

# United Forensic Services, P.C.

## Professional Forensic Autopsy & Consultation

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Joseph I. Cohen, M.D., Forensic Pathologist | drcohen@forensiconline.com | www.forensiconline.com  
448 Ignacio Blvd., Suite 325, Novato, California 94949 | 877.372.6436 Toll Free | 951.346.3245 Fax

### **Independent Autopsy Examination of Clayton Lockett (P14-0514)**

An independent autopsy examination was performed on the body of Clayton Lockett by forensic pathologist Dr. Joseph Cohen, on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The preliminary autopsy findings and assessments of the independent autopsy include 1) evidence of prior autopsy examination, 2) the presence of skin punctures on the extremities, and right and left femoral areas indicative of needle punctures, injections and/or attempts at vascular access, 3) the presence of superficial and deep subcutaneous hemorrhages indicative of attempted vascular access for administration of fluids and medications, 4) the presence of vascular injury indicative of failed vascular catheter access, 5) the presence of body surface blunt impact injuries, consistent with physical restraint, requiring further investigation and correlation with historical information, 6) the presence of antemortem sharp force injury consistent with, though not confirmatory for self-inflicted injury, 7) excellent integrity of peripheral and deep veins for the purpose of achieving venous access, 8) the inability to confirm the presence of any significant underlying natural disease processes, 9) the unlikelihood that antemortem dehydration played a role in a failed or ineffective lethal injection procedure, and 10) the inability to confirm that a primary cardiac condition played any role in Mr. Lockett's death (i.e., a heart attack).

The independent autopsy examination involved the performance of several new and extended body surface incisions that uncovered punctures, evidence of attempted vascular access, and vascular injury that would not have been visible during the first autopsy, as additional autopsy dissection was necessary to expose the new findings.

The heart and a portion of the neck structures were unavailable for examination during this independent autopsy examination. The report of findings of the examination of the heart and neck structures by the State of Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and/or Dallas County Medical Examiner will be necessary for review and interpretation prior to completion and issuance of a final report.

A complete list of autopsy findings with interpretations will be reported in a final autopsy report, once necessary information is received and reviewed, as is the standard of practice for such death investigations. The receipt and review of crucial material, necessary to achieve fair and accurate interpretations, shall include written, photographic, videotape or other documentation of the investigations, tests and procedures performed on Mr. Lockett's body by the State of Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the reports of autopsy, toxicology, and histology, ancillary reports, expert consultation reports, photographs and videotapes generated by the Dallas County Medical Examiner, the

Oklahoma Department of Corrections' previous and current policies and procedures pertaining to the performance of judicial execution by lethal injection, documentation pertaining to the execution of Mr. Lockett (to include a timeline of procedures performed, administration of fluids and medications, Mr. Lockett's physiological, physical and verbal responses throughout the procedure, documentation of sites of skin puncture, sites of successful and/or failed catheter placement, documentation pertaining to attempted resuscitation, the handling and disposition of all medications, medical and therapeutic implements utilized during the execution, execution chamber photographs and videotapes), Mr. Lockett's recent and remote medical records, prison records, cell extraction procedures and documentation, use of physical restraint, use of electrical conductive device (ECD), occurrence and treatment of injuries prior to the execution procedure, and records pertaining to the storage and transport of Mr. Lockett's body.

This is an ongoing death investigation with test results and investigative material still outstanding and requiring interpretation as is the standard of practice. The final determinations for cause, manner, mechanism and mode of death of Mr. Lockett are pending at this time.

All biological fluids and tissues that were removed from Mr. Lockett during the course of the postmortem investigations by the State of Oklahoma and Dallas County officials should be retained and secured for possible further examination and/or testing.

Joseph I. Cohen, M.D.  
Forensic Pathologist  
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