



COBB COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

150 North Marietta Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30060
(770) 528-2200 • fax: (770) 528-2207

Brian S. Frist, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

D. Michael Gerhard
Operations Manager

Medical Examiner's Report

Case Number: 14C-0696

Name of Deceased: COOPER HARRIS

Manner of Death: UNDETERMINED Date of Death: 06-18-14

Cause of Death: SEQUELAE OF HYPERTHERMIA

Medical Examiner's Investigator: MARTIN J. L. JACKSON

Procedure:

Autopsy: XX Limited Dissection: _____ External Examination: _____

Procedure Date: 06-19-14 Day of Week: THURSDAY

Certification by Medical Examiner:

Medical Examiner: BRIAN S. FRIST, M.D., M.E.

Medical Examiner's Signature:  Date: 9/29/14

(14C-0696)

This incident occurred within Cobb County, Georgia. Under the provisions of the Georgia Death Investigation Act, jurisdiction was accepted and a Medical Examiner's inquiry was initiated.

I responded to the scene location. Upon my arrival at 1750 hours, I observed members of the Cobb County Police Department Crime Scene Unit taking pictures and measurements of the scene. I subsequently met with Lt. Ferrell of the Cobb County Police Department. He confirmed the previously reported information and further advised the decedent's father arrived to work at approximately 0920 hours. He works at the nearby Home Depot "Treehouse" Office, located at 2600 Cumberland Parkway, Atlanta, Cobb County, Georgia. He left work at approximately 1615 hours. He pulled over at approximately 1620 hours. Foul play cannot be ruled out. The Cobb Police Department Case number is 14-051843.

The scene is located within a parking lot along the number three side of Uncle Maddio's Pizza Restaurant. The scene is secured with bordering crime scene tape. The ambient temperature upon my arrival is 87 degrees (per accuweather.com). The weather was clear and sunny. The decedent is covered with a white sheet lying on the blacktop pavement. A white tent erected by the police is noted above the decedent. A blue tarp is affixed to the lower level of the tent. A light blue 2011 Hyundai Tucson (GA Tag RT7088) driven by the decedent's father is noted near the decedent. The front of the vehicle is facing in a southwesterly direction. Noted on the middle of the back seat is a rear facing child safety seat. The back seat is a bench style seat.

After donning appropriate protective equipment I entered the scene. Upon removing the sheet, I observed a white male who has an appearance consistent with the stated age of twenty-two months. He is in the supine position. His head is toward the east/southeast direction. He is very warm to the touch. He is clothed in a gray/green/black sleeveless shirt (slightly wet on the posterior), blue shorts (slightly wet on the posterior), disposable diaper (urine present), gray/green socks, and black/blue/green shoes. He has blonde hair with even distribution. The pupils are fixed and dilated. The irides are blue. The sclerae and conjunctiva are clear. Mild irregular parched abrasions of various sizes are noted on the occipital region of the scalp, right forehead, left cheek, left upper back region, and upper buttocks region. The lips are parched. Red discoloration consistent with lividity is noted on the left side of the face. Red pinpoint discolorations are noted on the left lateral neck. EKG pads are noted on the upper chest. Light green discoloration is noted on the abdomen. Red discoloration consistent with lividity is noted on the posterior arms, back, and lower buttocks. A small abrasion is noted on the dorsal surface of the left hand. A small abrasion is noted over the left triceps region. An abrasion is noted on the right knee. Red discoloration consistent with lividity is noted on the legs. Blanching is noted on the lower back, upper buttocks, popliteal fossa of both legs, and feet. A band-aid is noted on the left ankle. Multiple abrasions are noted on the left ankle. Rigor mortis is moderate and easily releases. Respiration and circulation is not observed. I pronounced death at 1836 hours.

Documentary photographs at the scene were obtained by Crime Scene Technician Shumpert of the Cobb County Police Department.

(14C-0696)

The decedent was identified by the Cobb County Police Department through the course of their investigation.

The decedent was surrounded by a clean white sheet, secured and removed from the scene at 1845 hours. I arrived at the Cobb County Forensic Science Center at 1904 hours.

A postmortem examination with autopsy will be performed on Thursday, June 19, 2014, by Dr. Brian S. Frist, Chief Medical Examiner of Cobb County to make a determination into the cause and manner of death.

I made contact with the decedent's mother, Leanna Harris. She declined to provide information regarding the decedent's medical history and primary care physician. She wanted to speak with her attorney to confirm she should release this information to me. She further advised she previously provided this information to a Detective with the Cobb County Police Department. Tuscaloosa Memorial Chapel will handle the funeral arrangements.

On June 19, 2014, I made contact with Devin Clayton-Jones, Cobb County DFCS. She advised the family does not have a history or open case with DFCS. Mrs. Clayton-Jones was present during the autopsy.

On June 19, 2014, I made contact with Detective Stoddard, Cobb County Police Department Crimes Against Persons Unit. I requested a copy of the incident/investigation report.

On June 19, 2014, I received a copy of the Cobb County Police Department incident/investigation report.

On June 20, 2014, Sgt. Szeniaowski, Lt. Ferrell, and Detective Stoddard of the Cobb County Police Department Crimes Against Persons Unit arrived at the Medical Examiner's Office to meet with Dr. Brian Frist, Operations Manager Michael Gerhard, and myself. They provided a brief update to their investigation and discussed the autopsy findings with Dr. Frist. Sgt. Szeniaowski further advised the decedent consumed breakfast consisting of a sausage biscuit from Chick-fil-A on the date of the incident. Detective Stoddard advised the decedent's Primary Care Physician is located at Kaiser-Permanente (Cumberland). I requested a copy of the updated Police report.

On June 24, 2014, I made contact with Dr. Schifflietti at Kaiser-Permanente. He advised the decedent was a normal healthy child. He did not have any medical issues. He is currently not on any medications. He is allergic to amoxicillin. He has no known environmental allergies. All of his immunizations are up to date. He was last treated March 3, 2014, for a routine visit.

On July 24, 2014, a staffing was conducted with members of the Cobb County District Attorney's Office, Cobb County Police Department Crimes Against Persons Unit, and the Cobb County Medical Examiner's Office.

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Discussed was evidence discovered and facts of the case to include video evidence of the parking lot and Justin Harris actions during working hours on the date of the incident. The Cobb County Police Department Crimes Against Persons Unit conducted an reenactment inside the vehicle involved in the incident to evaluate the decedent's reported position within the car seat and vehicle. The reenactment was conducted at the Cobb County Police Department Headquarters located at 140 North Marietta Parkway, Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia, within the evidence processing garage.

On June 24, 2014, I made contact with Lisa Holt, Toxicology manager at the GBI Crime Lab. I requested high priority testing of the decedent's toxicology. She stated the GBI will consent to the request.

On June 26, 2014, I received additional incident/investigation reports from Detective Stoddard, Cobb County Police Department Crimes Against Persons Unit.

On June 25, 2014, Medical Records were subpoenaed from Kaiser-Permanente (Cumberland). The records will be presented to Dr. Frist for his evaluation.

Medical Records were received from Kaiser-Permanente on July 3, 2014

On July 8, 2014, I responded to 2600 Cumberland Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339 for a heat analysis study on the vehicle involved in this incident. Upon arrival at 0950 hours I was met by Bob Tressell, Chief Investigator of the Cobb County District Attorney's Office. He advised the study will analyze the heat temperatures inside the vehicle throughout the day. The decedent's car seat will also be in the vehicle. The highest interior temperatures I was advised of while present during the study occurred at 1453 hours. The temperature noted inside the vehicle at this time was reportedly 135 degrees near the driver's side visor. The temperature near the car seat was reportedly 120 degrees. The temperature noted around the rear and driver's side floorboard of the vehicle was reportedly 100 degrees. The outside temperature was noted at 94 degrees (per accuweather.com). A written report from the testing administrator will be forwarded to the Medical Examiner's Office. I departed the scene at 1522 hours.

On July, 10, 2014, I made Contact with Allyson Shaffer, Metro Atlanta Ambulance. I requested a copy of the patient care report. Ms. Shaffer provided the report the same day.

09/29/2014 1855 hours, I made contact with Sgt. Knoblauch of the Cobb County Police Department Crimes Against Persons Unit. He advised the decedent's father arrived to work at 0925 hours. He left work at 1615 hours. He reportedly discovered the decedent in the vehicle at approximately 1620 hours.

NAME: COOPER HARRIS

CASE NO: 14C-0696

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The death of the deceased, a 22-month-old Caucasian male, was reported to the Medical Examiner's Office on June 18, 2014.

Information obtained by this office is the deceased had been left in a car for approximately 7 hours during the heat of the day. See Investigator Jackson's report.

Under provisions of the Georgia Death Investigation Act, a postmortem examination with autopsy is performed in the Cobb County Forensic Science Center on Thursday, June 19, 2014 beginning at 8:50 a.m.

POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION:

EXTERNAL:

The body is that of a Caucasian male child whose general appearance is consistent with the stated chronological age of 22 months.

The body measurements are as follows:

- Crown-heel length: 33"
- Crown-rump length: 14"
- Rump-heel length: 17-1/2"
- Head circumference: 19-1/2"
- Chest circumference: 18"
- Abdominal circumference: 18"
- Shoulder-rump length: 11"
- Back of neck-rump length: 10-1/2"
- Crown-shoulder length: 8"
- Shoulder-heel length: 23-1/2"
- Back of head-heel length: 26"
- Body weight: 21 pounds, 5.4 ounces

At the time of examination, the body is clothed in the following items:

1. Grey sleeveless shirt with designs.
2. Blue shorts.
3. Disposable diaper with urine.
4. Green/gray socks.
5. Blue/green gym shoes.

No valuables are present at time of examination.

HEAD:

The scalp hair is blonde fine hair with even distribution. No facial hair is seen. The head is symmetrically developed. There are parched abrasions within the occipital region of the scalp. Parched abrasions are noted over the right forehead and left cheek. The orbital ridges are intact. The irides are blue. The sclerae and conjunctivae are clear. No petechial hemorrhages are visible in the conjunctivae. The mouth is symmetrically developed. The lips are parched. The tongue and gums are pale. Deciduous teeth are noted. There is no evidence of an abrasion or contusion of the buccal mucosa. The nose and mouth are unremarkable and show no developmental abnormalities. No cleft palate is palpable. The ears are normally set. The head is normocephalic.

NECK:

The neck is symmetrically developed. Petechial hemorrhages are noted over the left lateral neck.

CHEST:

The chest is symmetrically developed. EKG pads are in place. No developmental abnormalities or signs of recent injury are visible externally.

ABDOMEN:

The abdomen is flat and shows a slight green discoloration. No contusions or abrasions are observed.

BACK:

The back is symmetrically developed. Parched abrasions are noted in the left upper back and over the left buttocks.

UPPER EXTREMITIES:

The upper extremities are symmetrically developed. There is a parched abrasion over the left triceps region. Paper bags are noted over the hands. Upon removal of the paper bags, the hands are symmetrically developed. There is an abrasion to the dorsal surface of the left hand. The nails are short with relatively clean margins.

LOWER EXTREMITIES:

The lower extremities are symmetrically developed. There is an abrasion over the right knee. Paper bags are noted over the feet. Upon removal of the paper bags, the feet are unremarkable. A band-aid is noted over an abrasion of the posterior left ankle. There is an abrasion to the left lateral ankle. The nails are short with relatively clean margins.

GENITALIA:

Normal circumcised male child.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The body is opened utilizing a standard Y-shaped thoracoabdominal incision exposing approximately .5 cm of yellow adipose tissue with underlying red-brown musculature at the level of the umbilicus. The sternum and bony thorax are intact. The chest and abdomen are free of blood and other fluids. The lungs appear to be well aerated and expanded in the chest. No peritoneal adhesions or accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity is visible. The diaphragms are developmentally symmetric and do not show any evidence of injury or trauma.

THYMUS GLAND:

The thymus gland sits in the anterior mediastinum. It weighs 40 grams. The external surface of the thymus gland is unremarkable. Petechial hemorrhages are not noted. The cut surface of the thymus gland does not reveal any remarkable abnormalities.

HEART:

The pericardial sac is intact. A physiological amount of fluid is present. The heart weighs 50 grams. The epicardial aspect is unremarkable. The coronary vessels arise from usual anatomic fashion. Sections through the myocardium do not reveal any areas of fibrosis or hemorrhage in the myocardium. The chambers are not dilated. The ventricular walls are not hypertrophied. The endocardium is thin and smooth. The cardiac valves are normally formed and delicate. No transposition of the great vessels or abnormalities of the aorta or its major branches are visible grossly.

NECK:

The soft tissues, cartilaginous, and bony structures of the neck are examined. The individual strap muscles are dissected. There is no evidence of hemorrhage. The esophageal and tracheal remnants are unremarkable. The hyoid bone is intact.

THYROID GLAND:

The thyroid gland is purple-brown in coloration and bilobed. It sits in its normal anatomic position and is grossly unremarkable.

LUNGS:

The right lung weighs 100 grams and the left lung weighs 90 grams. The pleural surfaces are smooth. The trachea and major bronchi are opened and no significant accumulation of fluid or obstructing material is visible in the airway. The lungs have their normal number of lobes. The cut surface of the lungs reveals diffuse edema and congestion without any evidence of localized inflammation or consolidation. No gross evidence of pre-existing disease process is visible in the lungs.

LIVER:

The liver weighs 320 grams. The capsule is smooth and glistening. The inferior margins are sharp. The cut surfaces of the liver do not reveal any evidence of fatty degeneration, fibrosis, or focal lesions. The gallbladder is filled with liquid bile. No stones are present. No obstruction of the extra hepatic biliary tree is demonstrable.

SPLEEN:

The spleen weighs 30 grams. The capsule is thin and smooth. The cut surface of the spleen does not reveal any remarkable abnormalities. The parenchyma is soft and dark reddish-brown in color.

PANCREAS:

The pancreas shows the normal shape, color, and consistency. There is no evidence of hemorrhage, fibrosis, calcification, or necrosis.

ADRENAL GLANDS:

The adrenal glands are unremarkable.

KIDNEYS:

Each kidney weighs 20 grams. The capsules strip easily. The cortical surfaces are smooth and unremarkable. The cut surfaces of the kidneys do not reveal any abnormalities in the architecture of the cortex of the medullae. The normal number of papillae is present. The collecting systems and ureters are not dilated. The bladder is not hypertrophied.

PROSTATE GLAND:

The prostate gland is unremarkable.

GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT:

The gastrointestinal tract is externally unremarkable. There is no evidence of adhesions. The stomach is opened and contains approximately 20 cc of partially digested food including potatoes.

TESTES:

The testes are unremarkable.

AXIAL SKELETON:

No abnormalities are observed.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:

Reflection of the scalp shows focal subgaleal ecchymosis and hemorrhage in the mid-frontal region. The periosteum and calvarium are intact. There is no evidence of epidural, subdural, or subarachnoid hemorrhage. The meninges are thin and clear. The cerebrospinal fluid is clear. The brain weighs 1260 grams. The pia-arachnoid is thin and transparent. The cerebrovasculature is unremarkable. Multiple coronal sections of the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brain stem reveal no evidence of intrinsic lesions. The ventricles are symmetrically developed, unremarkable, and contain normal appearing choroid plexus. The upper portion of the cervical spinal cord is unremarkable. No remarkable abnormalities are observed. There is no evidence of a skull fracture or intracranial hemorrhage.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION:

Microscopic examination of multiple Hematoxylin and Eosin sections show the following:

BRAIN:

Sections of the brain show mild edema. There is no evidence of inflammation.

HEART:

Sections of the heart show the myocardial fibers to be elongate and slender. There is no evidence of inflammation.

LUNGS:

Sections of the lungs show hemorrhagic congestion and mild edema.

THYROID GLAND:

Sections of the thyroid gland show the colloid follicles to vary in size and shape.

PANCREAS:

Sections of the pancreas show autolysis.

LIVER:

Sections of the liver show a normal sinusoidal architecture.

SPLEEN:

Sections of the spleen show a normal ratio of red and white pulp.

KIDNEYS:

Sections of the kidneys show a normal ratio of glomeruli to tubules.

THYMUS GLAND:

Sections of the thymus gland are unremarkable.

TESTES:

Sections of the testes are unremarkable.

ADRENAL GLANDS:

Sections of the adrenal glands are unremarkable.

OTHER PROCEDURES:

1. Diagrammatic charts are prepared.
2. Identification and documentary photographs are made.
3. Samples of blood are submitted for routine toxicology.
4. DNA cards are prepared and saved.
5. Scalp hair, saved.
6. Paper bags from the hands and feet are saved.
7. X-rays are taken.
8. Sections are retained for histological evaluation as deemed necessary.
9. The case is discussed with Investigator Jackson.

POSTMORTEM –AUTOPSY FINDINGS:

1. Brain showing edema.

CAUSE OF DEATH:

SEQUELAE OF HYPERTHERMIA

MANNER OF DEATH:

UNDETERMINED

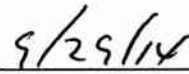
COMMENT:

The deceased a 22-month-old Caucasian male had been left strapped in his car seat in a vehicle for approximately 7 hours. The vehicle had been in an open parking lot. The daytime temperature reached the low 90's. At the time of examination, Cooper Harris appeared to be in a good hygiene and nutrition. It is my opinion that the deceased died as a result of hyperthermia. This death is being investigated further by law enforcement. At this time, the investigation is ongoing relating to the circumstances of the death of Cooper Harris. As a result, the manner of death will be designated as undetermined allowing for further investigation by the appropriate agencies.



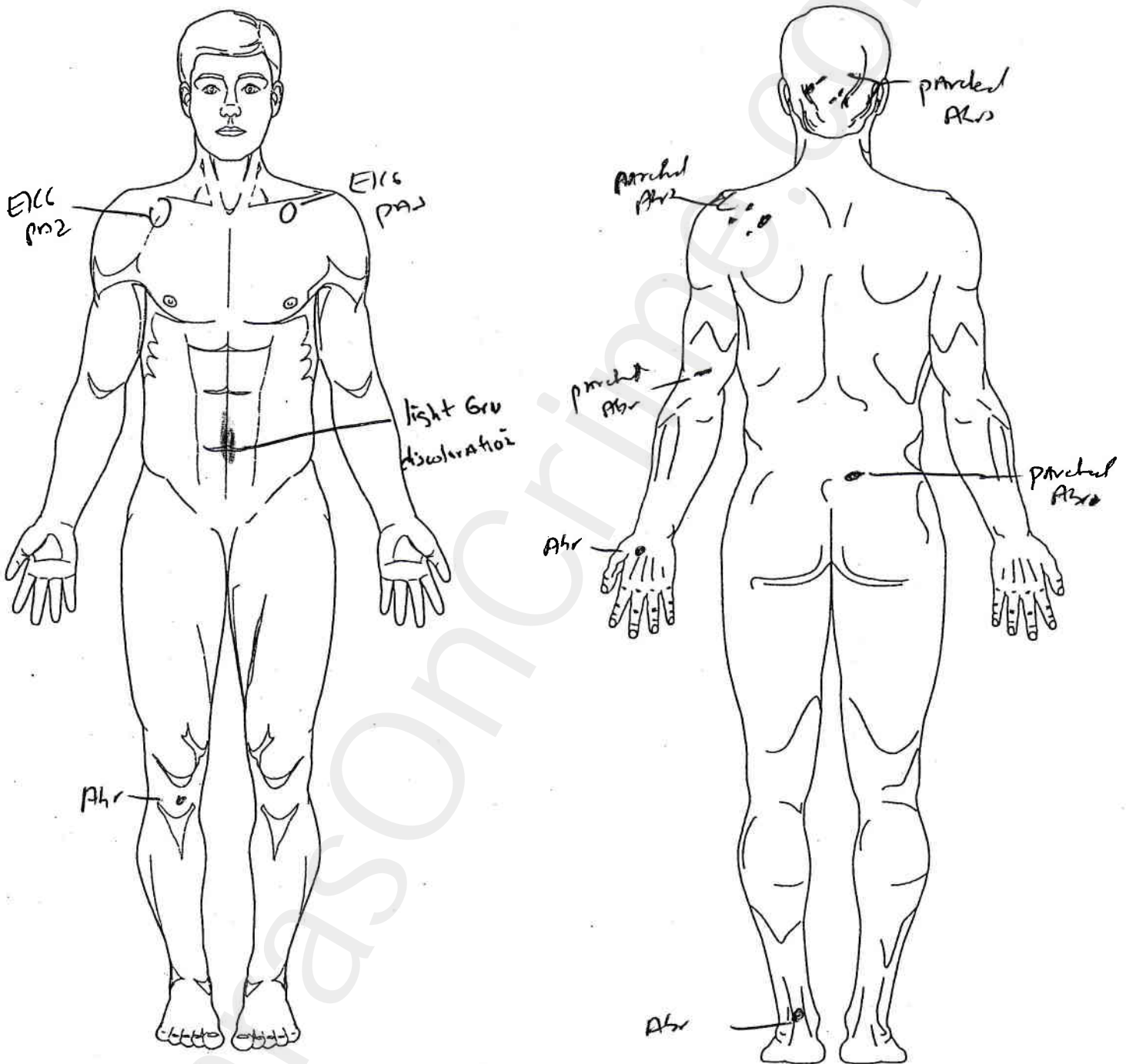
BRIAN S. FRIST, M.D., M.E.

14C-0696: LM (06-20-14)



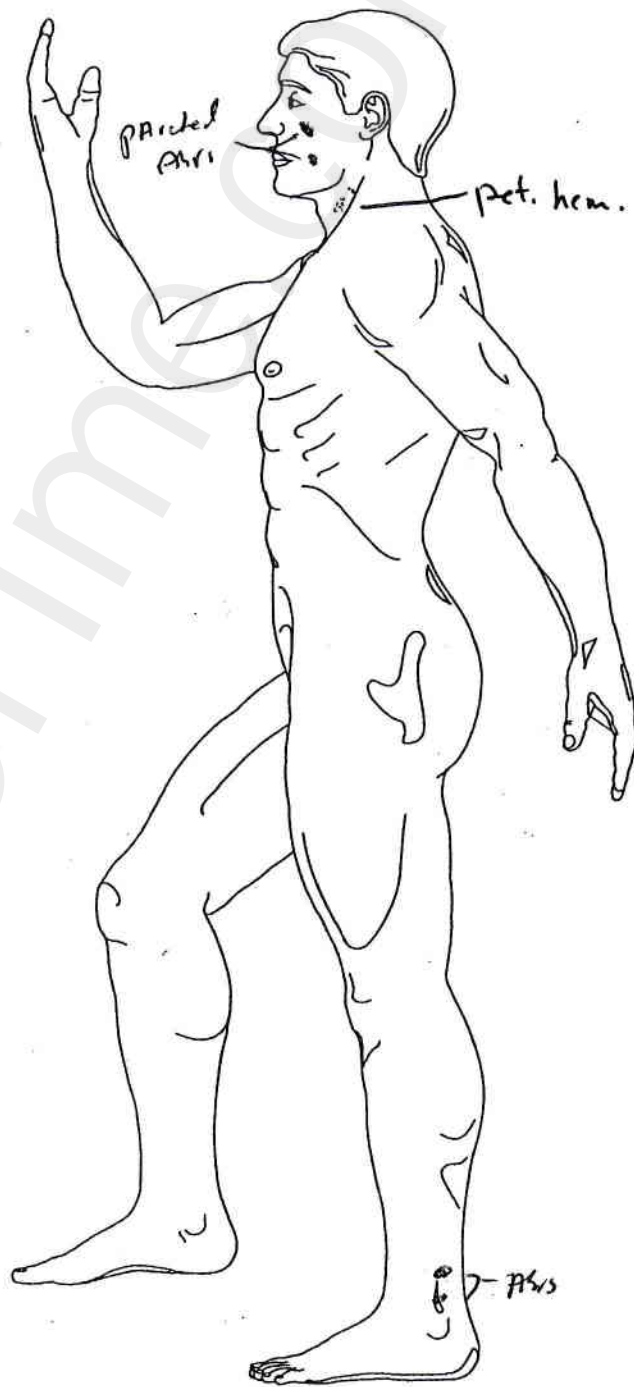
DATE

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA



14C-0696
COOPER HARRIS
DR. FRIST / INV. JACKSON
THURSDAY JUNE 19, 2014

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA



14C-0696

COOPER HARRIS
DR. FRIST / INV. JACKSON
THURSDAY JUNE 19, 2014

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7/1/14
7/1/14

Official Report



Division of Forensic Sciences
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
State of Georgia

Headquarters
DOFS Case #: 2014-1014374
Report Date: 06/26/2014

George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D. *ASCLD/LAB-International*
Deputy Director * Accredited *



Requested Service: Blood Alcohol - Postmortem
Agency: Cobb Co. Medical Examiner
Agency Ref#: 14C0696
Requested by: M. Jackson

7/1/14
PH

Case Individuals:
Victim (Juv.): Cooper Harris

Evidence:
On 06/20/2014, the laboratory received the following evidence from the Cobb Co. Medical Examiner via Lockbox.
2014-1014374-001 Sealed package containing four tube(s) containing heart blood identified as collected from Cooper Harris

Results and Conclusions:
Subm#: 001
1) Ethyl Alcohol Result by Gas Chromatography: negative

Measurement Uncertainty:
Estimations of measurement uncertainty for ethyl alcohol, methyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol and acetone concentrations are reported at a coverage probability of 99%.

Only those items discussed in the results above were analyzed for this report. The above represents the interpretations/opinions of the undersigned analyst. Evidence analyzed in this report will be returned to the submitting agency. Biological evidence (body fluids and tissues) and fire debris extracts will be destroyed after one year. This report may not be reproduced except in full without written permission of the laboratory.

Technical notes and data supporting the conclusions and findings in this report are maintained within the laboratory case records.

This case may contain evidence that must be preserved in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 17-5-56.

Kasey Wilson
Forensic Toxicologist

Related Agencies:
Child Abuse Protocol Committee-Cobb Co.
Cobb Co. District Attorney
Child Fatality Review Board
Cobb Co. Police Department
Cobb Judicial Circuit

End of Official Report

7/1/14
my 7/1/14

Official Report



Division of Forensic Sciences
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
State of Georgia

Headquarters
DOFS Case #: 2014-1014374
Report Date: 06/27/2014

George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D. *ASCLD/LAB-International*
Deputy Director * Accredited *



Requested Service: Toxicology - Postmortem
Agency: Cobb Co. Medical Examiner
Agency Ref#: 14C0696
Requested by: M. Jackson

7/1/14
AS

Case Individuals:
Victim (Juv.): Cooper Harris

Evidence:
On 06/20/2014, the laboratory received the following evidence from the Cobb Co. Medical Examiner via Lockbox.
2014-1014374-001 Sealed package containing four tube(s) containing heart blood identified as collected from Cooper Harris

Results and Conclusions:

Drug Screen Results by: Immunoassay

Subm#:	Drug Screen Classification	Result
001	blood-barbiturates	Negative
	blood-cannabinoids (marijuana)	Negative
	blood-certain benzodiazepines	Negative
	blood-cocaine/cocaine metabolites	Negative
	blood-common opioids	Negative

Drug Confirmation Results

Submission 001

1) Negative, comprehensive drug screen {LC/MS/MS}

Abbreviations:

GC/MS = Gas chromatography/Mass Spectrometry
LC/MS/MS = Liquid Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry/Mass Spectrometry

Measurement Uncertainty:

Estimations of measurement uncertainty for all toxicology quantitations are reported at a coverage probability of 95.45%.

Only those items discussed in the results above were analyzed for this report. The above represents the interpretations/opinions of the undersigned analyst. Evidence analyzed in this report will be returned to the submitting agency. Biological evidence (body fluids and tissues) and fire debris extracts will be destroyed after one year. This report may not be reproduced except in full without written permission of the laboratory.

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Larry J. Lewellen

Larry J. Lewellen
Asst. Manager, Toxicology

Related Agencies:

Child Abuse Protocol Committee-Cobb Co.
Cobb Co. District Attorney
Child Fatality Review Board
Cobb Co. Police Department
Cobb Judicial Circuit

End of Official Report

7/1/14
MS 7/1/14

Official Report



Division of Forensic Sciences
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
State of Georgia

Headquarters
DOFS Case #: 2014-1014374
Report Date: 06/25/2014

George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D. *ASCLD/LAB-International*
Deputy Director * Accredited *



Requested Service: Carboxyhemoglobin Determination

Agency: Cobb Co. Medical Examiner
Agency Ref#: 14C0696
Requested by: M. Jackson

7/1/14
at

Case Individuals:

Victim (Juv.): Cooper Harris

Evidence:

On 06/20/2014, the laboratory received the following evidence from the Cobb Co. Medical Examiner via Lockbox.

2014-1014374-001 Sealed package containing four tube(s) containing heart blood identified as collected from Cooper Harris

Results and Conclusions:

Evidence Submission: 001

The blood specimen is negative for a significant quantity of carboxyhemoglobin.
(Spectrophotometry Test)

Measurement Uncertainty:

Estimations of measurement uncertainty for ethyl alcohol, methyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol and acetone concentrations are reported at a coverage probability of 99%. Estimations of measurement uncertainty for all other toxicology quantitations are reported at a coverage probability of 95.45%.

Only those items discussed in the results above were analyzed for this report. The above represents the interpretations/opinions of the undersigned analyst. Evidence analyzed in this report will be returned to the submitting agency. Biological evidence (body fluids and tissues) and fire debris extracts will be destroyed after one year. This report may not be reproduced except in full without written permission of the laboratory.

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Kasey Wilson
Forensic Toxicologist

Related Agencies:

- Child Abuse Protocol Committee-Cobb Co.
- Cobb Co. District Attorney
- Child Fatality Review Board
- Cobb Co. Police Department
- Cobb Judicial Circuit

End of Official Report

KarasOnCrime.com

KarasOnCrime.com