

**OFFICE of the WAYNE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER**1300 East Warren Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207**POST MORTEM REPORT**M.E. CASE NUMBER
MON-09-5585
COUNTY OF DEATH
MONROE
TOWN OF DEATH
RAISINVILLE TOWNSHIP
DATE PRONOUNCED DEAD
Jun 04, 2009

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT Carl Schmidt, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner	PERFORMED A POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY BUCHANAN, NEVAEH
AT Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office	ON June 5, 2009

SUMMARY & OPINION

It is my opinion that death was caused by aspiration of fine particulate material (dirt).

This child was found in a shallow grave. Part of the body was interred, was found face down, and the back was covered by a layer of cement-like material. The body showed moderate signs of decomposition. The superficial layers of the skin had sloughed off, the eyebrows and eyelashes were missing, and the hair fell off easily in clumps. The skin was generally discolored. Internally, the viscera also were moderately decomposed and the brain had turned into an amorphous paste.

Dirt and fine particulate material was found in the upper airway, the trachea, and the medium and small caliber airways. There were patches of gritty, dark material that extended to just under the pleural surface. In many of the small and medium caliber airways, the dirt formed plugs which obstructed these airways. Microscopically, dirt could be seen even in alveolar spaces. This material was also visible under polarized light. These findings indicate that death occurred because of aspiration of this foreign material. Because it extends to the deep peripheral airways, it indicates that the victim sustained multiple, intense inspiratory efforts. This means that this child's face was forcibly maintained or embedded into a dirt surface. Whether this resulted from another person forcibly pressing this child's face into dirt or whether she was buried alive cannot be determined.

Toxicology was noncontributory.

The manner of death is homicide.

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Carl Schmidt, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner
July 14, 2009

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