



County of Los Angeles, Department of Coroner Investigator's Narrative



Case Number: 2004-01976

Decedent: PASTORELLI, ROBERT JOSEPH

Information Sources:

1. Officers Bowler and Bondoc, Los Angeles Police Department North Hollywood Division, (818) 623-4016
2. Officers Sanchez and Bentz, Los Angeles Police Department Hollywood Division, (213) 485-4302
3. Detective Thomas Small, Los Angeles Police Department Hollywood Homicide, (213) 485-6410
4. Carlos E. Morgner, decedent's business manager, (818) [REDACTED]
5. On scene investigation

Investigation:

On 3/8/04 at 1642 hours, Officer Bowler reported this case to our office. He reported that the decedent was found unresponsive, 911 was called and he was pronounced at the scene. It was reported as a possible heroin overdose with paraphernalia at the scene.

Lt. Fred Corral assigned this case to me at 1710 hours. I arrived to the scene at 1745 hours and cleared from the call at 1900 hours. The decedent was transported from the scene to the Forensic Science Center by Forensic Attendant L. Valenzuela.

Location:

Place of Injury/Death: Bathroom of residence, 2751 Hollyridge Drive, Hollywood, CA 90068

Witness Statements:

Upon arrival, I met with officers from both Los Angeles Police Department Hollywood and North Hollywood Divisions who gave me the following information. On 3/8/04 at approximately 1420 hours, the decedent was found unresponsive in the bathroom by his personal assistant, Mirna Ortiz. She called 911 and Los Angeles Fire Department #827 paramedics responded to pronounce him at 1449 hours. Ms. Ortiz last saw him alive just before he went into the bathroom.

While at the scene, I spoke with the decedent's business manager, Carlos Morgner. He said the decedent had a history of drug abuse 15 years ago but was reportedly clean since then. He didn't know what drug he abused but a relative of the decedent's children said he had abused heroin. Mr. Morgner said he didn't know of any reason why he would have started using again but that he had been depressed over the direction his life was going in. His medical history included Hepatitis B, an unknown gastrointestinal problem, and surgery to remove part of his intestines two years ago. Mr. Morgner said the decedent did not have any suicidal ideations and no attempts at suicide.

Detective Small added that the decedent started using heroin approximately a few months ago and he apparently told Mirna Ortiz that he injected Vitamin B. Detective Small also said that he had been depressed since his girlfriend killed herself in March 1999.

Scene Description:

It was a residence where the decedent lived with his personal assistant. He lived on both coasts and stayed at the residence when he was on the west coast. It had multiple bedrooms, bathrooms, a living room, and a kitchen. The residence was clean and organized. The decedent was found lying supine at the doorway to his bedroom and bathroom. His lower extremities were in the bathroom on the tiled floor and his torso was on the carpeted bedroom floor. His legs were extended straight with his feet approximately 1-½ feet apart. His left arm was extended and perpendicular to his body. His right arm was at his side. According to police at the scene, the



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decedent was originally found by his personal assistant seated on the toilet slumped over. The 911 operator she was speaking to instructed her to move him to the floor and when she did, she found a syringe in his right arm. She removed it and placed it in the sink. I found the syringe in the sink on the left side of the counter and the spoon and plastic bag with a white powder substance were found on the counter to the right of the sink. The toilet is directly across from the sink on the opposite side in the bathroom. The prescription medication bottle was also found on the counter in the bathroom.

Evidence:

On 3/8/04 at 1830 hours, I collected and placed into medical evidence one uncapped syringe, one white metal spoon with a dark residue and a small piece of cotton in it, one clear plastic bag of a white powder substance and one prescription medication, Purinethol.

Body Examination:

The decedent was a male Caucasian adult who appeared to be the reported 49 years of age. He was wearing brown shoes, black socks, black pants, black belt, black underwear and a white tank top. His tank top was cut by paramedics for purposes of CPR. There appeared to be vomit on his pants. He was wearing a toupee. The ambient temperature unregulated was 81 degrees at 1812 hours. The liver temperature was not taken, however, the body was cool to the touch. Rigor mortis was not noted. Livor mortis blanched with light pressure and was consistent with being found lying supine on the floor. There appeared to be a possible needle puncture mark to the right antecubital fossa. There was a healed midline scar to his abdomen. There were multiple tattoos; roses were on his right chest, "Gianna" was on his left chest, "Marta" with a child's face below it was on his upper right abdomen, a child's face was on his left upper abdomen, a rose was on his right lower abdomen, a dragon and angel with wings were on his right arm, a lion with a child was on his left arm, Virgin Mary was on his left forearm, flowers and designs were on his left wrist, designs were on his right wrist and a wolf was on his left back. There were no other scars, marks, tattoos or deformities noted. There was no obvious evidence of trauma noted.

Identification:

The decedent was identified by his California driver's license, as Robert Joseph Pastorelli, DOB 06/21/1954. The decedent's personal assistant, Mirna Ortiz, also viewed his body at the scene.

Next of Kin Notification:

The decedent's mother, Dorothy Pastorelli, was notified of the death by Gwen Pastorelli on 3/8/04. I verified that Ms. Pastorelli was notified of the death with the decedent's business manager, Carlos Morgner, while at the scene.

Tissue Donation:

Decedent is not a viable tissue donation candidate.

Autopsy Notification:

No law enforcement request.

KELLY YAGERLENER

FRED CORRAL

Date of Report

15

AUTOPSY CLASS: A B C Examination Only D

Date 3-9-04 Time 0830 Dr. Rogers

FINAL ON 326-04 By Rogers
print print

APPROXIMATE INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH

04-1976

Pastorelli, Robert

DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: (Enter only one cause per line for A, B, C, and D)

IMMEDIATE CAUSE

(A) Acute cocaine-morphine (heroin) toxicity ← late

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

(B) _____

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

(C) _____

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

(D) _____

Other conditions contributing but not related to the immediate cause of death:

NATURAL SUICIDE HOMICIDE

ACCIDENT COULD NOT BE DETERMINED

If other than natural causes
HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?

Injection of drugs

WAS OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION STATED ABOVE: YES NO

TYPE SURGERY _____ DATE _____

ORGAN PROCUREMENT TECHNICIAN Brown

WITNESSES TO AUTOPSY EVIDENCE RECOVERED AT AUTOPSY

Item Description:

PRIOR EXAMINATION REVIEW BY DME

BODY TAG OR CLOTHING
 X-RAY (No. _____) FLUORO
 SPECIAL MED. RECORDS

PROCESSING TAG

AT SCENE PHOTOS (No. 602)

TYPING BLOOD TAKEN BY _____
SOURCE _____

TOXICOLOGY

NO BLOOD
 Embalmed
 >24 hr in hospital
 Decomposed
 Other _____
Reason _____

SPECIMENS

Collected by OR
 HEART BLOOD STOMACH CONT
 FEMORAL BLOOD BRAIN (3)
 _____ BLOOD SPLEEN
 _____ BLOOD KIDNEY
 BILE VITREOUS
 LIVER _____
 URINE _____

STORAGE JARS

Regular (No. 1) Oversize (No. _____)
Histopath Cut: Autopsy Lab

NO TOXICOLOGY REQUESTED

TOXICOLOGICAL ANALYSES ORDERED

SCREEN: C H T S
 ALCOHOL ONLY
 CARBON MONOXIDE
 NEOGEN SCREEN
 OTHER (specify drug and tissue)

REQUESTED MATERIAL ON PENDING CASES

Police Report Med History
 Tox Histo
 Microbiology Investigations
 Radiology Cons. Eye Path. Cons
 Consult on _____
 Brain Submitted
 Neuro Consult DME to Cut
 Criminalistics
 GSR Sexual Assault Other

Resident

Christophe Rogers
DME