

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINER DISTRICT 15 – STATE OF FLORIDA PALM BEACH COUNTY 3126 GUN CLUB ROAD WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33406-3005

(561) 688-4575 (561) 688-4592 FAX

NAME: TRUCKS, CLAUDE

CASE NUMBER: 17-0119

DATE FOUND DEAD: January 25, 2017

AGE: 69 SEX: M RACE: W

DATE OF AUTOPSY: January 25, 2017 / 1120

MEDICAL EXAMINER REPORT

- I. Penetrating Gunshot Wound of Head
 - A. Perforation of skull and brain
 - B. Projectile recovered
- II. Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease
 - A. Left ventricular hypertrophy
 - B. Nephrosclerosis
- III. Atherosclerosis of Coronary Arteries
 - A. Remote myocardial infarction
- IV. Atherosclerosis of Aorta

Cause of Death:

Gunshot Wound of Head

Manner of Death:

Suicide

How incident occurred: Shot self with handgun

Marcela Chisté, MD

Associate Medical Examiner

Date Signed: (

NAME: TRUCKS, CLAUDE CASE NUMBER: 17-0119

OFFICIALS PRESENT AT EXAMINATION

None.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of a well-developed, well-nourished, adult man appearing the stated age of 69 years. The body measures 5 foot 11 inches and weighs 198 pounds. The body mass index is 27 kilograms per meter squared. The skin is white. The body is cold from refrigeration. Rigor mortis is fully developed. Lividity is fixed, purple and posterior, rising to the posterior axillary lines.

The scalp hair is gray, straight, with vertex balding and measures 20 centimeters in maximal length. Facial hair consists of a 2-centimeter gray mustache. The irides are hazel. The pupils have equal diameters. The conjunctivae have no petechiae. The sclerae are white. The nose and mouth are atraumatic. The oral cavity has natural dentition in fair repair. The ears are unremarkable. The neck is symmetric and has no injuries.

The thorax is well developed and symmetric. The abdomen is flat and soft. The external genitalia are those of a normal adult uncircumcised man. The testes are descended into the scrotal sac and are palpably unremarkable. The anus has no abnormalities. The extremities are unremarkable. The fingernails and toenails are trimmed to a short length and are clean.

TATTOOS AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS

The sternal region has a 3 centimeter horizontal scar, superiorly. The superior aspect of the abdomen centrally has a 6 centimeter vertical scar and an 11 centimeter horizontal scar. The supra-pubic region has a 6 centimeter vertical scar. The anterior aspect of the left shoulder has a 12 x 8 centimeter ovoid scar. The right knee has a 10 centimeter vertical scar.

The lateral aspect of the right calf has a black tattoo depicting a symbol.

EVIDENCE OF RECENT MEDICAL TREATMENT

None.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

Gunshot Wound of Head

1. The right temple has an entrance gunshot wound, centered 4 inches below the top of the head, 6 inches to the right of the anterior midline and 2 inches superior to the right external

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auditory meatus. The wound consists of a 1.6 centimeter round perforation of the skin with a 0.3 centimeter tan-red margin of abrasion. A few skin tears radiate from the wound, measuring 0.6 and 0.3 centimeters, located at the 5 and 6 o'clock positions, respectively. Soot is deposited within the wound. There is no muzzle imprint or stippling on the surrounding skin.

- 2. The hemorrhagic wound track extends through the scalp, right temporalis muscle and enters the cranial cavity through the squamous portion of the right temporal bone, forming an inward-beveled perforation with soot deposition. The wound further extends to the dura mater and brain, including the right frontal lobe, corpus callosum, and left parietal lobe. The wound terminates within the left parietal bone, which is externally beveled.
- 3. There is no corresponding exit wound. A projectile is recovered from the left parietal bone. A projectile fragment is recovered from the wound track within the brain. The projectile and fragment are photographed on a labeled evidence envelope before being sealed in that envelope and given into police custody.
- 4. The direction of the wound path, with respect to the standard anatomic position, is right to left, front to back and upward.
- 5. Associated findings include the following: The left eye has purple-blue periorbital ecchymosis. The subscalpular tissue and galeal aponeurosis overlying the entrance and exit wounds are markedly hemorrhagic. The temporalis muscles are markedly hemorrhagic. The frontal bone has a linear, displaced fracture involving both sides and a non-displaced diastatic fracture. The right side of the frontal bone, the right parietal, right temporal and the occipital bones have several comminuted, displaced fractures. The calvaria has linear, displaced fractures radiating from the exit wound which involve the left parietal, left temporal and occipital bones. The base of the skull has several comminuted, displaced fractures involving the anterior and middle cranial fossa. The subdural space contains an estimated 20 milliliters of clotted blood. The brain has thin subarachnoid hemorrhages involving all surfaces.

Postmortem radiologic examination of the head reveals one projectile and several tiny fragments along the wound track.

Other Injuries

The chin has a 2×0.5 centimeter superficial laceration.

EVIDENCE OF ORGAN AND/OR TISSUE DONATION

None.

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INTERNAL EXAMINATION

HEAD

The scalp and skull are remarkable as indicated above. The epidural space has no blood collections or exudates. The leptomeninges are thin and translucent. The cerebrospinal fluid is bloody. The brain weighs 1502 grams and has symmetrical cerebral hemispheres. The external and cut surfaces of the brain are remarkable as previously described. The cerebral arteries at the base of the brain have no aneurysmal dilatations, stenosis or atherosclerosis. The cerebral ventricles are of normal caliber and shape.

NECK

The cervical spine, laryngeal cartilages, hyoid bone and strap muscles of the neck have no injuries. The tongue has no lacerations or contusions. The pharynx, larynx, and trachea have smooth mucosal linings covered with blood, without masses or obstructions.

BODY CAVITIES

The pleural, pericardial, and peritoneal cavities have no fluid accumulations or adhesions. The subcutaneous fat of the anterior abdominal wall is 3 centimeters thick. The visceral organs are in their normal anatomic positions and have no decomposition or unusual odor.

CARDIOVASCULAR

The heart weighs 526 grams. The epicardial surface is smooth and glistening. The coronary arteries arise from normally situated, normal sized ostia and follow the usual distribution, with a right dominant pattern. The mid-portion of the left anterior descending coronary artery has stenosis of 50% by an eccentric, calcified atherosclerotic plaque. The distal portion of the left anterior descending coronary artery has stenosis of 75% by a concentric fibro-fatty atherosclerotic plaque. The proximal portion of the left circumflex coronary artery has stenosis of 50% by a concentric, fibro-fatty atherosclerotic plaque. The remainder coronary arteries are patent and free of atherosclerosis. The mitral valve leaflets are mildly thickened. The remainder valves are thin and pliable. The chordae tendineae are thin and unremarkable. The atria and ventricular septa are intact. The myocardial cut surfaces are firm and red-brown. The inferior wall of the left ventricle has a 1 x 0.7 centimeter fibrotic area (Comment: remote myocardial infarction). The endocardium is smooth and translucent. The chambers of the heart have no dilatation. The septum and free wall of the left ventricle measure 1.6 centimeters in thickness, each.

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The aortic arch has a normal branching pattern. The aorta has numerous calcified and ulcerated atherosclerotic plaques, mostly involving the abdominal portion of the vessel. The venae cavae have no thrombi and are unremarkable. The great vessels connect to the heart in a normal fashion. The great vessels and the chambers of the heart are filled with liquid blood. The pulmonary trunk and pulmonary arteries are patent without thromboemboli, and have atherosclerotic plaques in the intima.

PULMONARY

The right and left lungs weigh 583 and 481 grams, respectively. The pleural surfaces are smooth with moderate anthracotic reticulation. Cut surfaces of the pulmonary parenchyma are pink with scattered black spots and confluent red hexagonal patches consistent with blood aspiration. They exude a moderate amount of bloody fluid. The bronchi are tan and lined with blood. The peripheral pulmonary arteries have smooth intimal surfaces and no thromboemboli.

LIVER, GALLBLADDER and PANCREAS

The liver weighs 1565 grams. The capsule is smooth and glistening. The external and cut surfaces are tan-brown. The parenchyma is soft and homogeneous, without lesions. The hepatic veins are patent. The gallbladder contains an estimated 40 milliliters of dark green viscid bile, without calculi. The extrahepatic biliary tree is patent. The pancreas has a red-tan lobulated parenchyma with no masses or calcifications.

HEMATOPOIETIC and LYMPHATIC

The spleen weighs 160 grams. The capsule is intact and smooth. Cut surfaces of the splenic parenchyma are red-purple and firm, with unremarkable white pulp architecture. The lymph nodes are not enlarged. The thymus is fat replaced.

GENITOURINARY

The right and left kidneys weigh 130 and 149 grams, respectively. The capsules are thin and strip with ease. The cortical surfaces are red-brown and finely granular. The cut surfaces are red-brown. The corticomedullary demarcations are distinct. The collecting systems and ureters are not dilated. The urinary bladder contains an estimated 35 milliliters of clear yellow urine. The bladder mucosa is pink-tan and unremarkable.

The prostate gland is not identified. The testes are descended and have unremarkable stringy tan parenchyma without masses or contusions.

Autopsyfiles.org - Claude "Butch" Trucks Autopsy Report

NAME: TRUCKS, CLAUDE CASE NUMBER: 17-0119

ENDOCRINE

The thyroid gland is roughly symmetric and has homogeneous tan cut surfaces. The adrenal glands have uniform yellow cortices and intact gray medullae.

GASTROINTESTINAL

The esophagus is lined by a smooth white-tan mucosa. The gastroesophageal junction is unremarkable. The stomach has a smooth tan unremarkable mucosa with the usual rugal folds. The stomach contains a measured 20 milliliters of tan watery fluid. The serosa of the small and large intestines is unremarkable. The appendix is unremarkable.

MUSCULOSKELETAL

The clavicles, sternum, ribs, pelvis, and vertebrae have no recent fractures. The vertebral bodies have moderate degenerative changes, i.e. osteophytes on vertebral bodies. The musculature is redbrown and normally developed.

TOXICOLOGY: See separate report from Wuesthoff Laboratories.

MC

End of Report



Autopsyfiles.org - Claude "Butch" Trucks Autopsy Report Wuesthoff Reference Laboratory

6800 Spyglass Court Melbourne, Florida 32940 Julie Bell, M.D., Laboratory Director

Patient: TRUCKS, CLAUDE H

Client Patient ID:

15-17-0119

Age: **69** Sex: M Account#: VX92343

Physician:

CHISTE, MARCELA

Client: DIST 15 MEDICAL EXAMINER

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Lab Order No: 732601321 Reg Date: 01/26/17 Specimen Collected: 01/25/2017

Cutoff/Reporting Limits Result Units Test Name

VOLATILE PANEL - VOLP

SPECIMEN TYPE

FEMORAL BLOOD

					
	ETHANOL	NONE	DETECTED	g/dL	0.010
	ACETONE	NONE	DETECTED	mg/dL	7.5
į	METHANOL	NONE	DETECTED	mg/dL	15.0
	ISOPROPANOL	NONE	DETECTED	mg/dL	15.0

Analysis by Gas Chromatography (GC) Headspace Injection

BLOOD DRUG SCREEN - BDSME

SPECIMEN TYPE

FEMORAL BLOOD

GC/MS

BUTALBITAL, CAFFEINE

LC/MS/MS

ALPRAZOLAM, CAFFEINE, CAFFEINE METABOLITE

BLOOD IMMUNOASSAY SCREEN

SPECIMEN TYPE

FEMORAL BLOOD

AMPHETAMINES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.100
BARBITURATES	POSITIVE	mg/L	0.100
BENZODIAZEPINES	POSITIVE	mg/L	0.050
BUPRENORPHINE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.001
CANNABINOIDS		mg/L	0.050
Screening	result suggests the need	for further testing	
COCAINE METABOLITE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.100
FENTANYL	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.001
OPIATES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.050

BARBITURATES PANEL - BARP

SPECIMEN TYPE



Autopsyfiles ora. Claude "Butch" Trucks Autopsy Report Wuesthoff Reference Laboratory

6800 Spyglass Court Melbourne, Florida 32940 Julie Bell, M.D., Laboratory Director

Patient: TRUCKS, CLAUDE H

Client Patient ID:

Physician:

15-17-0119

CHISTE, MARCELA

Age: 69 Sex: M VX92343 Account#:

Client: DIST 15 MEDICAL EXAMINER

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Specimen Collected :01/25/2017	Lab Order No: 7326013	21	Reg Date: 01/26/17
Test Name	Result	Units	Cutoff/Reporting Limits
FEMORAL BLOOD BUTALBITAL	2.925	mg/L	0.050
Therapeutic range: 1.70 - 2.60 mg/L	2,925	mg/ n	0.030
AMOBARBITAL	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.050
PENTOBARBITAL	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.050
SECOBARBITAL	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.050
PHENOBARBITAL	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.050
Analysis by GC/MS BENZODIAZEPINES PANEL - BNZP SPECIMEN TYPE FEMORAL BLOOD			
CHLORDIAZEPOXIDE	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.025
MIDAZOLAM	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.025
DIAZEPAM	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.025
DESALKYLFLURAZEPAM	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.025
NORDIAZEPAM	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.025
OXAZEPAM	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.025
TEMAZEPAM	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.025
LORAZEPAM	NONE DETECTED	mg/L	0.025
ALPRAZOLAM Therapeutic range: 0.010 - 0.050 mg/L	0.173	mg/L	0.025
ALPHA-OH-ALPRAZOLAM	<0.025	mg/L	0.025

Alpha-Hydroxyalprazolam has approximately 66% of the pharmacological activity of Alprazolam.

Analysis by GC/MS

CANNABINOIDS PANEL - THCP

SPECIMEN TYPE

FEMORAL BLOOD

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

TRUCKS, CLAUDE H

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Printed: 04/14/17 10:45



6800 Spyglass Court Melbourne, Florida 32940 Julie Bell, M.D., Laboratory Director

TRUCKS, CLAUDE H Patient:

Client Patient ID:

15-17-0119

Age: 69 Sex: M

Account#: VX92343

Physician:

CHISTE, MARCELA

Client: DIST 15 MEDICAL EXAMINER

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Specimen Collected: 01/25/2017

Lab Order No: 732601321

Reg Date: 01/26/17

Test Name

Result

Units

Cutoff/Reporting Limits

DELTA-9 THC

<2.0

ng/mL

2.0

Synonym(s):

Active ingredient of Marijuana

The concentrations in blood are usually about one-half of serum/plasma concentrations. Usual peak levels in serum for 1.75% or 3.55% THC marijuana cigarettes: 50 - 270 ng/mL at 6 to 9 minutes after beginning smoking, decreasing

to less than 5 ng/mL by 2 hours. Passive inhalation: Up to 2 ng/mL.

11-HYDROXY DELTA-9 THC

NONE DETECTED

ng/mL

2.0

Synonym(s): Active metabolite

Usual peak levels: Less than 10% of THC levels after smoking.

DELTA-9 CARBOXY THC

8.0

ng/mL

5.0

Synonym(s): Inactive metabolite

Usual peak levels in serum for 1.75% or 3.55% THC marijuana cigarettes: 10 - 101 ng/mL about 32 to 240 minutes after beginning smoking, with a slow decline. Usually not detectable after passive inhalation.

Analysis by GC/MS.

Specimens were intact upon receipt. Chain of custody, specimen security and integrity has been mantained. Testing has been performed as requested

Date: 4-17-17

FINAL REPORT - THIS COMPLETES REPORTING ON THIS CASE

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

TRUCKS, CLAUDE H

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Printed: 04/14/17 10:45

Form: MM Single RL1T



## District 15 • Palm Beach County Medical Examiners Office

170119
Trucks, Claude H
White Male 69 Y
Dr. M C

101 Z

3126 Gun Club Road • West Palm Beach, FL 33406
TEL: (561) 688-4575 • www.pbcgov.com/medicalexaminer

CASE #:	17	-011	9	DATE: 01/251	2017	TIME:	1120	
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170119 CASE #: Trucks, Claude H White Male 69 Y Dr. M C	DATE:	AUTOPSY #:	
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Decedent: Claude Hudson Trucks, Jr. A.K.A. Butch Trucks

Date of Birth: May 11, 1947 Date of Death: January 74, 2017

Incident Location: North Flagler Dr., West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Notified by: Detective Regina Wood, ID 1526

Agency & Case #: West Palm Beach Police Department - 17-1569

Forensic Investigator: Doug Jenkins

M. E. Case #: 17-0119

### Narrative:

I received a call at 2130 hrs on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office communications requesting me to call Detective Regina Wood, ID 1526 of the West Palm Beach Police Department. I called and spoke telephonically with Detective Wood who informed me that their department was located at 'North Flagler Dr., a 'I in their city investigating the apparent gunshot of head suicide of an adult white man with the scene and body undisturbed and requesting I respond. I initiated my response to the scene at 2145 hrs and arrived there at approximately 2215 hrs.

### Background information:

Upon my arrival at the scene, I met with Detective Wood who informed me that the decedent is identified as Mr. Claude Hudson Trucks, A.K.A. "Butch Trucks". Mr. Trucks is positively identified at the scene by his wife, Ms. Melinda Trucks, who also witnessed the event. Mr. Trucks is also positively identified by his Florida driver license identification photograph. Mr. Trucks a 69-year-old white man with a date of birth of May 11, 1947 with this incident occurring at approximately 1800 hrs on this date and the 911 call being received by fire rescue at 1803 hrs.

Detective Wood continued by stating that per Ms. Trucks, the decedent had a past medical history of mild cardiac disease. Also, the decedent recently has had a history of depression due to financial issues (foreclosures on 2 houses in West Palm Beach, New York City and Paris), in addition, the decedent has been paying back taxes owed to the Internal Revenue Service of \$20,000 per month for the last two years. Additionally, Ms. Trucks informed Detective Wood that for the last week the decedent was depressed because of the band(s) breaking up, but has never previous threatened or attempted suicide.



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Ms. Trucks informed Detective Wood that the decedent was acting normal today with nothing being out of the ordinary and at approximately 1800 hrs this evening, she walked into the master bedroom of their residence and saw him standing in front of a dresser with the next to the top dresser drawer open and loading a revolver. Ms. Trucks asked him what he was doing and he just looked at her, put the gun to the right side of his head and shot himself. Upon shooting himself, the handgun fell out of Mr. Trucks hand and into the open dresser drawer and Mr. Trucks fell straight downward hitting his chin on top edge of the open dresser drawer. Ms. Trucks informed Detective Wood that the decedent was right handed

Detective Wood has no further information at this time.

### • Scene Description:

The scene is located in the Majestic Towers 1 condominium subdivision at the above referenced address in West Palm Beach. The condominium complex is a secured facility with 24-hour security guards at the entrances along with security video surveillance.

The entrance door to the condominium unit is intact and there is no sign of a forced entry. The inside the condominium is fully furnished, neat and well maintained with no sign of a struggle, foul play, ransacking or anything suspicious.

A cursory search of the residence reveals Sheldon Nassberg, MD. Had prescribed one bottle for alprazolam to the decedent on January 17, 2017. No other prescribed medications for the decedent and no illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverage containers or tobacco products are found inside the residence. No suicide note is found. The residential thermostat is set to on automatic at 75°F.

The decedent is located in the master bedroom, which is located to the right of the entrance of the residence. The master bedroom is fully furnished and shows no sign of anything suspicious. There is pooling blood on the floor around the decedent's head.

The open dresser drawer has a revolver handgun along with holster and several boxes of ammunition along with several other items in it. There are also a few hairs on top edge of the open dresser drawer along with blood spatter inside the drawer.



### M. E. Case #: 17-0119

The handgun is a Taurus 0.38 SPL caliber 6 shot revolver with a 4-inch barrel. There is no blood spatter seen in or on the muzzle, barrel, cylinder or grips. The cylinder is loaded with three live 0.38 SPL non-jacketed hollow point ammunition rounds that are in the 2, 4 and 10 o'clock position and a spent 0.38 SPL caliber ammunition casing in the 12 o'clock position. The 6 and 8 o'clock positions of the cylinder chambers are empty.

Nothing further is noted to the scene.

### Body Description:

The body is lying in a supine position on the master bedroom floor in front of the open dresser. The decedent's head is directionalized straight forward and tilted slightly to the left. The right arm is fully extended and is slightly fanned outward from the torso. The left arm is fully extended and fanned straight out from the torso. Both legs are fully extended down away from the torso.

The body visually appears to be approximately 6 feet tall and to weigh an estimated 200 pounds. The body looks to be healthy and well nourished and is dressed in a long sleeve zipped up orange colored sweatshirt, a blue tee shirt with a print and signature of Duane Allman on the front of it, gray pants, black underwear and black slip on driving shoes. The pant pockets are empty. There is no jewelry and no valuables on the body.

The body is cool to the touch. Rigor mortis is absent and blanching livor mortis is consistent with the body position. There is a healed cross-shaped surgical scar to the abdominal midline. No tattoos or other identifying marks and no odors or insect activity is noted to the body.

There is a circular shaped wound to the right temporal area directly above the right ear. This wound has an abraded wound of margin and the skin has a pinkish discoloration surrounding the wound. No blackening or residue is seen surrounding the wound. There are skull fractures felt radiating from the wound and a fragmented type skull fracture is felt to the upper left parietal area of the skull. The upper eyelid this swollen and black. No other injury or trauma is seen to the head and no fractures are felt to the bones of the face to the head. Blood is present in both ears, nose and mouth with the nose and mouth unobstructed. Both oral frenula are intact and the teeth are natural



### M. E. Case #: 17-0119

The irides are blue and are not clouded or dehydrated. No scleral or conjunctival petechial hemorrhage and no congestion is seen to the eyes.

No fractures are felt to the bones of the neck or shoulders and there is no injury or trauma and no ligature marks seen to the neck.

There are no fractures felt to the anterior or posterior rib cage and the hips feel to be intact. No injury or trauma is seen to the torso and the abdomen is soft and is not distended.

No fractures are felt to the bones of the arms, wrists or hands. The areas of the upper extremities that are covered with the sweatshirt are not visually examined at the scene; however, no defects are seen to the sweatshirt sleeves that would suggest underline injury or trauma. No injuries are seen to the hands. The fingernails are short and intact. Blood spatter on both hands. The hands are not secured in hand preservation bags at the scene.

There are no fractures felt to the bones of the legs, ankles or feet. The lower extremities are not visually examined at the scene; however, there are no defects seen to the pants or shoes that would suggest underline injury or trauma.

Nothing further is noted to the body at the scene. I concluded the scene and body examination at approximately 2250 hrs on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

### • Unique Situations: N/A

• Transportation of Remains:

At 2200 hrs on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, Elite Removal Service, Inc. was dispatched to North Flagler Dr., at West Palm Beach, FL to transport the body of Claude Hudson Trucks (MEO 17-0119) to the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office.

Body Bag Seal:

N/A



M. E. Case #: 17-0119

Next of Kin:

Wife - Melinda W. Trucks

### Social and Family History:

The decedent social and family history are noncontributory

### Identification:

Visual by the wife.

### Past Medical History / Recent Complaints / Hospitalizations:

Mild heart disease with recent complaints of depression due to financial and career issues.

### Medications:

Alprazolam 2 mg filled on January 17, 2017 for 120 pills with the instructions of taking one tablet 4 times daily and 53 remaining pills remaining.

### Medical Records Reviewed / Requested:

At 1034 hrs on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, I faxed a request to West Palm Beach Fire Rescue requesting a copy of the fire rescue run regarding this incident. At 1121 hrs on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, the requested fire rescue run report was faxed to this office and given to Associate Medical Examiner, Marcela Chiste, M.D.