



DEATH INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

Case Number: 2018-03790

TURNER, DANIEL J.

County Pronounced: San Juan
Law Enforcement: San Juan County SO
Agent: Detective Andrew Gilbert
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]/1977
Pronounced Date/Time: 6/28/2018 2:35:00 AM
Central Office Investigator: Julimarie Sommers
Deputy Field Investigator: Larkins, Harold

CAUSE OF DEATH

Toxic effects of methamphetamine

OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTORY CONDITIONS

Physical restraint

MANNER OF DEATH

Homicide

Ian Paul MD

Director of the Pathology Residency training program and the Forensic Pathology Fellowship training

All signatures authenticated electronically

Date: 10/9/2018 10:40:39 AM

DECLARATION

The death of TURNER, DANIEL J. was investigated by the Office of the Medical Investigator under the statutory authority of the Office of the Medical Investigator.

I, Ian Paul MD, a board certified anatomic and forensic pathologist licensed to practice pathology in the State of New Mexico, do declare that I personally performed or supervised the tasks described within this Death Investigation Summary document. It is only after careful consideration of all data available to me at the time that this report was finalized that I attest to the diagnoses and opinions stated herein.

Numerous photographs were obtained along the course of the examination. I have personally reviewed those photographs and attest that they are representative of findings reported in this document.

This document is divided into 8 sections with a final Procedural Notes section:

1. Summary and Opinion
2. External Examination
3. Medical Intervention
4. Postmortem Changes
5. Evidence of Injuries
6. Internal Examination
7. Microscopy
8. Postmortem Computed Tomography

Should you have questions after review of this material, please feel free to contact me at the Office of the Medical Investigator (Albuquerque, New Mexico) - 505-272-3053.

Medical Investigator

Medical Investigator Trainee

Ian Paul MD

SUMMARY AND OPINION

Pathologic Diagnoses:

- I. Methamphetamine toxicity
 - A. Plastic baggie present in stomach
- II. Blunt trauma, head
 - A. Abrasions and lacerations
 - B. Subscalpular hemorrhage
- III. Abrasions and contusions of trunk, arms, and legs
- IV. Incised wounds of volar surface of feet
- V. Cardiomegaly (535 grams)
 - A. Concentric left ventricular hypertrophy (1.5 cm)
- VI. Hepatic steatosis
 - A. Hepatomegaly
- VII. Obesity

According to reports, the decedent's parents notified law enforcement personnel that they needed assistance with their son due to his erratic behavior. Over the course of three days prior to his death, the decedent had exhibited escalating agitated and aggressive behavior including inappropriate undressing, self-harm, and abuse of the family dog. On the day of his death he had been running up and down their local street screaming and striking his head on the ground. When law enforcement personnel arrived, dashcam video shows the decedent lying on the ground in the parking lot of a local business, in an apparent agitated state. Two people (presumably his parents) are attempting to calm him down. The decedent is writhing on the ground and occasionally striking his head on the macadam surface. A lone police officer attempts to physically restrain him. Subsequently, three more police officers arrive and they turn the decedent into a prone position, handcuff him, and restrain him by placing their weight on his four extremities and posterior head/neck. Shortly afterward, the decedent became unresponsive, and he was rolled back into a supine position. [REDACTED]

He had a past medical history of [REDACTED].

The external examination and autopsy revealed scrapes of the forehead, and face, lacerations above the left eyebrow, and bleeding underneath the scalp. There were scrapes and bruises of the trunk, arms, and legs, as well as cutting wounds of the soles of the feet. Other autopsy findings included an enlarged heart (commonly associated with high blood pressure and/or methamphetamine abuse), and fatty changes of the liver (commonly associated with alcohol abuse).

Toxicology testing of blood revealed the presence of methamphetamine. No alcohol was present.

Methamphetamine use is a risk factor for experiencing life-threatening, abnormal heart rhythms, particularly in the setting of other cardiac risk factors such as an enlarged heart. The physical restraint applied by police officers, and the decedent's prone position (face down; limits one's ability to adequately breath) while being restrained would have contributed to the decedent's physiologic stress and are listed as contributory conditions; therefore, the manner of death is best described as homicide.

Medical Investigator

Ian Paul MD

Medical Investigator Trainee

External exam date time: 6/29/2018 9:25:00 AM
Authority for examination: OMI
ID confirmed at time of exam: No
Means used to confirm identity:
Other verification means:
Location of orange bracelet: Left wrist
Name on orange bracelet: Decedent name
Other name on orange bracelet:
Location of green bracelet: Left wrist
Name on green bracelet: Decedent name
Other name on green bracelet:
Hospital ID tags or bracelets? No
If yes specify stated name and location:
Body length (cm): 177.00
Body weight (kgs): 117.00
BMI: 37.35

Development: Well-developed
Development comments:
Stature: Overweight
Age: Appears to be stated age
Anasarca: No
Edema localized: No
Dehydration: No
Scalp hair color: Brown
Scalp hair length: Short
Eyes: Both eyes present
Irides: Brown
Eyes corneae: Translucent
Eyes sclerae: Congested
Eyes conjunctivae: Translucent
Eyes petechiae: No
Palpebral petechiae: No
Bulbar petechiae: No
Facial petechiae: No
Oral mucosal petechiae: No
Nose: Normally formed

Ears:	Normally formed
Lips:	Normally formed
Facial hair:	Stubble in the pattern of a beard and moustache
Facial hair color:	Brown
Maxillary dentition:	Natural
Mandibular dentition:	Natural
Condition of dentition:	Adequate
Neck:	Unremarkable
Trachea midline:	Yes
Chest development:	Normal
Chest symmetrical:	Yes
Chest diameter:	Appropriate
Abdomen:	Protuberant
Anus:	Unremarkable
Back:	Unremarkable
Spine:	Normal
External genitalia:	Male
Breast development:	None
Breast masses:	None
Right hand digits complete:	Yes
Left hand digits complete:	Yes
Right foot digits complete:	Yes
Left foot digits complete:	Yes
Extremities:	Well-developed and symmetrical
Muscle group atrophy:	No
Senile purpura:	No
Pitting edema:	No
Muscle other:	No

Tattoo(s)

Tattoos present: No

Cosmetic Piercing(s)

Cosmetic piercing present: No

Scar(s)

Scar(s) present: Yes

Scar right forearm: Yes

Reporting Tracking

Reported by:

Verified by: Ian Paul MD on 6/29/2018 9:28:44 AM

Reviewed and approved by:

Ian Paul MD on 10/9/2018 10:40:39 AM

Medical Investigator

Ian Paul MD

Medical Investigator Trainee

Evidence of medical intervention: Yes

Indwelling Tubes

If nasogastric tube present, specify course and position: No

If endotracheal tube present, specify course and position: Yes

Endotracheal tube: Passes through the mouth and toward the oropharynx

Endotracheal tube comment:

Tracheostomy site/tube: No

Mediastinal tube(s): No

Chest tube(s): No

If Foley catheter present, specify course and position: No

Electrocardiogram (ECG) Monitoring Pads

ECG Monitoring Pads Present?: No

Defibrillator Pads

Defibrillator pads present?: Yes

Right upper outer chest: Yes

Left Lower outer chest: Yes

Vascular Catheter(s):

Vascular catheter(s): Yes

Intraosseous - proximal right shin: Yes

Recent Surgical Intervention

Evidence of recent surgical intervention: No

Report Tracking

Reported by:

Verified by: Ian Paul MD on 6/29/2018 9:18:57 AM

Reviewed and approved by: Ian Paul MD on 10/9/2018 10:40:39 AM

Medical Investigator

Ian Paul MD

Medical Investigator Trainee

External exam date: 6/29/2018 9:29:00 AM
Body temperature: Cool subsequent to refrigeration
Rigor mortis: Fully fixed
Livor mortis - color: Purple
Livor mortis - fixation (if applicable): Fully Fixed
Livor mortis - position (if applicable): Posterior
State of preservation: No decomposition

Report Tracking

Reported by:
Verified by: Ian Paul MD on 6/29/2018 9:29:22 AM
Reviewed and approved by: Ian Paul MD on 10/9/2018 10:40:39 AM

Medical Investigator

Ian Paul MD

Medical Investigator Trainee

Are there any injuries: Yes

Evidence of Injury:

Autopsy date: 6/29/2018 10:46:00 AM

#	Injury	Location	Injury Description
1	Blunt injury	Back	Minor red linear abrasion of left lower back, 5.0 cm
2	Sharp injury	Extremity	Multiple linear incised wounds of soles of feet up 7.0 cm
3	Blunt injury	Head	Scattered red-brown abrasions of bilateral forehead, and bilateral cheeks up to 7.0 cm Two, 0.5 cm superficial lacerations superior to left eye brow Subscalpular hemorrhage of left temporal and bilateral frontal up to 5.0 cm
4	Blunt injury	Trunk	Multiple linear, parallel red abrasions of right lower anterior and lateral chest up to 12.0 cm Scattered small red brown abrasions of lower right lateral flank Faint red abrasions of left lower lateral chest up to 5.0 cm Small minor abrasions above umbilicus
5	Blunt injury	Extremity	Scattered minor red abrasions and blue contusions of right shoulder Prominent red-brown abrasions (up to 20.0 cm) and a 1.0 cm laceration of dorsum of right forearm Scattered red-purple contusions of dorsum of right hand up to 3.0 cm Minor red-brown abrasions (up to 5.0 cm) and blue purple contusions of left shoulder Prominent red-brown abrasions of dorsal left forearm up to 7.0 cm Scattered red-purple contusions of dorsal left hand up to 3.0 cm Abraded red-purple contusions of bilateral knees up 5.0 cm Prominent red-brown abrasions and minor contusions of the dorsum of the feet focused distally up to 1.0 cm
6	Blunt injury	Chest	Resuscitation injury: Acute left anterolateral rib fractures 2-6

Report Tracking

Reported by:

Verified by:

Ian Paul MD on 10/9/2018 9:50:14 AM

Reviewed and approved by:

Ian Paul MD on 10/9/2018 10:40:39 AM

Medical Investigator

Ian Paul MD

Medical Investigator Trainee

Date of Autopsy: 6/29/2018 10:46:00 AM

Date of Internal Exam: 6/29/2018 10:43:00 AM

BODY CAVITIES

Chest cavities examined:	Yes
Abdominal cavity examined:	Yes
See evidence of injury section	No
Organs in normal anatomic position	Yes
Other organ position comments	
Diaphragm:	Intact
Serosal surfaces:	Smooth and glistening
Body cavity adhesions present:	No
Fluid accumulation present:	No

HEAD

Brain examined:	Yes
See separate forensic neuropathology consultation report	No
See evidence of injury section:	No
See evidence of medical Intervention section:	No
See postmortem changes section:	No
Brain fresh (g):	1375
Brain fixed (g):	
Facial skeleton:	No palpable fractures
Calvarium:	No fractures
Skull base:	No fractures
Skull comments:	
Dura mater:	Unremarkable and without masses
Dural venous sinuses:	Patent
Leptomeninges:	Thin and transparent
Epidural hemorrhages / hematomas:	Absent
Subdural hemorrhages / hematomas:	Absent
Subarachnoid hemorrhages:	Absent
Cerebral hemispheres:	Symmetrical
Gyral and sulcal patterns:	Unremarkable
Gyral convolutions and sulci:	No widening or flattening of gyri and no narrowing of sulci
Uncal processes:	Unremarkable

Cerebellar tonsils:	Unremarkable
Cranial nerves:	Unremarkable
Basilar arterial vasculature:	Unremarkable
Cerebral cortex:	Unremarkable
White matter:	Unremarkable
Corpus callosum:	Unremarkable
Deep gray matter structures:	Unremarkable
Brainstem:	Unremarkable
Cerebellum:	Unremarkable

Spinal Cord

Spinal cord examined:	No
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Middle Ears

Middle ears examined:	No
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Neck

Neck examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injury section:	No
See Evidence of Medical Intervention section:	No
See Postmortem Changes section:	No
Subcutaneous soft tissues:	Unremarkable
Strap muscles:	Unremarkable
Jugular veins:	Unremarkable
Carotid arteries:	Unremarkable
Tongue:	Unremarkable
Epiglottis:	Unremarkable
Hyoid bone:	Unremarkable
Larynx:	Unremarkable
Palatine tonsils:	Unremarkable

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Heart examined:	Yes
See separate Cardiovascular Pathology report:	No
See Evidence of Injury section:	No
See Evidence of Medical Intervention section:	No
See Postmortem Changes section:	No

Heart

Right coronary ostium position:	Normal
Left coronary ostium position:	Normal
Supply of the posterior myocardium:	Right coronary artery
Heart fresh (g):	535.0
Heart fixed (g):	

Coronary artery stenosis by atherosclerosis (in percent):

Cardiac Chambers and Valves:

Cardiac chambers:	Unremarkable
Tricuspid valve:	Unremarkable
Pulmonic valve:	Unremarkable
Mitral valve:	Unremarkable
Aortic valve:	Unremarkable
Right ventricular myocardium:	No fibrosis, erythema, pathologic infiltration of adipose tissue or areas of accentuated softening or induration
Left ventricular myocardium:	No fibrosis, erythema, or areas of accentuated softening or induration
Atrial septum:	Unremarkable
Ventricular septum:	Unremarkable
Right ventricular free wall thickness:	0.5 cm
Left ventricular free wall thickness:	1.5 cm

Aorta

Aorta examined:	Yes
Orifices of the major vascular branches:	Patent
Coarctation:	No
Vascular dissection:	No
Aneurysm formation:	No
Complex atherosclerosis:	No
Other aortic pathology:	No

Vena Cava

Great vessels examined:	Yes
Vena cava and major tributaries:	Patent

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Lungs examined:	Yes
See separate Cardiovascular Pathology report:	No
See Evidence of Injury section:	No
See Evidence of Medical Intervention section:	No
See Postmortem Changes section:	No
Lung right (g):	835
Lung left (g):	780
Upper and lower airways:	Unobstructed, and the mucosal surfaces are smooth and yellow-tan
Pulmonary parenchyma color:	Dark red-purple
Pulmonary parenchyma congestion and edema:	Moderate amounts of blood and frothy fluid
Pulmonary trunk:	Free of saddle embolus
Pulmonary artery thrombi:	None
Pulmonary artery atherosclerosis:	None

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM

Liver examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injury section:	No
See Evidence of Medical Intervention section:	No
See Postmortem Changes section:	No
Liver (g):	3390
Bile vol (mL):	
Gallstones autopsy:	No
Gallstones autopsy desc:	
Hepatic parenchyma (color):	Pale brown
Hepatic parenchyma (texture):	Unremarkable
Hepatic vasculature:	Unremarkable and free of thrombus
Gallbladder:	Unremarkable
Gallstones:	None
Intrahepatic biliary tree:	Unremarkable
Extrahepatic biliary tree:	Unremarkable

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM

Alimentary tract examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injury section:	No
See Evidence of Medical Intervention section:	No
See Postmortem Changes section:	No
Stomach contents vol (mL):	300
Stomach contents description:	Green and partial; small empty plastic baggie present
Appendix found:	No

Esophagus

Course:	Normal course without fistulae
Mucosa:	Gray-white, smooth and without lesions

Stomach

Mucosa:	Usual rugal folds
Pylorus:	Patent and without muscular hypertrophy

Small Intestine

Luminal contents:	Partially digested food
Mucosa:	Unremarkable
Caliber and continuity:	Appropriate caliber without interruption of luminal continuity

Colon

Luminal contents:	Formed stool
Mucosa:	Unremarkable
Caliber and continuity:	Appropriate caliber without interruption of luminal continuity

Pancreas

Form:	Normal tan, lobulated appearance
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GENITOURINARY SYSTEM

Genitourinary system examined: Yes
 See Evidence of Injury section: No
 See Evidence of Medical Intervention section: No
 See Postmortem Changes section: No

Kidneys

Kidneys capsules: Thin, semitransparent
 Cortical surfaces: Smooth
 Cortices: Normal thickness and well-delineated from the medullary pyramids
 Calyces, pelves and ureters: Non-dilated and free of stones and masses
 Kidney right (g): 155
 Kidney left (g): 185
 Urine volume (mL): 0
 Urine description:

Urinary Bladder

Urinary bladder mucosa: Gray-tan and smooth

Male

Male: Yes

Testicles

Location: Bilaterally intrascrotal
 Size: Unremarkable
 Consistency: Homogeneous
 Other testicle comments:

Prostate Gland

Size: Unremarkable
 Consistency: Homogeneous
 Other prostate gland comments:

RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM

Reticuloendothelial system examined: Yes
 See Evidence of Injury section: No
 See Evidence of Medical Intervention section: No
 See Postmortem Changes section: No

Spleen

Spleen (g): 260
 Spleen parenchyma: Moderately firm
 Spleen capsule: Intact
 Spleen white pulp: Prominent

Bone Marrow

Color: Red-brown, homogeneous and ample

Lymph Nodes

Regional adenopathy: No adenopathy

Thymus

Thymus (g):

Parenchyma: Absent (involution by adipose tissue)

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

Endocrine system examined: Yes

See Evidence of Injury section: No

See Evidence of Medical Intervention section: No

See Postmortem Changes section: No

Pituitary Gland

Size: Normal

Thyroid Gland

Position: Normal

Size: Normal

Parenchyma: Homogeneous

Adrenal Glands

Adrenal right (g):

Adrenal left (g):

Size: Normal

Parenchyma: Yellow cortices and gray medullae with the expected corticomedullary ratio

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

Musculoskeletal system examined: Yes

See Evidence of Injury section: No

See Evidence of Medical Intervention section: No

See Postmortem Changes section: No

Bony framework: Unremarkable

Musculature: Unremarkable

Subcutaneous soft tissues: Unremarkable

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Report Tracking

Reported by:

Verified by: Ian Paul MD on 6/29/2018 10:46:32 AM

Reviewed and approved by: Ian Paul MD on 10/9/2018 10:40:39 AM

Medical Investigator

Ian Paul MD

Medical Investigator Trainee

Microscopic description:

Heart: myocyte hypertrophy

Lungs: pulmonary edema

Liver: moderate to severe steatosis

Kidney: negative

Brain: negative

*Unless otherwise indicated sections are stained only with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E).

Block	Tissue Location	Description	Stain
A1	Heart		
A2	Lungs		
A3	Liver/kidney		
A4	Brain		

Report Tracking

Reported by:

Verified by: Ian Paul MD on 10/9/2018 9:30:47 AM

Reviewed and approved by: Ian Paul MD on 10/9/2018 10:40:39 AM

Medical Investigator

Ian Paul MD

Date of examination: 6/29/2018 10:46:00 AM

Study date: 6/29/2018 9:24:00 AM

Accession number:

Exam type:

Technique:

Comparison:

Comments:

Pathologist review: left-sided anterolateral rib fractures

Report Tracking

Reported by:

Verified by: Ian Paul MD on 6/29/2018 9:24:42 AM

Reviewed and approved by: Ian Paul MD on 10/9/2018 10:40:39 AM

Case Number: 2018-03790
 Decedent Name: TURNER, DANIEL
 Pathologist: Ian Paul MD
 Fellow/Resident:
 Date of Examination: 6/29/2018 10:46:00 AM

Morphology technican(s) present

Yellow Sheet	Morphology Technician
Retention	Jordan Sousa
Identification	Jordan Sousa
Autopsy	Jordan Sousa
Evidence	Jordan Sousa
Evidence	Jordan Sousa
Radiology	Jordan Sousa
Attendees	Jordan Sousa
LabOther	Jordan Sousa

Morphology technican supervisor(s) present

Yellow Sheet	Morphology Technician Lead
Identification	Sharon Howard
Autopsy	Cassandra Toledo
Evidence	Sharon Howard
Radiology	Sharon Howard
Retention	Sharon Howard
LabOther	Sheena Curtis
Attendees	Sharon Howard

Autopsy attendees

Other morphology technicians present:

Micaela Aragon-Greer- Senior Technician

Specimens obtained for laboratory testing

HIV serology:	No
HIV spin and store:	Yes
HCV/HBV serology :	No
Influenza serology:	No
Other serology:	No
Freezer protocol:	No
DNA card:	Yes
Metabolic screen:	No
Cytogenetics:	No
Med-X protocol:	No
Urine dipstick:	No
Blood cultures (bacterial):	No
Lung cultures (bacterial):	No
CSF culture (bacterial):	No
Spleen culture (bacterial):	No
Stool culture (bacterial):	No
Other bacterial culture (specify):	
Mycobacterial culture (lung):	No
Mycobacterial culture (other):	No
Viral Cultures:	No

Approach to autopsy dissection

Rokitansky evisceration:	No
Virchow evisceration:	Yes
Modified evisceration:	No

Special autopsy techniques

HIV serology:	No
Pericranial membrane removal:	No
Neck anterior dissection:	No
Neck posterior dissection:	No
Facial dissection:	No
Vertebral artery dissection (in situ):	No
Cervical spine removal:	No
Layered anterior trunk dissection:	No
Anterolateral rib arc dissection:	No
Back dissection:	No
Posterior rib arc dissection:	No
Extremity soft tissue dissection:	No
Eye enucleation:	No
Inner middle ear evaluation:	No
Maxilla or mandible resection:	No
Spinal cord removal (anterior):	No
Spinal cord removal (posterior):	No
Other dissection(s):	

Tissues retention

Stock jar with standard tissue retention:	Yes
Rib segment:	Yes
Pituitary gland:	Yes
Breast tissue (women only):	No
Brain retention:	No
Spinal cord retention:	No
Cervical spine retention:	No
Heart retention:	No
Heart-lung block retention:	No
Rib cage retention:	No
Long bone retention:	No
Other retention,specify:	

Disposition of tissues retained for extended examination

Specimen outcome: Not applicable; no tissues were retained for extended examination.

Number of scene photos produced by the OMI

Scene Photos: 45

Number of autopsy photos produced by the OMI

Autopsy Photos: 24

Evidence collected

FBI blood tube: No
 Blood spot card: Yes
 APD blood card: No
 Thumbprint: Yes
 Fingerprints: Yes
 Palmprints: No
 Print hold: No
 Oral swab: No
 Vaginal swab: No
 Anal swab: No
 Other swab: No
 Fingernails: Yes
 Scalp hair: Yes
 Pubic hair: No
 Pubic hair combing: No
 Projectile(s): No
 Retain clothing: Yes
 Retain valuables: Yes
 Retain trace evidence: No
 Retain body bag: No
 Retain hand bags: No
 Ligature: No
 Other evidence retained:

Personal effects

Property Type	Property Description	Property Detail
Valuables	Watch	Digital
Valuables	Bracelet	Cord
Fingernail Clipping	Left Hand	w/ clippers
Fingernail Clipping	Right Hand	w/ clippers
Blood	FTA Blood Card	n/a
Hair	Scalp	n/a
Other	Other	Plastic bag found in stomach
Fingerprints	Describe	one set

Clothing

Property Type	Property Description	Property Detail
Clothing	Pants	n/a
Clothing	Underpants	n/a
Clothing	Blanket or Sheet	n/a
Clothing	Other	Towel