PERITONEUM:

Decomposed, otherwise unremarkable.

HEART:

Weights 130 gm. It has a normal location. Overall the heart is decomposed and dried. The chambers are dilated. The atrial appendages are unremarkable. The valves are normally formed and measure as follows: tricuspid 11.0 cm, pulmonic 6.0 cm, mitral 9.0 cm, and aortic 6.0 cm. The endocardium is a smooth, gray, glistening, translucent membrane uniformly. The myocardium is decomposed, brownish with the left ventricle measuring 0.6 cm, the septum measuring 1.0 cm, and the right ventricle measuring 0.2 cm. The arch of the aorta is classically formed with no atherosclerosis. Other great vessels also arise and distribute normally and are widely patent.

NECK ORGANS:

Musculature is decomposed with decapitation as described above. The tongue is decomposed and is unremarkable. The hyoid bone is intact. The thyroid cartilage is intact. The thyroid gland is decomposed. The vocal cords are intact, decomposed.

THYMUS:

Decomposed.

LUNGS:

The right lung weighs 100 gm, and the left weighs 100 gm. Visceral pleurae are smooth, glistening with mild anthracosis. The overall configuration is normal. The trachea is decomposed and shows horizontal cuts (x2), approximately 0.5 cm below the vocal cord. Just below to it, there is another horizontal cut approximately 0.5 cm. The complete transected trachea is located approximately 5.5 cm above the bifurcation. There is another cut on the neck region. The lung parenchyma is decomposing, brownish-red, purple. Hilar lymph nodes are decomposed.

G.I. TRACT:

The esophagus is decomposed, otherwise unremarkable. The esophagogastric junction is unremarkable. The stomach is likewise, decomposed and contains a scanty amount of brownish muroid material. The appendix is present.

LIVER:

Weights 540 gm. It is of normal configuration, rubbery, tan, and intact. Cut surface shows no pathology.

GALLBLADDER:

Lies in its usual position, contains liquid bile, no calculi, and shows an unremarkable mucosa. The biliary tree is intact and patent without evidence of neoplasm or calculi.

PANCREAS:

Lies in its normal position is decomposed, brownish.

SPLEEN:

Weights 50 gm. The capsule is intact but the parenchyma is decomposing, smudged, maroon.

ADRENALS:

Decomposed, unremarkable.

KIDNEYS:

The right kidney weighs 50 gm and the left weighs 50 gm. Both are configured normally with no abnormality. Sections show the organs to be moderately congested with unremarkable cortices, medullae and pelves. Ureters and blood vessels are patent and unremarkable.

URINARY BLADDER:

Contains no urine. Its serosa and mucosa are unremarkable.

FEMALE GENITALIA:

The vagina is intact and shows no gross pathology. The cervical os is with no erosion. The endocervical canal is within normal limits. The uterus has a symmetrical overall unremarkable configuration and is nongravid. There is a single, fibroid nodule, 1 cm in the myometrium. The endometrium is gray, thin. Bilateral adnexa are unremarkable.

BRAIN AND MENINGES:

The scalp is opened through the customary intermastoid incision and shows no trauma. The calvarium is removed through the use of an oscillating saw and is intact without evidence of osseous disease. The brain weighs 450 gm. Dura and leptomeninges are smooth, glistening with no subdural hemorrhages. The brain is semi-liquefied, clay in color with decomposition. The base of the skull is intact.

RIBS:

Intact.

PELVIS:

Intact.

VERTEBRAE:

Otherwise, intact.

BONE MARROW:

Decomposed.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Representative sections show diffused decomposition with autolytic changes that are unable to be determined, other than (slide- G), skin from left shoulder and (slide- I), skin from right cheek showing hemorrhages with relatively intact red blood cells in the subcutaneous tissue.

November 2, 2011
CSC/ad

Chai S. Choi, M.D.

CHAI S. CHOI, M.D.

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901 N.Stonewall
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117

REPORT OF LABORATORY ANALYSIS

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By _____

Date _____

ME CASE NUMBER: 1104169

LABORATORY NUMBER: 113740

DECEDENT'S NAME: CARINA SAUNDERS

DATE RECEIVED: 10/18/2011

MATERIAL SUBMITTED: LIVER, BRAIN

HOLD STATUS: 5 YEARS

SUBMITTED BY: ASHLEY STODDARD

MEDICAL EXAMINER: CHAI S. CHOI M.D.

NOTES:

ETHYL ALCOHOL:

Blood:

Vitreous:

Other:

CARBON MONOXIDE

Blood:

TESTS PERFORMED:

ALKALINE DRUG SCREEN - (Liver)

ACID/NEUTRAL DRUG SCREEN - (Liver)

RESULTS:

TRAMADOL - POSITIVE - (Liver)

COMMENT: UNABLE TO QUANTITATE TRAMADOL DUE TO DECOMPOSITION.

12/13/2011

DATE



Byron Curtis, Ph.D., DABFT, Chief Forensic Toxicologist