

OFFICE OF THE CORONER

85 Young Street, Hanover Twp. PA 18706

CORONERS REPORT

DATE: July 31, 2017

NAME OF DECEASED Tricia Cooper
ADDRESS Unknown CITY _____ COUNTY _____
STATE PA ZIP _____ SEX Female RACE White
AGE 45 DATE OF BIRTH 12-9-71 MARITAL STATUS Never married
FULL NAME OF SPOUSE N/A
OCCUPATION None SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 209-54-1072
PLACE OF BIRTH (OR FOREIGN COUNTRY) _____ COUNTY Luzerne
CITY Nanticoke CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY USA VETERAN YES NO
PERSON NOTIFIED OF DEATH Jacob Morrison RELATIONSHIP Son
ADDRESS 3417 Stu11 Rd., Apt 2 CITY Noxen STATE PA ZIP _____
TELEPHONE NUMBER 570-831-9634

PLACE OF DEATH

ADDRESS OR LOCATION General Hospital
CITY OR TWP Wilkes-Barre COUNTY Luzerne STATE PA
DATE OF PRONOUNCEMENT OF DEATH 7-31-17 TIME 1:24pm
DAY OF THE WEEK Monday
IF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION: DATE OF ADMISSION 7-25-17 TIME _____
IF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION: DOA ER OR SURGICAL ICU
 CORONARY CARE OB DEPT. INPATIENT OTHER _____
PRONOUNCED DEAD BY Dr. Madeira TITLE Staff physician
WHERE WAS THE DECEASED ORIGINALLY REMOVED FROM: _____
HOW WAS THE DECEASED TRANSPORTED: AMBULANCE: NAME OF UNIT _____
 OTHER _____

MANNER OF DEATH Suicide

UNDER INVESTIGATION: FINAL DEATH CERTIFICATE ISSUED ON _____

CAUSE OF DEATH

IMMEDIATE CAUSE: Asphyxia
DUE TO: Hanging
DUE TO: _____

OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS _____

DEATH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY William W. Lisman
ADDRESS 85 Young St. CITY Hanover Twp STATE PA

AUTOPSY NO YES - BY WHOM Gary Ross, MD TITLE Pathologist
PLACE OF AUTOPSY Coroner Morgue 85 Young St., Hanover Twp. DATE 8-3-17
TIME OF AUTOPSY 9am ENDED _____

WAS BLOOD DRAWN: NO YES - BY WHOM _____ TITLE _____
DATE DRAWN: _____ TIME DRAWN _____

POLICE: WERE NOTIFIED NO YES - NAME OF DEPT. Luzerne County Detective

INVESTIGATORS Dan Minnaugh
RELEASE: BODY RELEASED TO Piatt FUNERAL HOME IN Hunlock Creek, PA

WAS THIS A CREMATION YES NO

William W. Lisman

CORONER

It is reported by Luzerne County Detective Dan Minmaugh that the deceased was found hanging in her cell. The noose was formed with a T-Shirt that she had ripped into strips. The guards removed her from the cell and an ambulance transported to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

There is no report available that states the cell was secured and photographed at the time of the event.

Photographs of autopsy were taken by Trooper James Shubzda.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Form containing fields for decedent information (TRICIA MARIE COOPER), birth details, residence, cause of death (ASPHYXIA, HANGING), and funeral home information (Clarke Platt Funeral Home, Inc.).

TRICIA COOPER

To Be Completed By: MEDICAL CERTIFIER

AUAS USED

43. Amendments

41. Registrar's Signature

40. Registrar's District Number

39b. Name, Address and Zip Code of Person Completing Cause of Death (Item 26)

39c. Date Signed (Mo/Da/Yr)

42. Registrar File Date (Mo/Da/Yr)

Disposition Permit No.

1478595

H105-143

REV 10/2015

628-17

FORENSIC ASSOCIATES OF NEPA
1008 LEWIS LANE
CLARKS SUMMIT, PA 18411
570-561-5786
forensics.nepa@gmail.com

NAME: Tricia Cooper

AUTOPSY NO: FA-2017-A-201/A17-36C

CASE TYPE: Forensic

AGE: 45 **DOB:** 12/9/1971 **RACE:** White **SEX:** Female

DATE/TIME OF AUTOPSY: August 3, 2017 @ 0900 hours

AUTOPSY PERFORMED AT: Luzerne County Morgue, Hanover Township, Pennsylvania

FOUND: July 25, 2017 @ 1815 hours in jail cell

REPORTED DATE/TIME OF DEATH: July 31, 2017 @ Wilkes Barre General Hospital

AUTOPSY AUTHORIZED BY: Bill Lisman, Luzerne County Coroner

LIMITATIONS: None

BODY IDENTIFICATION: I.D. Tag Coroner

AUTOPSY PERFORMED BY: Gary W. Ross, M.D.

PERSONS PRESENT AT AUTOPSY: Al Hughes, Autopsy Assistant
Bill Lisman, Luzerne County Coroner
Barney Dobinick, Deputy Luzerne County Coroner
Dan Mimnaugh, Luzerne County Detective
James Shubzda, Pennsylvania State Police

INVESTIGATIVE POLICE JURISDICTION: Pennsylvania State Police, Luzerne County

AUTOPSY COMPLETION DATE: August 8, 2017

TRICIA COOPER

FA-2017-A-201/A17-36C

PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES:

GENERAL HISTORY:

History of drug abuse.
History of Hepatitis A and B.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

Ligature abrasion of neck.
Poor dentition.
Multiple tattoos.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

Postmortem organ donation of heart, lungs, liver, portion of spleen, pancreas, adrenals and kidneys.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:

Hemorrhagic endometrium.

HEMATOPOIETIC SYSTEM: (spleen, lymph nodes and bone marrow)

Within Normal Limits

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:

Within Normal Limits

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:

Respirator brain

NECK ORGANS:

Within Normal Limits

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: (thyroid, thymus, parathyroids)

Within Normal Limits

MUSCULO-SKELETAL SYSTEM:

Within Normal Limits

MEDICATIONS:

None known at time of autopsy.

TRICIA COOPER

FA-2017-A-201/A17-36C

TOXICOLOGY: Deferred at autopsy due to delay of death

CAUSE OF DEATH: Asphyxia due to Hanging

MANNER OF DEATH: Suicide

FINAL SUMMARY: The decedent was a 45-year-old white female incarcerated in the Luzerne County prison who reportedly hung herself with a torn T-shirt in her jail cell. Cut down and taken to Wilkes Barre General Hospital and placed on life support. Organ harvest of liver, kidneys, pancreas, adrenals, portion of spleen, lungs and heart.

Ligature abrasion of neck. Typical V-shaped. No other extraneous abrasions. No other external traumatic injury. Multiple tattoos. Needle marks and right antecubital fossa track mark. No internal neck hemorrhages. Trachea patent. Hyoid intact. No scalp hemorrhage. No intracranial hemorrhage. Brain necrotic.

Death due to asphyxia due to hanging. Manner of death: Suicide.

DESCRIPTION OF LIGATURE ABRASION

On the anterior and lateral neck is a thin 1/4 x 9" ligature abrasion, V-shaped extending upwards bilaterally at the laryngeal prominence. No other abrasions. Fingernails short and stubby. Abrasion dry and superficial



Gary W. Ross, M.D.

Forensic Pathologist

Preliminary Date: August 5, 2017

Final Date: August 8, 2017

GWR/sc

TRICIA COOPER

FA-2017-A-201/A17-36C

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION: Unclothed; status post thoracoabdominal organ postmortem donation; neck ligature abrasion

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION: Nasal gastric tube; Foley catheter (no urine); oral endotracheal tube; left clavicular IV; sacral decubitus pad

POST MORTEM ORGAN DONATION: Thoracoabdominal organs including heart, lungs, pancreas, kidneys and liver

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS: Unclothed

DISTINGUISHING MARKS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

SCARS: Right and left wrist $\frac{3}{4}$ "

TATTOOS:

Right chest: bird

Left wrist: flower

Left ankle: flower

Neck: TMC

Right back: geometric

SIGNS OF EXTERNAL INJURY: (abrasions, ecchymosis, cuts, and lacerations)

SCALP: None

FACE: None

NECK: None

CHEST: None

ABDOMEN: None

BACK: None

RIGHT UPPER EXTREMITY: None

LEFT UPPER EXTREMITY: None

RIGHT LOWER EXTREMITY: None

LEFT LOWER EXTREMITY: None

GUNSHOT WOUNDS: None

SHOTGUN WOUND: None

TRACK MARKS: Left antecubital fossa

NEEDLE MARKS: Right and left antecubital fossae, right groin, back left and right hands, bilateral wrists.

HEIGHT: 63"

WEIGHT: Estimated 140 lbs

BODY BUILD: Well Nourished; Well Built

RIGOR: Full

LIVIDITY: Posterior dependent and purplish

STATE OF DECOMPOSITION: Minimal

HEAD: Normocephalic

HAIR: Brown

EYES:

SCLERA: White

CONJUNCTIVA: Clear

PUPILS: Equal and round

IRIDES: Brown

ECCHYMOSES: None

NOSE: FOREIGN DEBRIS: None
NARES: Patent
BONES: Intact

ORAL CAVITY: FOREIGN DEBRIS: None
CUTS: None
BITE MARKS: None
TONGUE: Unremarkable
TEETH: Poor dentition; multiple missing teeth and caries
LIPS: Unremarkable

EARS: Unremarkable
LOBES: Unremarkable

FACIAL HAIR: Slight Hirsutism upper lip and chin
BREASTS/NIPPLES: Unremarkable
SKIN LESIONS (other than trauma): None
FINGERNAILS: Unremarkable

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION IMPRESSION: Neck ligature abrasion.
Poor dentition.
Multiple tattoos.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION: Postmortem donation of heart, lungs, liver, portion of spleen, pancreas, adrenals and kidneys.

SUBCUTANEOUS FAT: 1/2"

CONGENITAL ANOMALIES: None

SPLEEN: (Submitted in a separate container)

WEIGHT: 200 grams

CAPSULE: Intact

COLOR: Reddish

PARENCHYMA: Within Normal Limits

FIBROSIS: None

TUMOR: None

CYSTS: None

HEMORRHAGE: None

INFARCTION: None

HILAR LYMPH NODES: Unremarkable

SPLENIC GROSS IMPRESSION: Within Normal Limits

GENTOURINARY SYSTEM:

BLADDER:

BLADDER FLUID VOLUME: Foley catheter
MUCOSA: Flat
TUMOR: None
CYSTS: None
FIBROSIS: None
PERIVESICULAR HEMORRHAGE: None

RIGHT OVARY: Within Normal Limits

TUMOR: None
CYSTS: Physiologic
HEMORRHAGE: None

LEFT OVARY: Within Normal Limits

TUMOR: None
CYSTS: Physiologic
HEMORRHAGE: None

RIGHT FALLOPIAN TUBE: Within Normal Limits

TUMOR: None
CYSTS: None
HEMORRHAGE: None

LEFT FALLOPIAN TUBE: Within Normal Limits

TUMOR: None
CYSTS: None
HEMORRHAGE: None

UTERUS:

SIZE: 4.0 x 5.0 x 3.0 cm.
MYOMETRIUM: Unremarkable, no nodularity or cyst
ENDOMETRIUM: Hemorrhagic
PREGNANCY: No

CERVIX:

ULCERATIONS: None
TUMOR: None
POLYPS: None
CERVICAL OS: Unremarkable, patent

VAGINA:

TEARING: None
TUMOR: None
ULCERATIONS: None
FOREIGN MATERIAL: None

VULVA:

ECCHYMOSIS: None
TUMOR: None
ULCERATION: None
TRAUMA: None
PUBIC HAIR: Within Normal Limits
GENITOURINARY SYSTEM GROSS IMPRESSIONS: Hemorrhagic endometrium.

GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT:**ESOPHAGUS:**

STRUCTURE: None
FIBROSIS: None
ULCERATION: None
FOREIGN DEBRIS: None

STOMACH:

TUMOR: None
ULCERATION: None
CONTENTS: 500 ml watery fluid and 2-3 green beans
RUGAL FOLDING PATTERN: Within Normal Limits
MUCOSA: Unremarkable

PYLORUS: Widely patent**SMALL INTESTINE:**

INTEGRITY: Intact, no perforation
CONTENTS: Partially digested food
ISCHEMIA: None
TUMOR: None
CYSTS: None

LARGE INTESTINE:

INTEGRITY: Intact, no perforation
CONTENTS: Feces
ISCHEMIA: None
TUMOR: None
CYSTS: None

ABDOMINAL FLUID: Unremarkable, Within Normal Limits
ABDOMINAL SEROSA: Smooth and glistening
MESENTERY: Within Normal Limits, smooth, glistening and intact
ABDOMINAL LYMPH NODES: Within Normal Limits
ANUS: Intact

DIAPHRAGM: Intact**RETROPERITONEUM:** Within normal limits**GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM GROSS IMPRESSION:** Within Normal Limits

BRAIN:

WEIGHT: 1300 grams
SCALP INJURY: None
SKULL FRACTURE: None
DURA: Intact, no epidural or subdural hemorrhage
ARACHNOID: No hemorrhage
BRAIN CONSISTENCY: Necrotic
CEREBELLUM: Necrotic
BRAINSTEM: Necrotic
CYSTS: None
TUMORS: None
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM GROSS IMPRESSION: Respirator brain

NECK ORGANS:

LARYNX: No fractures, within normal limits
HYOID: No fracture, no periosteal hemorrhage
STRAP MUSCLES: No hemorrhage
CERVICAL LYMPH NODES: No significant adenopathy
TRACHEA: Patent
VOCAL CORDS: Unremarkable
NECK ORGANS GROSS IMPRESSION: Within Normal Limits

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:

THYROID: Within Normal Limits
CYSTS: None
TUMOR: None
INTRAPARENCHYMAL HEMORRHAGE: None
NODULARITY: None
FIBROSIS: None
PARATHYROID: Within Normal Limits
THYMUS: Atrophy
ENDOCRINE GROSS IMPRESSION: Within Normal Limits

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:

CLAVICLES: Intact, no fractures
RIBS: Intact, no fractures
VERTEBRAE: Intact, no fractures
STERNUM: Intact, no fractures
SKULL: Intact, no fractures
PELVIS: Intact, no fractures
RIGHT UPPER EXTREMITY: Intact, no fractures
RIGHT LOWER EXTREMITY: Intact, no fractures
LEFT UPPER EXTREMITY: Intact, no fractures
LEFT LOWER EXTREMITY: Intact, no fractures
MANDIBLE: Intact, no fractures
MAXILLA: Intact, no fractures
NOSE: Intact, no fractures
MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM GROSS IMPRESSION: Within Normal Limits

TRICIA COOPER

FA-2017-A-201/A17-36C

TOXICOLOGY SPECIMENS: Deferred

PHOTOGRAPHY: James Shubzda, Pennsylvania State Police

RADIOLOGY: No

TISSUE SPECIMENS:

STOCK: Yes

HISTOLOGY: No

WHOLE ORGANS: Larynx and hyoid

CLOTHES: Unclothed

PERSONAL EFFECTS: None

TRACE EVIDENCE: Not Obtained

FINGERNAILS: Not Retained

HAIR SAMPLES: Not Retained

SPECIAL AUTOPSY PROCEDURES: None

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED: Coroner's report

DOCUMENTS TO BE OBTAINED: None