



**BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S  
OFFICE**

**D. KIMBERLEY MOLINA, M.D.  
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER**

**VINCENT J.M. DIMAIO FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER**  
7337 LOUIS PASTEUR  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78229-4565  
(210) 335-4000 FAX (210) 335-4002



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***AUTOPSY REPORT***

**Case No.** 2024-2103

**Name:** Jessica Witzel Hofmann **Age:** 46 **Sex:** F

**Date & Time of Autopsy:** 23 Aug 2024 @ 8:00 a.m.

**GENERAL EXAMINATION**

The remains are upon a white transport sheet within a sealed and appropriately labeled body bag and are those of a normally developed, well nourished, adult female, measuring 64 inches in length, weighing 139 lbs and appearing consistent with the listed age of 46 years. The body is dressed in cutoff blue jean shorts and red underwear. A pink and white plastic beaded necklace encircles the neck. Five bracelets are on the left wrist: a black string bracelet, a brown plastic bracelet, a white beaded plastic bracelet, a black silicone bracelet, and a multicolored string bracelet. Two yellow metal rings, one with a blue stone, are on the left 4<sup>th</sup> finger, a white string ring is on the left 3<sup>rd</sup> finger, and copper-colored metal rings are on the right 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> fingers (one on each). Additionally received in the body bag is a previously cut short-sleeved gray shirt with a metal safety pin adhered to the front (removed), a previously cut gray zip-up sweatshirt, and a pair of blue sandals.

Within the blue jean shorts pockets are black plastic eyeglasses, lip balm, a white silicone bracelet, and a yellow metal clip-on earring with pendant. In the sweatshirt pockets are a white charging block, a clear yellow hard plastic sphere (ball), a "Coastal Clouds" premium vapor vial, and a clear plastic syringe without attached needle or plunger.

Medical records are reviewed.

Dr. Molina supervises the examination.

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION**

The unembalmed body is cool subsequent to refrigeration and shows early decompositional changes including green discoloration of the lower abdomen and diffuse epidermal slippage with focal regions of drying artifact over the left posterior elbow, left posterior thigh and medial knee, and

right lateral knee and lower leg. Rigor mortis is easily broken from the joints. Well-developed, fixed livor mortis is present posteriorly with mottled lividity over the anterior torso and congestion of the head, neck and chest.

The dyed blonde scalp hair averages 1 inch in length. The eyes are closed; the conjunctivae show mild palpebral congestion without petechiae; the sclerae are white; the corneae are clear; and the irides appear brown. The nose and ears appear normal in location and formation; the nares are patent. The facial bones are stable to palpation. The mouth is slightly open. The teeth appear natural and in good condition. There are no discernable injuries of the lips, gums, or frenula.

The neck and chest appear symmetrical and free of injury. The breasts are free of palpable masses. The abdomen is soft and flat. The external genitalia are those of a normal adult female and are atraumatic. The back is straight and free of trauma. The anal opening is patent and unremarkable.

The upper and lower extremities, including the hands and feet, appear normally formed and free of significant trauma or edema. The fingernails are short and intact, and the toenails are painted pink. The plantar surfaces of the feet are dirty.

Tattoos upon the body include an ankh symbol on the lower back and a claddagh encircling the right wrist.

#### **EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL INTERVENTION**

An endotracheal tube is in the mouth and strapped in place. Cardiac defibrillator pads are on the right chest and left upper abdomen. A cardiac compression pad is on the right upper abdomen. Cardiac monitor pads (4) are on the bilateral anterior shoulders and bilateral lower abdomen. A 12 x 12 cm area of concentric faint circular impressions with an associated 6 cm tan-yellow dry abrasion is on the midline chest, consistent with cardiopulmonary resuscitative efforts. A disposable ice pack is in the left-sided underwear waistband (discarded). A blue bandage encircles the right antecubital fossa and covers an intravascular cannula. An intraosseous catheter is in the left lower thigh.

Internally, there are hemorrhagic, non-displaced fractures of the manubriosternal joint, right anterolateral 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> ribs, and left anterolateral 4<sup>th</sup> rib, consistent with cardiopulmonary resuscitative efforts.

#### **EVIDENCE OF INJURY**

A 10.5 x 3 cm faint purple abrasion with associated 3.5 x 3 cm raised contusion is on the right forehead extending from midline to lateral of the right superior orbit. A 0.5 x 0.2 cm red abrasion is on the right cheek.

Internally, a small hemorrhage is noted on the right lateral tongue.

A 0.3 cm circular purple crusted abrasion is on the left lower back. Two punctate red abrasions are on the right anterior and posterior wrist. A 0.5 x 0.5 cm red-brown contusion is on the right dorsal 2<sup>nd</sup> metacarpophalangeal joint.

A 3.5 x 2.5 cm abraded contusion is on the right lateral leg. Multiple punctate to 0.3 cm red abrasions and erythema are on the bilateral anterior and lateral legs. A 1.5 cm vesicle is on the medial left 1<sup>st</sup> metatarsophalangeal joint.

### INTERNAL EXAMINATION

**HEAD:** An intermastoid incision is made around the cranium and the scalp is retracted; no hemorrhage or cranial fractures are present. Opening of the cranial cavity reveals the smooth tough dura to be intact and without evidence of epidural or subdural hemorrhage. The 1,490 g brain appears normally formed with an unremarkable gyral pattern. The leptomeninges are transparent and there is no evidence of subarachnoid hemorrhage. The cerebral vessels appear to follow a usual course and are free of significant atherosclerosis or aneurysm formation. On sectioning, the parenchyma is soft without evidence of intraparenchymal hemorrhage, infection, tumor or trauma. Removal of the dura uncovers an intact cranial and basilar skull.

**BODY:** The body is opened with a Y-shaped incision. The organs occupy their usual positions and relationships. The pleural, pericardial and peritoneal cavities are free of abnormal fluid accumulations. Inspection of the thoracic and abdominal cavities after evisceration fails to reveal significant musculoskeletal abnormalities with the exception of the aforementioned rib fractures. The thoracolumbar spinal column and pelvis are intact and atraumatic and the thoracoabdominal musculature appears normally developed. The abdominal pannus measures up to 4 cm in thickness.

**NECK:** There is no evidence of infection, tumor or trauma. The anterior cervical musculature is free of hemorrhage. The hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages are intact. The airway is patent and unobstructed without significant inflammation, neoplasia or injury. The cervical spine and atlanto-occipital joint are intact and free of dislocation or fracture.

**CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** The 360 g heart is globally enlarged and normal in shape and configuration and is contained within an intact and unremarkable pericardial sac. The epicardial surface is smooth and glistening. The coronary arteries arise from normally located, patent ostia and have a right-dominant distribution. The coronary arteries demonstrate mild to moderate noncalcific atherosclerosis, creating up to 20% stenosis of the left anterior descending artery and 30% stenosis of the right coronary artery. On cut sections, the endocardium is smooth and glistening and the myocardium is uniformly red-brown and soft with biventricular dilatation and without discrete lesions or fibrosis. The cardiac valves appear thin, pliable and normally formed. Opening of the aorta reveals a normal origination of the great vessels and a tan, smooth intima.

**LUNGS:** The right and left lungs weigh 610 g and 530 g, respectively, and display smooth and glistening pleural surfaces. On cut sections, the parenchyma is soft and well inflated without prominent congestion or edema or evidence of consolidation, tumor or trauma. The pulmonary vessels and airways are unobstructed.

**GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM AND PANCREAS:** The esophagus, stomach and small and large intestines show no evidence of significant natural disease or trauma. The stomach contains approximately 50 ml of thin fluid. No definitive food material, pills, capsules or pill residues are appreciated. The pancreas is normal in size, shape and location and displays the usual tan lobular parenchyma without evidence of significant fibrosis or neoplasia, on sectioning. The appendix is dilated and shows clear mucoid material filling the lumen on cut sections.

**HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM:** The 1,830 g liver has a smooth, glistening, intact capsule and tan-yellow, soft, homogenous parenchyma without significant fibrosis or neoplasia. The gallbladder is present and unremarkable.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:** The thyroid and adrenal glands are normal in size, shape and location and are without abnormality on sectioning.

**LYMPHORETICULAR SYSTEM:** The 170 g spleen has a smooth, intact capsule and dark red, soft parenchyma. Significant lymphadenopathy is not appreciated.

**GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:** The right and left kidneys weigh 160 g and 190 g, respectively, and display smooth and shiny cortical surfaces. On cut sections, the parenchyma is mottled, tan-red and firm with distinct cortico-medullary demarcations and unremarkable calyces. The ureters are not dilated. The bladder is empty and displays an intact mucosa without evidence of erosion, ulceration or neoplasia. The uterus is non-gravid with a medical intrauterine device in place within the endometrial cavity. The endometrium, myometrium and cervix are unremarkable. The ovaries are appropriate for age and without gross abnormality.

#### **MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION**

Hematoxylin and eosin stained sections of the heart, lung, liver, kidney, appendix and brain are reviewed. Sections of the heart show mild arteriolar thickening and increased perivascular fibrosis. Sections of the lungs display mild emphysematous changes with scattered mucus plugging. The kidney displays autolytic changes, increased chronic inflammation, mild arteriolar thickening and interstitial fibrosis. The appendix shows a collection of mucin within the lumen. Sections of the liver and brain are without significant histopathologic abnormalities.

#### **IDENTIFICATION**

Positive identification is established via fingerprint comparison.

#### **EVIDENCE COLLECTED**

The syringe from the sweatshirt pocket is released to the investigating law enforcement agency as drug paraphernalia.

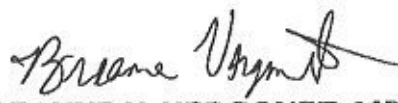
**FINDINGS**

- I. Methamphetamine toxicity
  - A. Methamphetamine and amphetamine detected, femoral blood
  - B. Apparent drug paraphernalia (syringe) with property
  
- II. Hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
  - A. Cardiomegaly with biventricular dilatation
  - B. Mild to moderate coronary atherosclerosis
  - C. Clinical history of hypertension
  
- III. Clinical history of asthma, bipolar/mood disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder
  - A. Reported history of schizophrenia
  - B. Clinical history of prescribed topiramate use

**CONCLUSION**

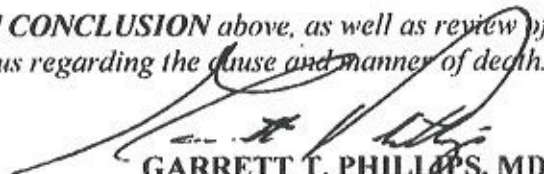
After a complete autopsy examination and in consideration of the available investigative information, it is our opinion that Jessica Witzel Hofmann, a 46-year-old female, died as a result of methamphetamine toxicity. Reportedly, the decedent was witnessed to become unresponsive and have convulsions outside of a gas station during a period of elevated ambient temperatures. Autopsy examination revealed cardiovascular disease as well as acute methamphetamine use without evidence of significant traumatic injuries that could have caused or contributed to death. Although the decedent was outside during elevated ambient temperatures, the role the environmental exposure may or may not have played in the death cannot be definitively determined, especially in the setting of methamphetamine use.

**MANNER OF DEATH:** Accident

  
**BREANNE N. VERGONET, MD**  
Assistant Medical Examiner - Prosecutor

  
**D. KIMBERLEY MOLINA, MD**  
Chief Medical Examiner

*Based on the FINDINGS and CONCLUSION above, as well as review of TOXICOLOGY results in consensus regarding the cause and manner of death.*

  
**GARRETT T. PHILLIPS, MD**  
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

BV



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TOXICOLOGY REPORT

ME Case #: 24-02103 Age: 46 Years
Decedent: Hofmann, Jessica BV Type: Autopsy
Staff Pathologist: D. Kimberley Molina, M.D. Exam Date: 8/23/2024
Chief Toxicologist: Veronica Hargrove, Ph.D. h Completed Date: 10/7/2024

No toxicology testing requested

Table with 5 columns: Assay, Sample, Analyte, Results, Instrument. Rows include Acid/Neutral, Alcohols and Volatiles, Alkaline, Alkaline Quantitation/Confirmation, Drug Screen 1, and various Metabolic Panels.



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Stimulants	Blood-Femoral	Methamphetamine	0.063 mg/L	LC/MS/MS
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*"Accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners"***INVESTIGATIVE REPORT****Case #: 24-02103****CASE TYPE : ME Case****DECEDENT DEMOGRAPHICS**

NAME : Jessica Witzel Hofmann

AKA :

ID Status : Positive

AGE : 46 Years

SEX : Female

RACE : White

DATE OF BIRTH : 11/6/1977

SSN [REDACTED]

MARITAL STATUS :

RESIDENCE : Homeless, .

**CALL INFORMATION**

NOTIFIED BY : Ofc. Le #750

DATE/TIME : 8/22/2024 16:38

NOTIFYING AGENCY: San Antonio Police Department

ADDRESS : 315 S Santa Rosa, San Antonio, TX 78207

TELEPHONE : (210) 207-7273

**NARRATIVE**

46 WF, Reported Unknown. The decedent was witnessed to go unresponsive on the side of a gas station by a customer. SAFD pronounced on scene. Possibly homeless. No obvious trauma or any drug paraphernalia found.

**NEXT OF KIN**

NAME : Jill Maloney

RELATIONSHIP : Mother

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

HOME PHONE :

WORK PHONE :

CELL PHONE [REDACTED]

**DEATH LOCATION**

ADDRESS : 126 Fredericksburg Rd, San Antonio, TX 78201

DATE AND TIME : 8/22/2024 16:04

PRONOUNCED/AFFIRMED BY : EMT Rainey

**MEDICAL HISTORY**

LAST KNOWN ALIVE DATE/TIME :

HOSPITAL ARRIVAL DATE/TIME :

INFORMANT : UH EPIC records

INFORMANT ADDRESS : , ,

INFORMANT PHONE :

RELATIONSHIP :

HOSPITALIZED IN LAST 2 YEARS :

PREGNANT IN LAST 6 MOS :

DATE OF DELIVERY :

**MEDICAL HISTORY NOTES:** Per UH EPIC medical records, the decedent's medical hx included HTN, obesity, hyponatremia, cellulitis, osteoarthritis, severe persistent allergic asthma, onychomycosis, eczema, obstructive sleep apnea. The decedent visited the Robert B Green Express Med on 8/20/24 for complaints of fever, sore throat, difficulty swallowing. Strep test was negative.

**SURGERY HISTORY NOTES:** The records did not indicate any surgical history.

**DRUG HISTORY NOTES :** The records did not list a history of drug use. No drug paraphernalia was found on scene.





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**PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY NOTES :** The decedent had anxiety, ADHD and mood disorder. Paperwork in a folder for Laurel Ridge was found in the basket with a notification of the findings of a probable cause hearing. The paperwork indicated that there was no probable cause to believe the decedent was a substantial risk to herself or others. Dated 8/15/24.

**SOCIAL HISTORY NOTES :** The decedent was reported to be homeless.

**FAMILY HISTORY NOTES :** Unknown

**SCENE EXAM (If Applicable)**

ARRIVE DATE/TIME : 8/22/2024 17:12		RETURN DATE/TIME : 8/22/2024 17:29	Scene Time : 17 Mins
SCENE PHOTOS : Yes	TEMPERATURE : 106 F	SCENE TEMP CONTROL :	
HUMIDITY : 30 %	RIGOR : Yes	RIGOR JAW : ++	
RIGOR ARMS : ++	RIGOR LEGS : ++	LIVOR MORTIS : Yes	
LIVOR TYPE : Non Fixed	LIVOR LOCATION : Back	BODY TEMP : 126°F	

**GENERAL SCENE OBSERVATION :** The scene is located in central San Antonio, TX in the parking lot of the Five Points Corner Store. The decedent was located on the asphalt in the corner of the lot. A shopping basket was observed near the decedent. A medication for cetirizine and one for amoxicillin was found in the basket. Paperwork in a folder for Laurel Ridge was found in the basket with a notification of the findings of a probable cause hearing. The paperwork indicated that there was no probable cause to believe the decedent was a substantial risk to herself or others. Dated 8/15/24.

**POSITION :** The decedent was lying supine on the asphalt. Her arms were both slightly flexed at the elbow and resting down her sides. Her legs were both fully extended.

**CLOTHING EFFECTS :** The decedent was wearing a hooded sweater that had been cut by EMS. The decedent was also wearing a pair of denim shorts. A pair of sandals was observed by her feet. A yellow metal ring was observed on the right middle finger and right ring finger. 5 bracelets were observed on the left wrist. A beaded necklace was observed around her neck.

**DECOMPOSITION & ARTIFACTS :** Rigor had set in the jaws and extremities. Lividity was non-fixed to her back area. The decedent was observed to have some skin slippage to her back area, knee, and lower right leg. EMS placed an ice pack inside of the decedent's shorts. The decedent was also intubated on scene.

**TRAUMA :** Two abrasions were observed on the right knee. An apparent bruise was observed on the right pointer finger knuckle.

**OTHER OBSERVATIONS :** Tentative ID bands were secured over both of the decedent's wrists. The decedent was placed on a clean sheet and into a new bag. The bag was sealed at the scene by the MI with tag #0035117. The decedent was transported to the BCMEO by ACMS. SAPD did not collect any belongings from the decedent's shopping cart.

**INCIDENT (If Applicable)**

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT-ILLNESS-DISCOVERY : 8/22/2024 15:20	PLACE OF INCIDENT : Parking Lot
LOCATION OF INCIDENT-ILLNESS-DISCOVERY : 126 Fredericksburg Rd, San Antonio, TX 78201	

**CIRCUMSTANCES OF INCIDENT :** Per SAPD Officer Le, the decedent was reportedly homeless. They had a recent contact with the decedent on 8/21/24, at approximately 1500hrs, when she was attempting to drink water from an outside water spigot at someone's home. The homeowner called the police. They spoke with the decedent who identified herself as the above listed name and she told officers she had been dealing with a fever but refused any medical assistance. She left that location without any further incident.

On 8/22/24 at approximately 1520hrs, a customer pulled into the Five Points Corner Store and saw the decedent near the corner of the parking lot, next to her shopping cart. He witnessed her collapse onto the asphalt and begin convulsing. The customer went inside to alert the manager, who then called 911. SAFD EMS arrived on scene and pronounced the decedent.

No obvious injuries were observed on the body. No drug paraphernalia was found on her person or in her shopping cart. The temperature in the afternoon was listed at 106 F.



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INV AGENCY: San Antonio Police Department		OFFICER ASSIGNED :	
AGENCY # : SAPD24182907	1st Officer/Shield # :	AGENCY PHONE :	
SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Ofc. Le #750, SAPD			
INCIDENT AT WORK : No		EMPLOYER :	
EMPLOYER NUMBER :		EMPLOYER TYPE :	
EMPLOYER PHONE :		EMPLOYER ADDRESS : , ,	
INCIDENT LOCATION : Parking Lot		INCIDENT ADDRESS : 126 Fredericksburg Rd, San Antonio, TX 78201	
SUICIDE NOTE FOUND :		SUICIDE WITNESSED :	SUICIDE HANDEDNESS :
WEAPON LOCATION :		PRIOR ATTEMPTS :	PRIOR THREATS :
HISTORY OF MENTAL DISEASE :		MENTAL DESCRIPTION :	
DRUG PARAPHERNALIA FOUND :		PARAPHERNALIA DESCRIPTION :	
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT (If Applicable)</b>			
MVA CLASSIFICATION :		SEATBELT :	HELMET :
AIRBAG DEPLOYED :	DECEDENT EJECTED :	SEAT POSITION :	
VEHICLE CONDITION :		ROAD CONDITION :	VEHICLE TYPE :
MAKE :	MODEL :	YEAR :	
INFORMATION ON SECOND VEHICLE:			VEHICLE TYPE :
MAKE :	MODEL :	YEAR :	
<b>Addendum</b>			
<b>NARRATIVE ADDENDUM</b>			
<b>Entered By</b>	<b>Date Entered</b>	<b>For Review</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Kimberly Petter, #117	8/22/2024	No	No
<i>Printed problem list and most recent visits from UH Epic. Med recs placed in morgue box. DPS coversheet printed.</i>			
Nathan Speer, #129	8/22/2024	No	No
<i>The SA EMS report was requested</i>			
Nathan Speer, #129	8/22/2024	No	No
<i>The SAPD report was requested on scene to be sent to meinvestigators@bexar.org</i>			
Bridget Garza	8/22/2024	No	No
<i>tag#0035771</i>			



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Joshua Rodriguez	8/23/2024	No	No
SAEB x3 & reinflated 9A			
Joshua Rodriguez	8/23/2024	No	No
prints upstairs. 1135a			
Destiny Garcia	8/23/2024	No	No
Fingerprints scanned and emailed to DPS. (1149)			
James L. Akers, #116	8/23/2024	No	No
QA 1219hrs, need to confirm ID and need NOK info/notification			
Kimberly Freveletti, #122	8/23/2024	No	No
The NOK called looking for the decedent, after a friend saw the incident on the news. MI informed her of the tentative ID. The NOK provided the decedent's description, tattoo, and same name on file. The NOK said the decedent was homeless and suffered from schizophrenia. The decedent had been arrested before and will have prints on file. MI provided her with the SAPD case and told her that our office was in the process of submitting fingerprints. 1300hrs			
Misty J Torres, #125	8/23/2024	No	No
Received fax from DPS confirming positive ID from post mortem prints submitted to TXID 23296960. Name Jessica Witzel Hofmann DOB: 11-06-1977. Appropriate changes made to ID screen and hold was removed.			
James L. Akers, #116	8/23/2024	No	No
Contacted the decedent's mother and notified her of the +ID. She advised that the decedent was schizophrenic and they tried everything they could to get her off the streets. Family will be working on funeral arrangements.			
Samantha McCormick	8/26/2024	No	No
Notified Mission Park North of release status @0914			
Geoffrey Edwards	8/27/2024	No	No
Cabrera FH notified / Ready for release @ 0953			
Destiny Garcia	8/27/2024	No	No
Received SAEMS Runsheet. Taken to Dr. Vergonet. (1547)			
Destiny Garcia	9/27/2024	No	No
Faxed medical record request for Laurel Ridge			
Destiny Garcia	10/1/2024	No	No
Followed up with Laurel Ridge on medical records. No answer, left voicemail for call back. (1105)			
Destiny Garcia	10/4/2024	No	No
Followed up with Laurel Ridge on medical records. No answer, left voicemail for call back. Refaxed medical record request. (1000)			
Bridget Garza	10/9/2024	No	No
Received med recs from Laurel Ridge. Taken to fellow's box.			
INVESTIGATOR: Erik DeLeon, #130			



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**CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH**

Name of Deceased: Jessica Witzel Hofmann

M.E. Case Number: 24-02103

Agency: San Antonio Police Department

Agency #: SAPD24182907

Date Issued: 10/28/2024

Date of Exam: 8/23/2024

Date Found:

Date Pronounced: 8/22/2024

Exam Type: Autopsy

Examination Performed By: Breanne Vergonet

**Cause of Death:**

METHAMPHETAMINE TOXICITY

Due to: \_\_\_\_\_

Due to: \_\_\_\_\_

Due to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Significant Conditions (Part II):**

Manner of Death: Accident

**D. KIMBERLEY MOLINA, M.D.  
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER**



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**EVIDENCE RELEASE FORM**

**SAPD 24182907**

Date: 8/23/2024

Time: 08:45

NAME OF DECEDENT: Jessica H Witzel

M.E. Case Number: 24-02103

Evidence Type	List of Evidence
Law Enforcement	Apparent Paraphernalia
<b>1 Item Listed</b>	

I have received all of the items listed above.

I release the Medical Examiner's Office from any liability.

RELEASED BY: Breanne Vergonet

DATE: 08/23/2024

Breanne Vergonet  
Signature

RELEASED TO: Alyssa Biediger

AGENCY: BCMEO

Alyssa Biediger  
Signature

RELEASED BY: Tiffany Reithmann

DATE: 08/27/24

Tiffany Reithmann  
Signature

RELEASED TO: Megan Gratchouse

AGENCY: SAPD

Megan Gratchouse  
Signature