



OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
701 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

REPORT OF EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

DECEDENT: Ashley Nicole Reed

CASE: 10-01307

DATE OF EXAMINATION: 03/05/2010

TIME: 0801 Hours

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

I. Gunshot wound to head with perforation of skull and brain.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Gunshot wound to head with perforation of skull and brain
MANNER: Suicide

05 March 2010
Date Signed

[Signature]
ROBERT E. LYON, DO
MEDICAL EXAMINER

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is received in a zippered body pouch secured by evidence seal #0243270.

The body is that of a 122 pound, 65 inch, well-developed, well-nourished, white woman appearing the stated age of 28 years. Rigor mortis is passing. Lividity is posterior, rises to the posterior axillary line, and is fixed. The torso is cool.

The scalp hair is 2 inches long, brown, and straight. The irides are blue. The conjunctivae have no petechiae. The teeth are natural and in good repair. The pubic region has short brown pubic hair stubble. The external genitalia are those of a normally developed, adult female. The fingernails are short, trimmed, and have no trauma. The toenails have pink iridescent nail polish. The body has no lower extremity edema, scars, tattoos, or recent injuries except as indicated.

INJURIES

A. Gunshot wound to head:

1. The entrance perforation is over the right temporal region of the head and 1-1/2 inches anterior to and 1/2 inch superior to the superior attachment of the right ear, and 61-1/2 inches superior to the sole of the right foot. Including the abrasion margin, the wound is 2.5 x 2.0 cm and circular. Within the abrasion margin is a 1.3 x 1.8 cm circular perforation. The abrasion margin is regular. The abrasion margin is widest at the 5 o'clock position where it is 0.3 cm. The abrasion margin has abundant black soot deposition. The adjacent skin has a muzzle imprint manifested by a 3.4 cm outer dimensions, curvilinear red cutaneous abrasion extending from the 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock positions, and oblique linear tiny skin tear penetrating to dermis within the muzzle imprint at the 3 o'clock position, and 1.0 cm length L-shaped red cutaneous abrasion at the 6 o'clock position. The adjacent skin which is in the hair bearing region of the scalp has no stippling.
2. The wound path sequentially runs through the right temporalis muscle, skull, cranial vault, brain, and exits the skull with visible external beveling over the juncture of the posterior attachment of the left ear and scalp.
3. Recovered from the scalp hair is a moderate size flattened gray metal projectile. It is photographed adjacent to its evidence label, and then sealed in its evidence container.
4. The exit wound is over the juncture of the posterior attachment of the left ear and scalp and 60-1/2 inches superior to the sole of the left foot. The surface dimensions are 2.5 x 1.4 cm. The wound is roughly ovoid and horizontal. The wound has no abrasion margin. The adjacent skin which is partially in the hair bearing region of the scalp has no stippling, soot deposition, or muzzle imprint.

5. The direction of the wound path with respect to the standard anatomic position is from right to left, front to back, and downward.

Associated findings comprise purple spectacle hematomas over the orbis.

B. Other injuries:

1. The lateral aspect of the right popliteal space has a small red cutaneous contusion.

Having been described, the injuries will not be repeated.

OPINION

Based on all of the available information, Ashley Nicole Reed died from a gunshot wound to the head with perforation of the skull and brain. The manner of death is suicide.

REL/svp
D3/5/10
T3/8/10