

**TENNISSE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
850 R.S. Gass Blvd., Nashville TN 37216-2640
(615) 743-1800
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER**

**MEC 2008-0657
State Number: 08-79-0618**

DECEDENT: Cecil Dotson
RACE: Black **SEX:** Male **AGE:** 2 Years **MARITAL STATUS:**
HOME ADDRESS: 722 Lester Street ; Memphis , TN

OCCUPATION: **DATE OF BIRTH:** 12/12/2005

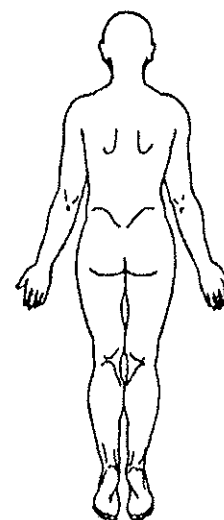
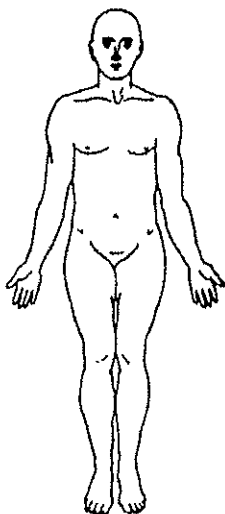
TYPE OF DEATH: Apparent Natural/Unattended Motor Vehicle Cremation: N
 Casualty Other
 Homicide/Suspected Homicide Suddenly when in apparent health
 In Prison Suicide

COMMENT: Homicide victim (victim #5 of 6)
AGENCY INVESTIGATOR AND COMPLAINT #: City Police Dept. 0803001329ME

DESCRIPTION OF BODY: Clothed Unclothed Partly Clothed Circumcised?

Eyes: Hair: Mustache: Beard:
Weight: (Lbs.) Length: (In.) Body Temp:
Rigor? Livor Color: Full Fixed?

Marks & Wounds



Probable Cause of Death	Manner of Death	Disposition Of Case
Multiple sharp force injuries	<input type="checkbox"/> Accident <input type="checkbox"/> Natural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homicide <input type="checkbox"/> Could Not Be Determined <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Pending Investigation Cremation Approved: N	Medical Examiner Jurisdiction: Accepted Autopsy Ordered: Autopsy Toxicology: Y Responsible for Death Certificate: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Examiner <input type="checkbox"/> Other Physician Funeral Home: M.J. Edwards F.H.

I hereby declare that after receiving notice of death described herein, I took charge of the body and made inquiries regarding the cause of death in accordance with Section 38-7-101-117 Tennessee Code Annotated and that the information contained herein regarding such death is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

June 24, 2008
Date

Shelby
County of Appointment

Signature of County Medical Examiner

	Last Seen Alive	Injury or Illness	Death	Discovery	Medical Examiner Notified	View of Body	Police Notified
Date		Unknown	03/04/2008	03/03/2008	03/03/2008	03/04/2008	03/03/2008
Time		Unknown	01:37 AM	06:08 PM	11:14 PM	08:30 AM	05:51 PM

	Location	City or County	Type of Premises (hospital, hotel, highway, etc.)
Injury or onset of illness	722 Lester Street	Memphis, TN	House
Death	722 Lester Street	Memphis	House
Viewing of body by Medical Examiner	1060 Madison Ave	Memphis	M. E. Office

MEDICAL ATTENTION AND HOSPITAL, INSTITUTIONAL CARE OR HOME HEALTH CARE

Name of Physician or Institution	Address	Diagnoses	Dates
			-

(35) CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH

	Name	Address
Found Dead By	Memphis Police Officers (car #542D)	
Last Seen Alive By		
Witness to Injury or illness		
Witness to Death	Inv Lewis Crider	1060 Madison Avenue (Regional Forensic Center); Memphis, TN 38104
Next of Kin	Erica Denise Smith (Mother)	

(36) NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH

Reportedly this 2 y.o. B/M was found in a residence located at 722 Lester Street with five other individuals who had apparently been killed by others. The victim was discovered by Memphis Police Officers while performing a welfare check at the residence. Memphis Police were contacted by friends of the victims' when they had not been heard from in several days. Memphis Police Homicide Lt Toney Armstrong contacted Investigator Crider who accepted jurisdiction for the Medical Examiner's Office and responded to the scene with Investigator Acerra and Dr. Chancellor. After a brief examination Investigator Crider pronounced the victim deceased at 2354 hours. The decedent and the scene were photographed by Investigator Acerra. The decedent had several open wounds and lacerations. The decedent's body was transported to the Regional Forensic Center by MTRS for further examination, positive identification and disposition to the funeral home. Lewis Crider, Investigator
03/04/08

**OFFICE OF
SHELBY COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER
REGIONAL FORENSIC CENTER
1060 MADISON AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38104-2106
PHONE: (901) 544-7200 – FAX: (901) 544-7211**

REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

CASE NUMBER: 2008-0657

DECEDENT: Cecil Dotson II

AGE: 2 Years

RACE: Black

SEX: Male

Authorized by: Karen E. Chancellor, M.D.

Received from: Shelby County

Date of Autopsy Examination: 03/04/2008

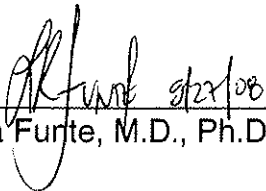
Persons present at the autopsy: Ms. LaQuita Woods
Mr. Jimmy Bowen

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS

- I. Multiple sharp force injuries.
 - A. Seven stab wounds are identified.
 - 1. Penetration of the skull with fractures.
 - 2. Injury of the right middle meningeal artery.
 - a. Epidural hemorrhage.
 - 3. Brain edema.
 - a. Moderate tonsillar herniation.
 - B. Multiple incised wounds of the head, torso and extremities.
 - II. Multiple blunt force injuries.
 - A. Abrasions and contusions of the head and torso.
-

CAUSE OF DEATH: Multiple sharp force injuries

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



Lisa Funte, M.D., Ph.D. Pathologist Date

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EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

Body Condition:	Intact.
Length:	35 inches.
Weight:	33 pounds.
Body Heat:	Cold, following refrigeration.
Rigor:	None.
Livor:	Red-purple posterior and fixed.
Hair:	Black, braided, and contains green decorative beads.
Eyes:	Brown with slightly cloudy cornea.
Teeth:	Natural and in good condition.
Facial Hair:	None.

Other External:

The body is that of a toddler, who at the time of autopsy is unidentified. He has been since identified as 2 year old Cecil Dotson II through DNA comparison. The body is clad in a multi-colored, striped, short-sleeve shirt, a pair of blue jeans, a pair of blue socks, one white sock and a disposable diaper. On the upper left eyelid, is an irregular scar measuring 1/4 inch in greatest dimension; this scar is surrounded by a few petechiae. The external genitals are that of an apparently normal, circumcised male. The left testicle is palpated in the scrotum. The right testicle is present in the right inguinal canal. No tattoos or other identifying marks are present.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY:

Multiple sharp force injuries are identified. These injuries will be described without regard to chronological sequence or severity of injury. Blunt force injuries are also present.

Sharp force injuries of the head:

On the superior right side of the forehead, 1 inch below the top of the head and 1 3/8 of an inch to the right of the anterior midline, is a stab wound. The blunt

angle is oriented at the 5 o'clock position; the sharp angle is oriented at the 10 o'clock position. The blunt angle measures $1/8$ of an inch in width. The length of the stab wound is $3/4$ of an inch. The superior edge of the stab wound is abraded. This abrasion is brown and measures up to $3/16$ of an inch in width. Two lacerations extended from the blunt angle. These lacerations measure less than $1/16$ of an inch in length, each.

After perforating the skin and subcutaneous soft tissue of the scalp, the stab wound track penetrates the skull in the frontotemporal region with fractures radiating through the temporal and parietal bones. The wound track penetrates into the cranial vault severing the right middle meningeal artery; epidural hemorrhage is present at this site.

The maximum depth of penetration of the wound tract is 1 inch.

The trajectory of the stab wound track is right to left, front to back and slightly downward.

On the left side of the face near the lateral canthus of the eye and on the left cheek is a linear array of discontinuous, incised wounds. The linear array has an overall length of $5/8$ of an inch.

On the right side of the head, in the temporoparietal region is a puncture-type stab wound measuring $1/8$ of an inch in diameter. The depth of penetration is approximately $1/4$ of an inch.

On the pinna of the right ear, is a linear array of discontinuous, incised injuries. The array has an overall length of $1\ 1/4$ inches.

Sharp force injuries of the torso:

On the right lateral aspect of the torso, is a cluster of parallel, linear, incised wounds. These wounds are present in an area measuring $2 \times 2\ 1/4$ inches and demonstrate a slight oblique-orientation. The individual incised wounds in this cluster range from $1/8$ of an inch to $1\ 1/4$ inches in length.

On the upper left side of the back, is an angulated, array of incised wounds. This array has an overall length of $5/8$ of an inch.

On the midleft side of the back, $11\ 1/4$ inches below the top of the head and $3\ 1/4$ inches to the left of the midline, is a stab wound. Definitive blunt and sharp angles are not identified. The length of this stab wound is $3/8$ of an inch. The edges are abraded. The wound track penetrates into the underlying musculature.

The maximum depth of penetration is $1/2$ of an inch.

The trajectory of the stab wound track is back to front without significant deviation upward, downward, left or right.

On the lower left side of the back, are two puncture-type stab wounds each measuring $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch in length with a maximum depth of penetration of $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch.

On the mid-back, just to the right of the posterior midline, are multiple, discontinuous, linear, incised wounds. These wounds are present in an area measuring $1 \frac{1}{4} \times 2$ inches and demonstrate varying orientations. The individual incised injuries range from less than $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch to $2 \frac{11}{16}$ of an inch in length.

On the mid-right side of the back, in an area measuring 2×4 inches, are multiple, discontinuous, linear, incised wounds and one stab wound.

The stab wound is a triangular-shaped injury with an incised wound extending medially toward the posterior midline. The stab wound is $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in length. No definitive blunt or sharp angle is identified. The edges are smooth.

The maximum depth of penetration is $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch.

The trajectory of the wound track is left to right, front to back and downward.

Inferior to this stab wound are multiple parallel incised wounds. This constellation of incised wounds is located $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch inferior to the previously stab wound. The individual parallel incised injuries are evenly spaced with a separation of less than $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch. This pattern is suggestive of a serrated blade.

The remaining incised wounds in the area described above range in size from less than $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch to $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Sharp force injuries of the extremities:

On the lateral surface of the left shoulder, is a linear array of brown abraded incised wounds. This array has an overall length of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.

On the posterior surface of the left wrist, are multiple, parallel, linear, incised wounds. These incised wounds are obliquely-oriented and are present in an area measuring $\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. The incised wounds are separated by a distance of less than $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch, also suggestive of a serrated blade.

On the back of the right hand, are an incised wound and a puncture-type stab wound; both located at the base of the right thumb. The incised wound is $\frac{3}{16}$ of

an inch in length. The puncture-type stab wound is 1/8 of an inch in diameter with a depth of 1/4 of an inch.

Blunt force injuries of the head:

On the medial aspect of the right eye, involving the upper and lower eyelids, is an area of purple-green ecchymosis or contusion, measuring 1 1/4 inch in greatest dimension. An area of purple-green contusion is present on the right cheek and measures 1 1/2 inches in greatest dimension. The upper lip on the right side demonstrates a brown abrasion 3/8 of an inch in greatest dimension; this abrasion extends onto the mucosal surface of the right side of the upper lip. On the right side of the lower lip, is a brown abrasion measuring up to 3/4 of an inch in greatest dimension. On the right side of the chin, is a brown abrasion measuring 7/16 x 5/8 of an inch. On the left cheek, are discontinuous, red-brown abrasions measuring from 1/8 to 1/2 of an inch in greatest dimension. On the right side of the neck, inferior and posterior to the right ear, are discontinuous red-purple abrasions. These abrasions are present in an area measuring 1 x 1 1/4 inches and range in size from 1/16 to 3/4 of an inch. On the right side of the forehead and right cheek, surrounding the orbit of the right eye, are red-purple to brown abrasions. These abrasions are present in an area measuring 1 1/2 x 2 inches and range in size from 1/2 of an inch to 1 inch in greatest dimension.

Blunt force injuries of the torso:

On the left side of the torso, is a constellation of discontinuous, red-brown abrasions ranging in size from 1/8 of an inch to 5/16 of an inch in greatest dimension.

On the left side of the neck, is a red contusion measuring 1/2 of an inch in greatest dimension.

ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES:

Radiographs:	Full body radiographs are taken.
Microbiology:	None.
Toxicology:	Please see separate report.
Evidence Collected:	The clothing, an FTA blood spot card, and footprints are collected for submission to the investigating agency. A rape kit is also collected for submission to the investigating agency.

Personal Effects No personal effects are released with the decedent.
Disposition:

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The internal organs demonstrate red-brown discoloration and softening suggestive of early decomposition.

Body Cavities:

The thoracic and abdominal organs are in their normal anatomic positions. The body cavities contain no abnormal collections of fluid and no adhesions are identified.

Head:

Please see evidence of injury.

Subgaleal hemorrhage is present overlying the right side of the head. With the exception of injury, the dura is tan and smooth; the dural sinuses are patent. No subdural or subarachnoid hemorrhages are identified. The brain weighs 1240 grams. The leptomeninges are thin and delicate. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical. A normal gyral pattern is present. The gyri appear widened and flattened. The cranial nerves are symmetrically present and without lesions. The cerebral vasculature is without abnormalities. Sections through the cerebral hemispheres demonstrate a normal amount of white matter. No hemorrhages of the deep white matter or basal ganglia are identified. External examination of the cerebellum demonstrates moderate tonsillar herniation with underlying hemorrhage and softening of the parenchyma. The brain stem is unremarkable externally and upon cut surface. The cerebral ventricles have a smooth lining and are free of blood. The spinal cord as viewed from the cranial cavity is unremarkable.

Neck:

The soft tissues and prevertebral fascia are unremarkable. The hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages are intact. The lumen of the larynx is not obstructed.

Cardiovascular:

The intimal surface of the abdominal aorta is free of atherosclerotic plaques. The aorta and its major branches and the great veins are normally distributed. The pulmonary arteries contain no thromboemboli and are without atherosclerotic plaques. The heart weighs 65 grams. The pericardium, epicardium, and

endocardium are smooth. No mural thrombi are present. The foramen ovale is closed. The coronary arterial system demonstrates normal developmental course. The atrial and ventricular septa are intact. The cardiac valves are normally developed with thin pliable leaflets. The left ventricular wall thickness is 0.6 cm; the right ventricular wall thickness is 0.1 cm. The myocardium is red-brown and soft. No focal abnormalities are identified.

Respiratory:

The trachea is without lesions and is not obstructed. The pleural surfaces are smooth. The right lung weighs 100 grams; the left lung weighs 80 grams. The major bronchi are without lesions. Sectioning of the lungs discloses a pink to red-purple parenchyma.

Hepatobiliary:

The liver weighs 460 grams and is covered by a smooth intact capsule. The parenchyma is brown and soft. No lesions are identified. The gallbladder contains approximately 5 ml of bile and no calculi.

Gastrointestinal System:

The esophageal mucosa is tan and without lesions. The stomach contains approximately 30 ml of thick brown fluid with pieces of partially digested food. No tablets or capsules are identified in the stomach contents. The gastric mucosa is without rugal folds; no ulcers or other lesions are identified. The small and large intestines are unremarkable externally. The appendix is present. The pancreas is unremarkable externally and upon sectioning.

Genitourinary:

The right kidney weighs 20 grams; the left kidney weighs 30 grams. The subcapsular surfaces of the kidneys are smooth and demonstrate fetal lobations. The cortices are of normal thickness with well-demarcated cortico-medullary junctions. The calyces, pelves and ureters are unremarkable. The urinary bladder is empty; the mucosa is tan and smooth. The prostate gland and testicles are unremarkable externally and on sectioning.

Endocrine:

The pituitary, thyroid and adrenal glands are unremarkable externally and upon sectioning.

Reticuloendothelial:

The spleen weighs 15 grams and is covered by a smooth, blue-gray, intact capsule. The parenchyma is a pale purple. The cervical, hilar and peritoneal lymph nodes are not enlarged.

Musculoskeletal:

The sternum, clavicles, ribs, pelvis, and vertebral column have no visible or palpable fractures. The diaphragm is intact.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

None.

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION

This individual was found without signs of life in a rental residence with five other decedents (See companion cases 2008-0653 through 2008-0658).

At postmortem examination multiple sharp force injuries of the head, torso, and extremities are identified. A stab wound of the head perforates the skull penetrating into the cranial vault severing the right middle meningeal artery and epidural hematoma. Brain edema with moderate tonsillar herniation is present. Blunt force injuries of the head and torso are also identified.

Based on the case history and autopsy findings it is my opinion that the cause of death is multiple, sharp force injuries. The manner of death is homicide.

LF/mp



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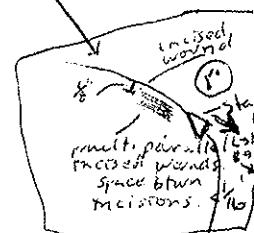
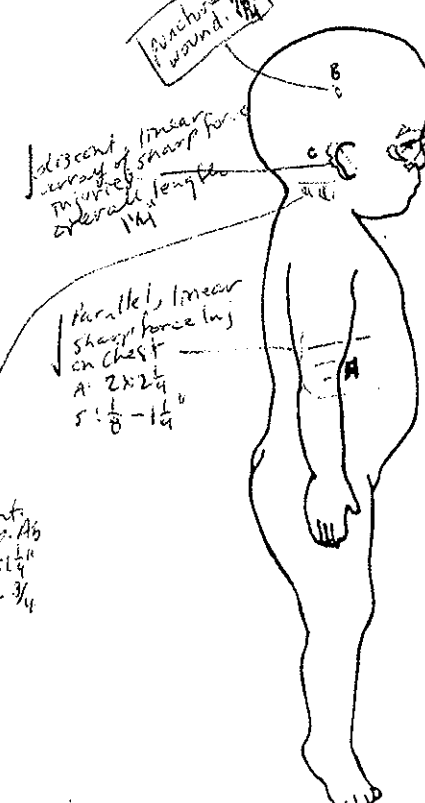
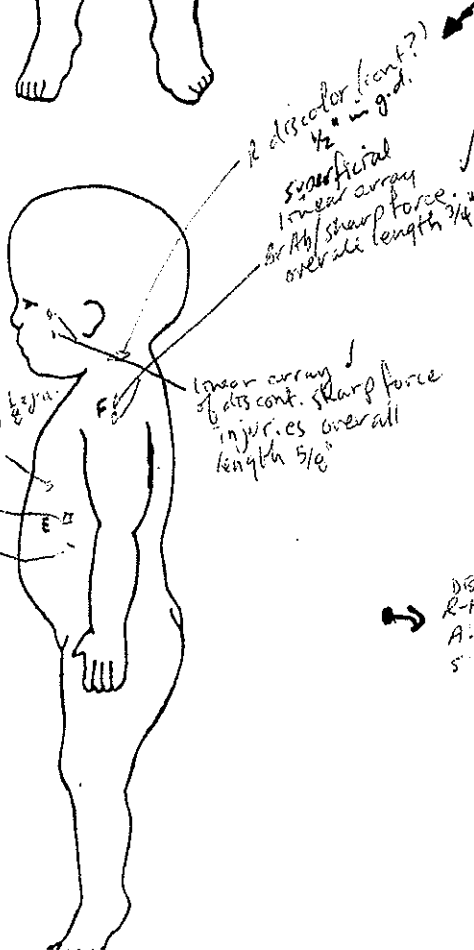
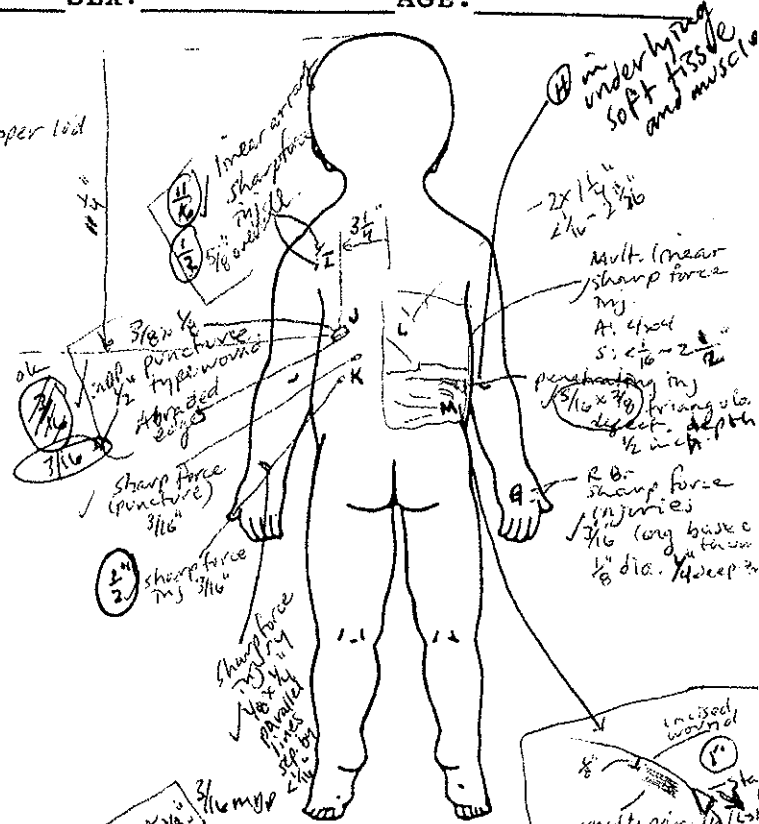
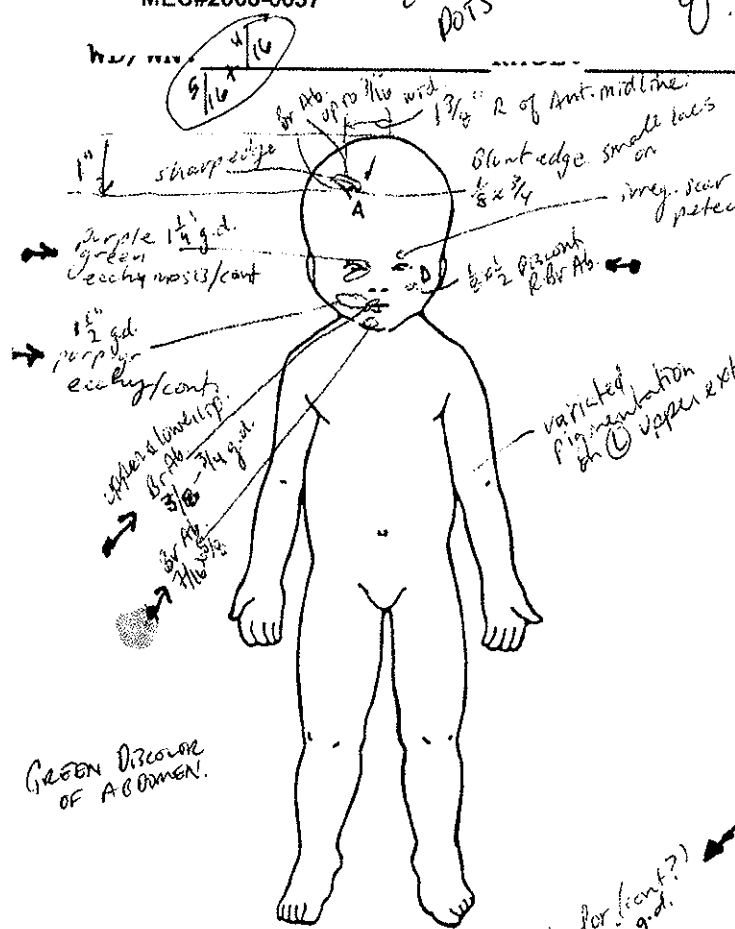
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CECIC
DOTSON II

NSIC MEDICAL

SEX: _____

AGE: _____



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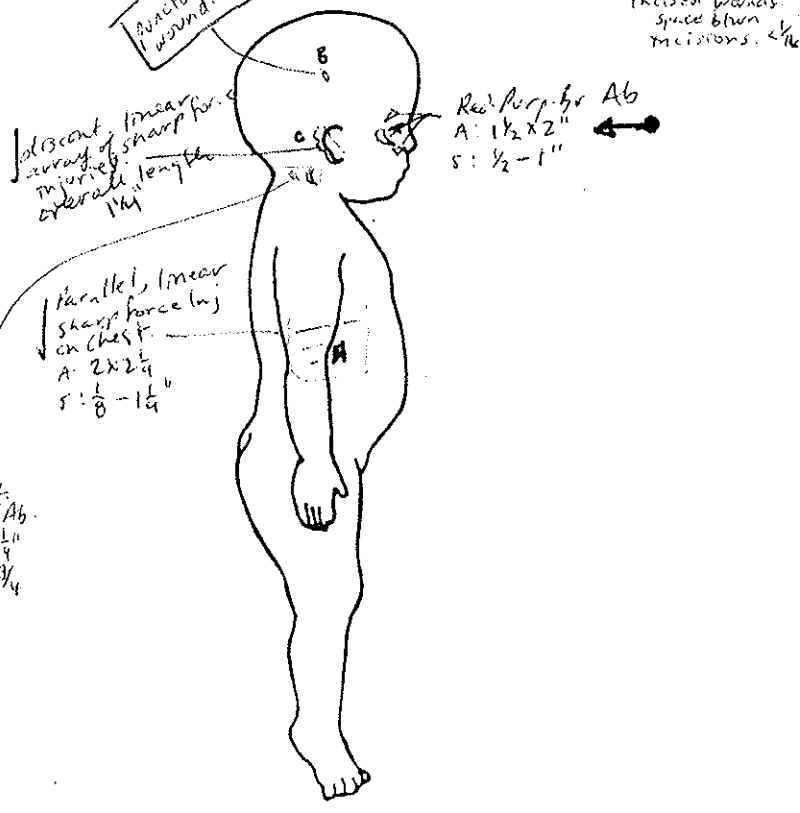
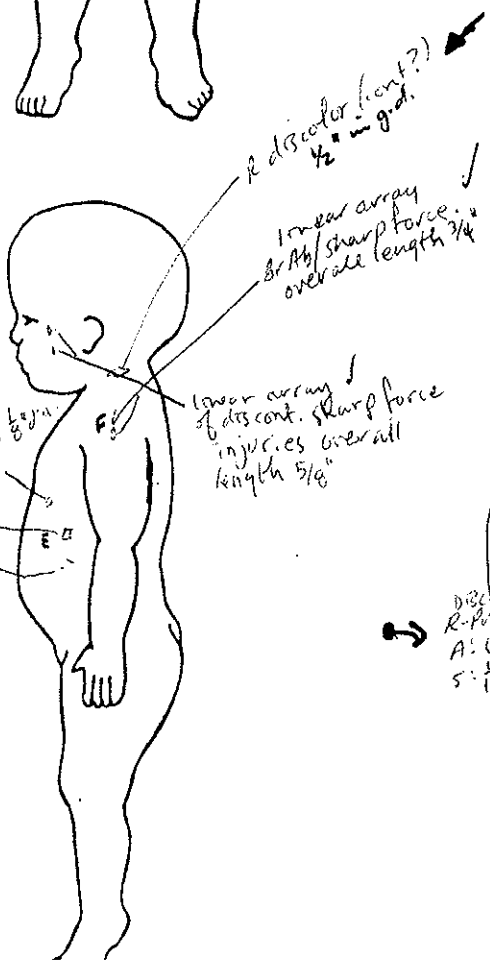
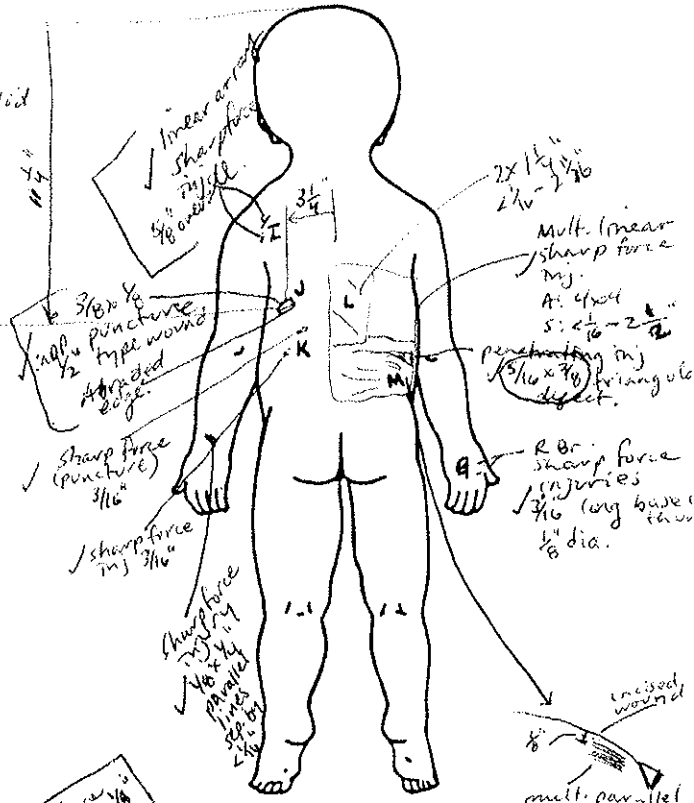
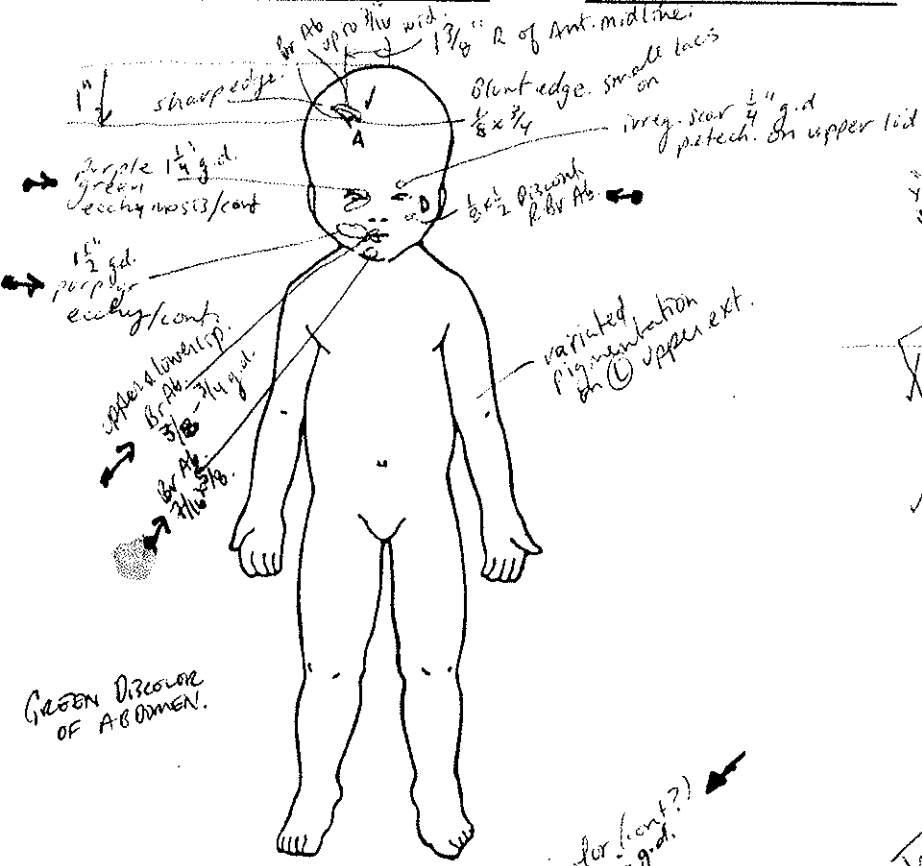
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MEC#2008-0657

NSIC MEDICAL

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SEX: _____ AGE: _____



10/10

VW

AEGIS

SCIENCES CORPORATION

345 Hill Avenue Nashville, TN 37210
 Ph: (615) 255-2400 Fax: (615)255-3030 Web: www.aegislabs.com

Client: 3733 - Forensic Medical - Memphis	Case ID: 2008-0657 Cecil D. Dotson <u>II</u>
Report To: Dr. Funte	Laboratory ID: 4371159
Forensic Medical - Memphis	Collected: 03/04/08 00:00
1060 Madison Ave	Received: 03/11/08 13:22
Memphis, TN 38104	Completed: 03/14/08 16:15
Reason: Post-mortem	Reported: 03/17/08 12:04
Specimen Type: Heart Blood	

Test(s) Ordered: 40599 - Profile-ME Comprehensive

<u>Drug Class</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Quantitation</u>	<u>Reporting Threshold</u>
Alcohol - Volatiles	NEGATIVE		
Acetaminophen	NONE DETECTED		10 mg/dL
Amphetamines	NONE DETECTED		10 mcg/mL
Stimulants	NONE DETECTED		50 ng/mL
Barbiturates	NONE DETECTED		50 ng/mL
Meprobamate	NONE DETECTED		200 ng/mL
Methadone	NONE DETECTED		200 ng/mL
Benzodiazepines	NONE DETECTED		50 ng/mL
Cannabinoids (Marijuana)	NONE DETECTED		25 ng/mL
Cocaine Metabolite	NONE DETECTED		1 ng/mL
Opiates	NONE DETECTED		10 ng/mL
Meperidine	NONE DETECTED		100 ng/mL
Fentanyl Analogues	NONE DETECTED		100 ng/mL
Propoxyphene	NONE DETECTED		1 ng/mL
Pentazocine	NONE DETECTED		100 ng/mL
Phenothiazines	NONE DETECTED		100 ng/mL
Salicylate	NONE DETECTED		1 ng/mL
Tricyclic Antidepressants	NONE DETECTED		50 mg/L
Atypical Antidepressants	NONE DETECTED		50 ng/mL
Antipsychotics	NONE DETECTED		10 ng/mL
Miscellaneous	NONE DETECTED		2 ng/mL
			0.25 ng/mL

I certify that the specimen identified by this accession number has been handled and analyzed in accordance with all applicable requirements.

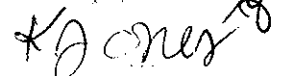
Certified by: 
 Date:

TRAVIS E. CURTIS, MS

MAR 19 2008

 END OF REPORT

MAR 21 2008



AEGIS

SCIENCES CORPORATION

345 Hill Avenue Nashville, TN 37210

Ph: (615) 255-2400 Fax: (615)255-3030 Web: www.aegislabs.com


Client:	3733 - Forensic Medical - Memphis	Case ID:	2008-0657
Report To:	Dr. Funte	Laboratory ID:	4371160
	Forensic Medical - Memphis	Collected:	03/04/08 00:00
	1060 Madison Ave	Received:	03/11/08 13:22
	Memphis, TN 38104	Completed:	03/11/08 13:23
Reason:	Post-mortem	Reported:	03/17/08 12:04
Specimen Type:	Urine		

Test(s) Ordered: 49999 - Sample Received

<u>Drug Class</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Quantitation</u>	<u>Reporting Threshold</u>
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Testing not requested or indicated.

Testing not requested or indicated.
I certify that the specimen identified by this accession number has been handled and analyzed in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Certified by: 
Date:

MAR 19 2008

TRAVIS E. CURTIS, MS
END OF REPORT

AEGIS

SCIENCES CORPORATION

345 Hill Avenue Nashville, TN 37210

Ph: (615) 255-2400 Fax: (615)255-3030 Web: www.aegislabs.com

Client: 3733 - Forensic Medical - Memphis
Report To: Dr. Funte
Forensic Medical - Memphis
1060 Madison Ave
Memphis, TN 38104

Case ID: 2008-0657
Laboratory ID: 4371161
Collected: 03/04/08 00:00
Received: 03/11/08 13:22
Completed: 03/11/08 13:23
Reported: 03/17/08 12:04

Reason: Post-mortem
Specimen Type: Liver

Test(s) Ordered: 49999 - Sample Received

<u>Drug Class</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Quantitation</u>	<u>Reporting Threshold</u>
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Testing not requested or indicated.

Testing not requested or indicated.

I certify that the specimen identified by this accession number has been handled and analyzed in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Certified by: 
Date:

TRAVIS E. CURTIS, MS

END OF REPORT

MAR 19 2008

AEGIS

SCIENCES CORPORATION

345 Hill Avenue Nashville, TN 37210
Ph: (615) 255-2400 Fax: (615)255-3030 Web: www.aegislabs.com

Client:	3733 - Forensic Medical - Memphis	Case ID:	2008-0657
Report To:	Dr. Funte	Laboratory ID:	4371162
	Forensic Medical - Memphis	Collected:	03/04/08 00:00
	1060 Madison Ave	Received:	03/11/08 13:22
	Memphis, TN 38104	Completed:	03/11/08 13:23
Reason:	Post-mortem	Reported:	03/17/08 12:04
Specimen Type:	Vitreous		

Test(s) Ordered: 49999 - Sample Received

<u>Drug Class</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Quantitation</u>	<u>Reporting Threshold</u>
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Testing not requested or indicated.

Testing not requested or indicated.

I certify that the specimen identified by this accession number has been handled and analyzed in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Certified by:  TRAVIS E. CURTIS, MS
Date:

END OF REPORT

MAR 19 2008