

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S FINDINGS

Directions: As the medical examiner, you have collected information from the crime-scene investigator as well as from autopsies. You need to provide information regarding the deceased person, their death, and the time of death to the police. Refer to Chapters 11 and 13 in your textbook to answer the police questions as completely as possible.

Case 1: Bones found still partially clothed at the bottom of a ravine.

- a. Subpubic angle = 87 degrees
- b. Length of femur = 50 cm
- c. Many fillings in teeth, no wisdom teeth
- d. Skull shows fracture marks

Based on the information available, determine the:

1. Age of the individual
2. Sex of the individual
3. Height of the individual
4. Possible cause of death

Case 2: A body was found in a wooded area. There was bruising on the neck, defensive wounds on the arms and hands, and a broken finger.

- a. Subpubic angle = 106 degrees
- b. Length of tibia = 34 cm
- c. No fillings in teeth
- d. Suture lines of skull have not begun to close

Based on the information available, determine the:

1. Age of the individual
2. Sex of the individual
3. Height of the individual
4. Possible cause of death

Case 3: A body was found in an apartment bedroom at 9 a.m. on Monday.

- a. Male, overweight, found dead on bed. No evidence of foul play.
- b. Body temperature = 93°F (64°C)
- c. Room temperature = 83°F (58°C)
- d. Lividity showed no movement of body
- e. Rigor had begun

Based on the information available, can you determine the:

1. Time of death
2. What factors lead to the determination of the time of death
3. Possible cause of death
4. What tests could have been done if a drug overdose was suspected?

Case 4: A body was found in a dumpster at noon on Tuesday. The dumpster had been emptied on Monday.

- a. Permanent lividity was found along abdomen, chest, and front of the legs.
- b. Body temperature found to be 80° F (27°C), with the average ambient temperature being 70° F (22°C) for the past three days.
- c. Stomach was empty but food was found in small intestine.
- d. Rigor present throughout body.
- e. Lungs filled with fresh water.

1. What is the estimated time of death?
2. Explain how you determined the time of death from the data provided.
3. Can you provide a cause of death? Explain.
4. Can you state a mechanism of death? Why or why not?
5. Can you provide the manner of death? Why or why not?
6. What other tests should be performed during the autopsy to provide as more information to help identify this person?

Case 5: A woman was found dead lying on her back on a kitchen floor at 4 p.m. on Thursday.

- a. No blood loss. No signs of struggle.
- b. No lividity visible. Flies and eggs found on the body.
Stomach contents show some undigested food with some digested food in small intestine.
- c. Body temperature: 97°F; ambient temperature: 87°F

Provide as much information as possible from the above information regarding the death of this woman. Explain your calculations.

Case 6: A woman was found in the freezer at 6 p.m. on Thursday. The following information was included in the report.

- a. Ligature marks on neck
- b. Body Temperature: 30°F, same as freezer
- c. Undigested food in stomach

Provide as much information as possible from the above information regarding the death of this woman. Explain your calculations.