

## Michael M. Baden, M.D.

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### AUTOPSY REPORT

Decedent: Kathleen Savio (40 years old)  
Date of Birth: June 13, 1963  
Date of Death: March 1, 2004 (found 11:17 p.m.)  
Place of Death: Bathtub at residence  
Bollingbrook, Illinois  
Coroner (Will County): Patrick O'Neil  
Date of Autopsy: March 2, 2004 (2:20 p.m.)  
Place of Autopsy: Will County Morgue  
Prosecutor: Bryan R. Mitchell, M.D.  
Coroner's Inquest: May 7, 2004  
Cause of Death: Drowning  
Manner of Death: Accident

### EXHUMATION

Authorization: Coroner Patrick O'Neil  
Date of Reautopsy: November 13, 2007  
Place of Reautopsy: Will County Morgue  
Prosecutor: Lawrence W. Blum, M.D.

### THIRD AUTOPSY

Authorization: Anna M. Doman, sister  
Date of Reautopsy: November 16, 2007  
Place of Reautopsy: Will County Morgue  
Prosecutor: Michael M. Baden, M.D.  
Cause of Death: Drowning  
Manner of Death: Homicide

### HISTORY

Kathleen Savio's lifeless body was found in the bathtub at her residence lying on her left side about 10:45 p.m. on Monday evening, March 1, 2004. There was no water in the tub, her hair was wet and blood soaked and dry and coagulated blood was present on the bottom of the tub. Her body was cold and no stiffening – rigor mortis – was noted. She was last known to have spoken to someone about midnight Saturday and had not answered her telephone all day Sunday.

Autopsy about 2:20 p.m. on Tuesday showed further absence of rigor mortis, areas of fixed purple lividity and no food in the stomach. These findings, plus the scene findings and the circumstances, indicate that Ms. Savio's death had occurred during the early morning hours of Sunday and many hours after her last meal. The autopsy also describes a one-inch blunt force laceration of the back of the head, five scraping abrasions and six blunt force black and blue contusions of the extremities, abdomen and buttock. There was fluid in the lungs, cerebral edema and water in the ethmoid sinuses. No significant pre-existing natural disease was present. The heart was normal. Toxicology was negative for drugs or alcohol. The death was certified as accidental drowning.

### EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The remains are removed from refrigeration wrapped in two zippered body bags and show evidence of prior autopsies. Thirteen total body X-rays taken under the supervision of Dr. Blum three days previously are examined by me and show no fractures

of the head, trunk or extremities. Eight members of the Illinois State Police are present during my examination, including a photographer.

The body is in poor condition with skeletonization of the head and distal portions of the upper and lower extremities. Plastic embalmer eye caps and soil are present in the otherwise empty orbits of the skull. There is adipocere formation in proximal soft tissue portions of the upper extremities. The skin and soft tissues of the chest, breasts and abdomen are intact. The viscera are in a plastic bag in the thoraco-abdominal cavity.

#### EVIDENCE OF INJURY

The skin of the head, hands and upper and lower extremities, which showed multiple bruises and abrasions as described in the first autopsy and a one-inch laceration of the back of the head, are now absent because of post-mortem loss of soft tissues. There are still visible prominent blue-purple subcutaneous hemorrhages - bruises and contusions caused by blunt force injuries shortly before death - in the outer lower quadrant of the right breast, the upper inner aspect of the right thigh and the right lower quadrant of the abdomen which latter measures measuring 5 cm in diameter; a small portion has been previously removed for apparent microscopic study.

#### INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The eyes, larynx and hyoid bone are absent due to post-mortem changes. The spine is intact without evidence of injury and the spinal cord is present but severely decomposed with no evidence of hemorrhage. The viscera are in a plastic bag and have been previously

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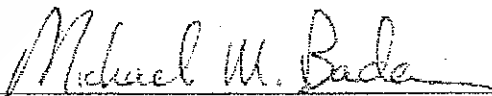
dissected. There is a 4 cm diameter fresh traumatic hemorrhage in the right hemidiaphragm otherwise the organs show no evidence of injury. The heart, coronary arteries, liver, brain and gastrointestinal tract are unremarkable. The lungs do show edema evidence of drowning.

#### LABORATORY STUDIES

Toxicology studies performed at the time of the first autopsy show no evidence of drugs. Portions of hair and viscera are submitted to Administrative Assistant Bob Brenkziewski of the Coroner's Office for possible further toxicologic and histologic evaluation.

#### OPINION

It is my opinion, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, that the drowning of Ms. Savio, a healthy adult, in a bathtub with multiple blunt force injuries indicative of a struggle, should be properly classified as a homicide.

  
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Michael M. Baden, M.D.