

# Autopsy of Rebecca Zahau

Performed Thursday, July 14, 2011

Jonathan Lucas, M.D.

Medical Examiner Office

San Diego County

# Rebecca Zahau

- Found hanging, fully suspended, with ankles bound and hands bound behind back
- Long sleeve T-shirt wrapped loosely around neck
- Based on the autopsy findings, she was alive when she went over the balcony

# Rebecca Zahau

- Neck injuries were consistent with a drop from that height as opposed to “usual” hanging
- No evidence of a struggle or sexual assault and no other significant injuries
- Her feet were dirty consistent with standing on the dirty balcony

# Rebecca Zahau

- No toxicological or physical evidence that she was rendered unconscious or incapacitated prior to the hanging.
- Her hand was easily removed from the wrist bindings

# Rebecca Zahau

Cause of Death: Hanging

Manner of Death: Suicide