



Montgomery County Forensic Services Department
205 Hilbig Road, Conroe, TX 77301
Phone: 936-538-3791 Fax: 936-538-3794

AUTOPSY REPORT

21-0275-OC

KAREN LEE ROBINSON

PATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS:

- I. Gunshot wound of chest
 - A. Entrance: Left chest beneath breast with associated soot and searing, consistent with contact entrance wound
 - B. Track: Left chest skin and subcutaneous tissue, left chest wall skeletal muscle, anterior left fifth intercostal muscle, anterior pericardium, heart, left lateral pericardium, left lower lung lobe, posterior left ninth rib, left back skeletal muscle, subcutaneous tissue, and skin. Associated injuries include left hemothorax (1300 mL), left lung atelectasis, hemopericardium (50 mL), hemorrhage of the left lower lung lobes surrounding the wound track, and left upper lung lobe contusion
 - C. Exit: Mid left back
 - D. Course and direction: Front to back and slightly left to right
- II. Serous cyst of right ovary
- III. Small cyst of spleen
- IV. Status-post remote tubal ligation

CAUSE OF DEATH: Gunshot wound of chest

MANNER OF DEATH: Suicide

 M.D.
Signature

COPY 4/30/21
Date

Sara N. Doyle, M.D.
Forensic Pathologist

HISTORY: This 40 year old white female was found deceased with a self-inflicted gunshot wound of the chest in her locked vehicle parked outside of her residence and was pronounced dead at 6:26 p.m. on March 30, 2021.

AUTOPSY: The autopsy is performed at the Montgomery County Forensic Services Department by Sara N. Doyle, M.D., at the request and upon the written authorization of The Honorable Steven Fisher, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Walker County, Texas, starting at 10:20 a. m. on March 31, 2021.

The body is received in a black body bag which is sealed with red tag number "Huntsville PD 12 5". A tag with "21-0275 (sic) Karen Robinson" extends through the body bag zipper. Photographs and fingerprints are taken.

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS: When first viewed, the body is clad in a gray pinstriped sweatshirt, black tank top, and black sports bra which have been cut secondary to medical intervention. The body is also clad in black leggings, lavender underwear, a gray sock on each foot, and a multicolored blue sneaker on the left foot. Abundant blood is over the gray sweatshirt, black tank top, and black sports bra. Blood is also over the front of the underwear and the front top portion of the leggings. A black elastic hair band is woven in the hair. The clothing, sneaker, and hair band are retained as evidence. Perforations corresponding in location to the gunshot wounds of the body are identified in the sweatshirt, black tank top, and sports bra, and are described in conjunction with the wounds of the body below. A white and yellow metal ring is worn on the left ring finger. The ring is released with the decedent's body as property.

EXTERNAL APPEARANCE: The body is that of a normally-developed, 66 inch, 110 pound white female whose appearance is consistent with the given age of 40 years. A perforating gunshot wound of the chest is subsequently described under "Evidence of Injury". When first viewed, abundant plant debris and scanty broken glass fragments are over the surfaces of the body and clothing and within the body bag. The straight to slightly wavy blond to light brown hair measures up to approximately 16 inches. The nose and facial bones are intact. Cosmetics including foundation and eye makeup are worn on the face. A clear contact lens is within each eye and are released with the decedent's body. The eyes have blue irides. The conjunctivae have no hemorrhage, petechiae, or jaundice. The oral cavity has natural teeth in good repair. The oral mucosa is atraumatic. Each earlobe is pierced twice. The torso and extremities are normally-developed and symmetrical. Bilateral breast prostheses are in place. The fingernails are short, intact, and contain white iridescent slightly chipped polish. The toenails contain chipped blue-green polish. The external genitalia are those of a normal woman and have no injuries. The anus is unremarkable and has no injuries.

POSTMORTEM CHANGES: There is marked rigor mortis of the upper and lower extremities, neck, and jaw. Lividity is blanching, pink-purple, and posterior in the dependent areas. The body is cold, subsequent to refrigeration.

SCARS AND IDENTIFYING MARKS: The ventral left forearm contains 4 thin vertical to oblique linear scars ranging from 1-3/4 to 2-1/4 inches. The ventral right forearm contains 6 similar thin linear vertical to oblique scars ranging from 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inches

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION: Multiple electrocardiogram pads are over the body. When first viewed, a clear gel adhesive bandage covers a gunshot entrance wound of the left chest and another clear gel adhesive bandage covers a gunshot exit wound of the left mid back. The gel bandages are photographed and discarded.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY, EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL:



- I. Gunshot wound of chest: A single gunshot wound perforates the chest. The direction are stated with reference to the standard anatomical planes with the body measured in the horizontal position.
- A. Entrance: A gunshot entrance wound is located on the left chest beneath the breasts, centered approximately 18 inches below the top of the head and 3-3/4 inches left of midline. It consists of a 5/16 inch circular perforation with a prominent surrounding marginal abrasion ranging from 5/16-1/2 inch in width. The marginal abrasion contains dense soot and exhibits focal searing of the skin. The adjacent skin has no stippling. The overlying gray sweatshirt has a perforation corresponding in location to the site of this entrance wound which is 2 inches in vertical dimension and 3/4 inch in horizontal dimension, has seared irregular edges and has dark gray soot deposited around the edges of the perforation. The black tank top and black sports bra each have a defect corresponding in location to the site of the entrance wound which are each approximately 1 inch in diameter and have seared irregular edges without visible soot (NOTE: The dark/black color of the tank top and sports bra hinders the visualization of soot. The defects in the tank top and sports bra corresponding to the entrance wound have each been cut through secondary to medical intervention).
- B. Track: The bullet perforates the left chest skin and subcutaneous tissue, the anterior left chest wall skeletal muscle, the anterior left fifth intercostal muscle, the anterior pericardial sac, the left anterior descending coronary artery, the anterior wall of the left ventricle (creating an irregular 2-1/2 inch full-thickness defect the anterior left ventricle with jagged edges), and the posterior wall of the left ventricle, creating an irregular 2-3/4 inch defect with jagged edges. A 1-1/8 inch linear laceration defect involves epicardial surface of the posterior the left ventricle. The bullet then perforates the left posterior lateral pericardial sac, the superior medial pleural surface of the lower lobe of the left lung, perforates the lower lobe of the left lung and exits the posterior pleural surface of the lower lobe of the left lung. The bullet then perforates the posterior medial left ninth rib, left back skeletal muscle, left back subcutaneous tissue, and left back skin, where it exits. A small amount of granular black soot is deposited within the left chest wall skeletal muscle surrounding the wound track. Bright red-pink discoloration involves the anterior left chest skeletal muscle surrounding the wound track. Associated injuries include left hemothorax (1300 mL), left lung atelectasis, hemopericardium (50 mL), hemorrhage of the distal lower lung lobe surrounding the wound track, and a 3 inch area of contusion of the anterior upper lobe of the left lung.
- C. Exit: The site of exit is at the left mid back centered approximately 18 inches below the top of the head and 2-1/4 inches left of midline. The exit wound consists of a stellate slit-like perforation which is 3/8 inch in vertical dimension and 1/4 inch in horizontal dimension, with an abraded border ranging from 1/16-1/8 inch which surrounds the wound in an oval configuration. The exit wound characteristics are those of a shored exit. An area of dark purple contusion-ecchymosis which is 2-1/4 inches in horizontal dimension and 1-3/4 inches in vertical dimension surrounds the wound and has an oblique linear pattern. The adjacent skin has no soot or stippling. The overlying sports bra has a 1/4 inch perforation and the black tank top and gray sweatshirt each have a 3/8 inch perforation corresponding in location to the site of this exit wound. Gunpowder residue is not visible on the clothing at the perforations corresponding in location to the exit wound.
- D. Course and direction: The direction of this bullet is from front to back and slightly left to right.

II. Blunt injuries:

A 1/4 inch dry red abrasion is on the dorsal surface of the right thumb.

The lateral left thigh has a 1 inch area of patchy faint blue contusion. A 3/8 inch oval purple contusion is at the anterior upper left thigh. Two oval faint green contusions each approximately 3/4 inch are on the anterior lower left thigh. The upper left shin has 2 faint oval blue contusions each

approximately 1/4 inch. The mid left shin has a 1--1/4 inch oval pink-purple contusion . A 2 inch area of patchy pink purple contusion involves the lower left shin.

The upper right thigh has 2 oval blue contusions which are 1/2 and 3/8 inch. The upper right shin has an oval 3/8 inch faint pink contusion. The mid right shin has 2 oval faint blue contusions each approximately 3/8 inch.

The extremities have no fractures.

These injuries, having been described , will not be repeated.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

BODY CAVITIES: The organs are in their normal situs. The left pleural cavity and pericardial cavities contain blood secondary to gunshot wound as previously described. There are otherwise no abnormal fluid accumulations or adhesions.

HEAD (CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM): The scalp has no contusions. The skull has no fractures. There are no epidural, subdural, or subarachnoid hemorrhages. The brain weighs 1462 grams and is normal size and shape. The leptomeninges have no exudates. The cerebral vessels have no aneurysms or atherosclerosis. The external aspects of the brainstem and cerebellum are unremarkable. Coronal sections of the cerebrum reveal no focal lesions of the cortex, white matter, or deep nuclear structures. The ventricles are normal size and configuration. The brainstem and cerebellum have the usual patterns on cut surface.

NECK: The cervical vertebrae , hyoid bone, tracheal and laryngeal cartilages, and paratracheal soft tissues are without trauma. Layer-wise examination of the anterior neck strap muscles reveals no hemorrhage. The upper airway is patent. The tongue is unremarkable.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The heart weighs 204 grams. Injuries of the heart secondary to gunshot wound are previously described. The coronary artery circulation is right dominant. The coronary arteries have no atherosclerosis. The myocardium is dark red and is unremarkable except for the previously described gunshot wound injuries. The left ventricular free wall is 1.1 centimeters, the interventricular septum is 1.0 centimeters, and the right ventricle is 0.4 centimeters thick. The endocardial surfaces and four cardiac valves are unremarkable except for gunshot wound. There are no interatrial or interventricular septal defects. The aorta and its major branches and the great veins are normally distributed. The aorta has no atherosclerosis. The venae cavae and pulmonary arteries contain no thrombi or emboli.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The right lung weighs 336 grams and the left lung weighs 178 grams. Gunshot wound injury and associated atelectasis of the left lung are previously described. The lungs are normally lobated. The pleural surfaces are smooth and glistening. The lungs have no masses or consolidations. The bronchi contain a minimal amount of bloody fluid and are otherwise unremarkable.

LIVER, GALLBLADDER, AND PANCREAS: The liver weighs 1106 grams and has an intact capsule and red-brown parenchyma without focal lesions. The gallbladder contains approximately 120 milliliters of green bile without stones. The gallbladder mucosa is unremarkable. The pancreas is unremarkable in lobulation, color, and texture.

SPLEEN AND LYMPH NODES: The spleen weighs 88 grams and has a pale, wrinkled, intact capsule. A 1.5 cm cyst with a smooth lining filled with serous fluid is at the posterior capsular surface of the spleen. The

color, red and white pulp, and consistency are otherwise unremarkable. There are no enlarged lymph nodes.
The bone marrow, where viewed, is unremarkable.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The pituitary, thyroid, and adrenal glands are normal color, size, and consistency.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The right kidney weighs 112 grams and the left kidney weighs 120 grams. Each kidney has a smooth, red brown surface with an unremarkable architecture and vasculature. The ureters maintain uniform caliber into an unremarkable bladder which contains approximately 75 milliliters of clear yellow urine. The uterus has no lesions. The endometrium is thin, and, an, an slightly hemorrhagic. There is no evidence of pregnancy. The right ovary has a 2.5 cm serous cyst with a thin smooth wall filled with clear serous fluid. The left ovary is unremarkable. The bilateral fallopian tubes have healed lacerations. The vagina is unremarkable and has no trauma.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The esophagus and gastroesophageal junction are unremarkable. The stomach contains a thin film of gray mucoid fluid and no solid particles. No pills or capsules are identified in the gastric contents. The gastric mucosa has no focal lesions. The serosal surfaces of the small intestine and large intestine are smooth and glistening. The vermiform appendix is unremarkable.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: Perforation of the posterior ninth rib secondary to gunshot wound is previously described. The vertebrae, clavicles, sternum, ribs, and pelvis otherwise have no fractures. The musculature is normally distributed and unremarkable.

TOXICOLOGY: Specimens including blood, vitreous, and urine are retained. A blood sample is submitted for toxicology testing. See attached Toxicology Report.

HISTOLOGY: Representative samples of internal organs are retained in a formalin stock jar. No samples are submitted for microscopic analysis.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE: The clothing, shoe, and hair band are retained as evidence.

DNA: A DNA blood stain card is made and retained.

RADIOLOGY: A postmortem full body radiograph is made and retained. No projectiles or projectile fragments are visible on the x-rays.

SD/sd/dd

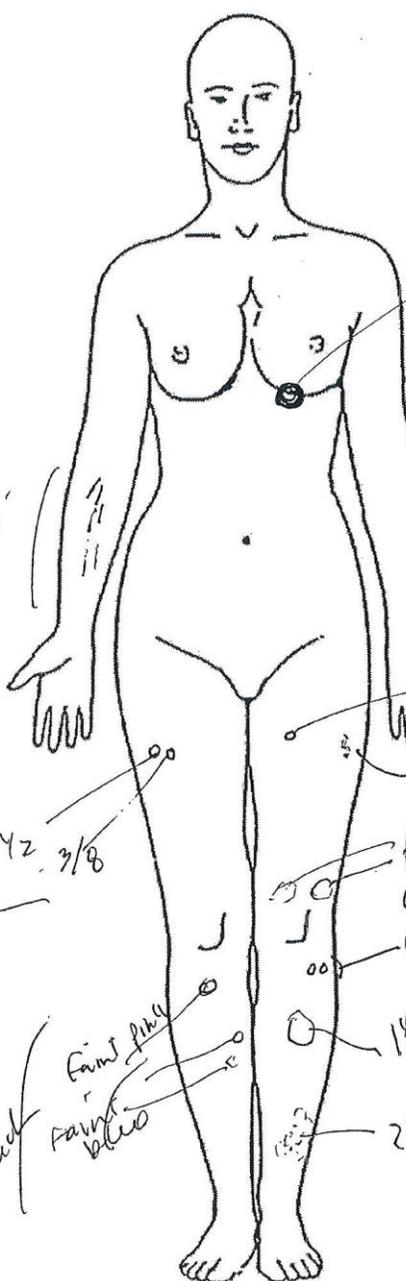
This report was dictated with the use of voice recognition software. It may contain inadvertent spelling or grammatical errors which were not detected during the dictation process.

Montgomery County Forensic Services Department

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Date: 3/31/2021 Case#: 21-0275-OC Examiner: Dr. Sara Dooley Name: Karen L. Robinson Age: 40

[Signature]
3/31/21



GSW enhance
18 TOTH, 3 3/4 L
5/16 circ perf
prom. circ marg.
abr 5/16 - 1/2 W
+ dense soot
+ scarring in
abr - border

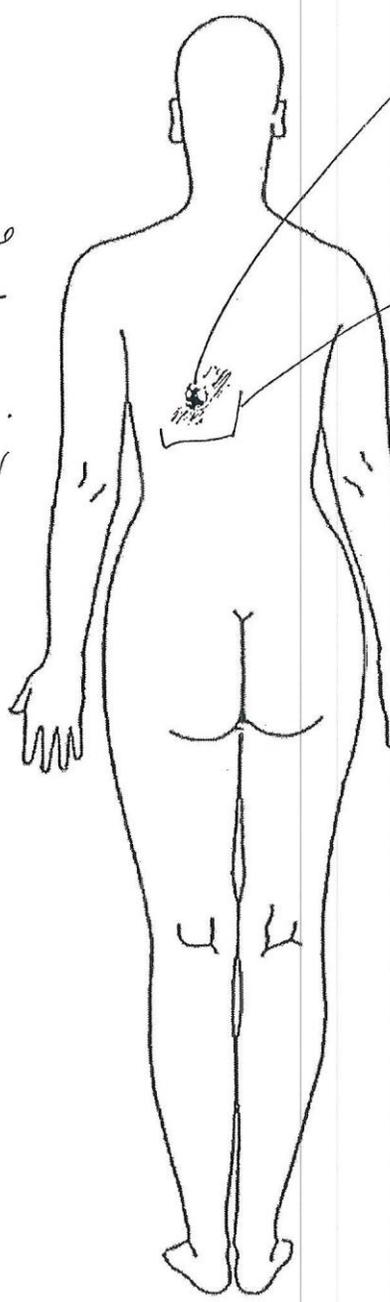
Faint scars x 6
1/4 - 1/2 " 6"

oval
new
cont

oval
cont
5/8 each

Faint pink
Faint blue

3/8 purple cont
1" patchy
faint blue cont
faint green
cont 2 3/4 each
faint blue x 2
cont 1/4 each
1/4
2" patchy
pink-purple
cont



GSW
Exit
18 TOTH,
2 1/4 L
3/8 v r 1/4 H
stellate/scut-like
cont
1/2 abr border oral
1/16 - 1/8 "
surround abs
pink
cont
2 1/4 H x 1 1/4 V
8 W
2
oblique linea
pallida

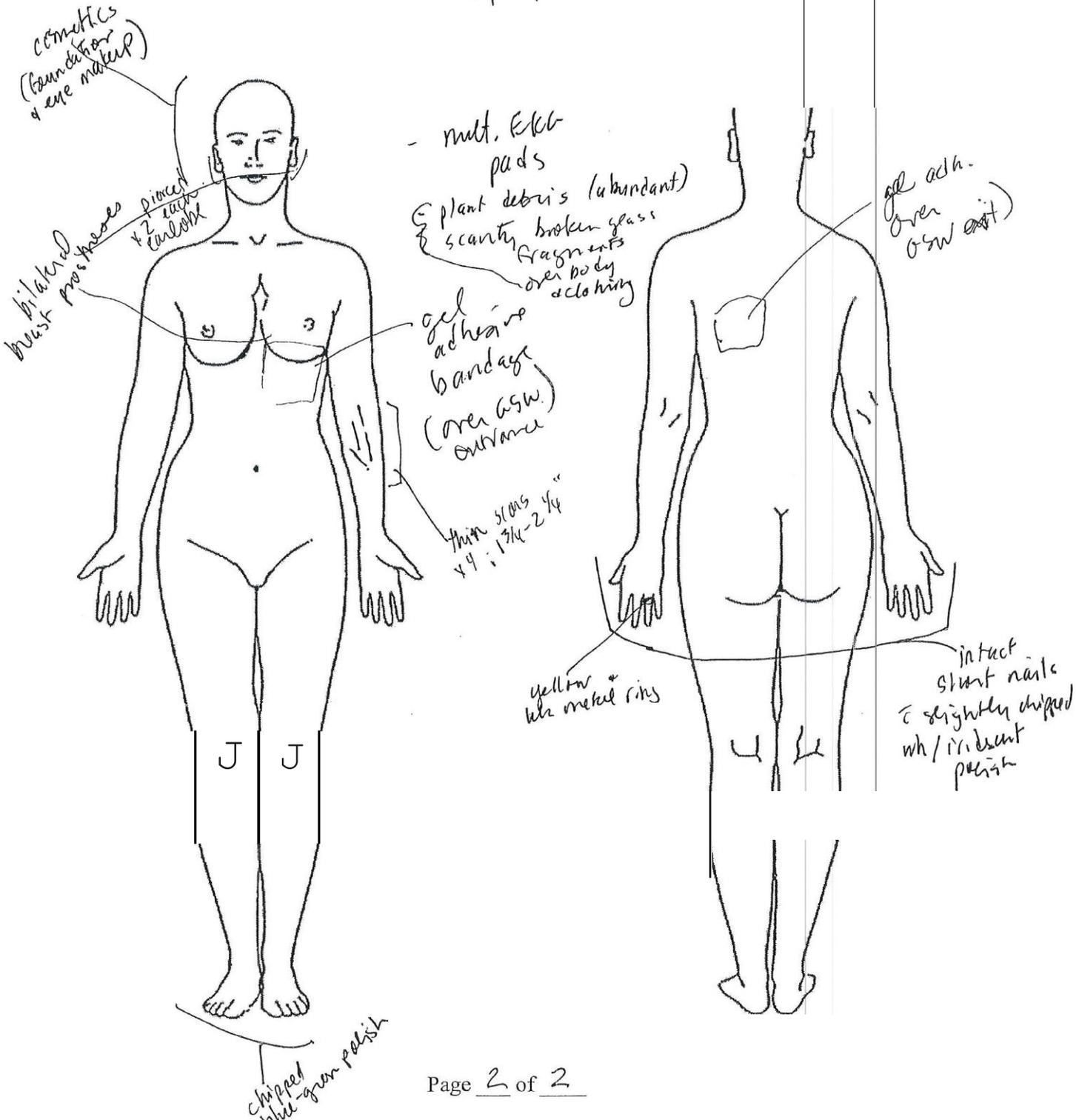
1/4 dry
abr

Montgomery County Forensic Services Department

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Date: 3/31/2021 Case#: 21-0275-OC Examiner: Dr. Sara Dooley Name: Karen L. Robinson Age: 40

SR
3/31/21





NMS Labs

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Robert A. Middleberg, PhD, F-ABFT, DABCC-TC, Laboratory Director

CONFIDENTIAL

Toxicology Report

Report Issued 04/08/2021 09:09

Patient Name Robinson Karen L
Patient ID 210331-30
Chain 210331--30
Age 40 Y DOB 04/25/ 1980
Gender Female
Workorder 21109884

To: 10351
Montgomery County Forensic Services
205 Hilbig Road
Conroe, TX 77301

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Positive Findings:

None Detected

See Detailed Findings section for additional information

Client Chain: 21-0275-OC

Testing Requested:

Table with 2 columns: Analysis Code, Description. Row 1: 80518, Postmortem, Basic, Blood (Forensic)

Specimens Received:

Table with 6 columns: ID, Tube/Container, Volume/Mass, Collection Date/Time, Matrix Source, Lab. Row 1: 001, Gray Top Tube, 9.75 ml, 03/31/2021 11:50, Femoral Blood, 210331--30

All sample volumes/weights are approximations.
Specimens received on 04/01/2021.



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Workorder 21109884
 Chain 210331-30
 Patient ID 210331-30

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Detailed Findings:

Examination of the specimen(s) submitted did not reveal any positive findings of toxicological significance by procedures outlined in the accompanying Analysis Summary.

Unless alternate arrangements are made by you, the remainder of the submitted specimens will be discarded one (1) year from the date of this report; and generated data will be discarded five (5) years from the date the analyses were performed.

Workorder 21109884 was electronically signed on 04/08/2021 08:23 by:

■ 
 ■ [Redacted Name], B.S., D-ABFT-FT
 Certifying Scientist

Analysis Summary and Reporting Limits:

All of the following tests were performed for this case. For each test, the compounds listed were included in the scope. The Reporting Limit listed for each compound represents the lowest concentration of the compound that will be reported as being positive. If the compound is listed as None Detected, it is not present above the Reporting Limit. Please refer to the Positive Findings section of the report for those compounds that were identified as being present.

Acode 80518 - Postmortem, Basic, Blood (Forensic) - Femoral Blood

-Analysis by Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for:

<u>Compound</u>	<u>Rpt Limit</u>	<u>Compound</u>	<u>Rpt Limit</u>
Amphetamines	20 ng/ml	Fentanyl / Acetyl Fentanyl	0.50 ng/ml
Barbiturates	0.040 mcg/ml	Methadone/ Metabolite	25 g/ml
Benzodiazepines	100 ng/ml	Methamphetamine / MOMA	20 g/ml
Buprenorphine / Metabolite	0.50 ng/ml	Opiates	20 ng/mL
Cannabinoids	10 ng/mL	Oxycodone / Oxymorphone	10 g/mL
Cocaine / Metabolites	20 ng/ml	Phencyclidine	10 g/ml

-Analysis by Headspace Gas Chromatography (GC) for:

<u>Compound</u>	<u>Rpt Limit</u>	<u>Compound</u>	<u>Rpt Limit</u>
Acetone	5.0 mg/dl	Isopropanol	15.0 mg/dl
Ethanol	10 mg/dl	Methanol	15.0 mg/dL