



SUMMIT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

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Lisa J. Kohler, M.D.
Medical Examiner

Ilene Shapiro
County Executive

MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: July 15, 2022

Contact: Greta Johnson
Director of Communications & Assistant Chief of Staff
Office of Executive Shapiro
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330-643-2656

County Medical Examiner shares Jayland Walker autopsy summary

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—On Friday, July 15, Summit County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Lisa Kohler, M.D. shared a summary of findings from Mr. Jayland Walker’s autopsy. Mr. Walker’s family was consulted and representatives for the family viewed the autopsy report before the summary was shared with the public. The autopsy was performed by Chief Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Robert Shott, M.D., and quality control reviewed and co-signed by Dr. Kohler. See below for Dr. Kohler’s summary.

Following the event, media members who have submitted a records request will be contacted to view the autopsy report at the Medical Examiner’s Office during regular business hours. Efforts will be made to accommodate requests in a timely fashion. Media members will not receive a copy of the report. To submit a records request, please email the following information (as required by ORC 313.10) to Gary Guenther *and* Denise DiNapoli at gguenther@summitoh.net *and* ddinapoli@summitoh.net.

1. The journalist’s name, title and phone number.
2. The address of the journalist’s employer.
3. A statement that granting the request is in the best interest of the public.

The Medical Examiner serves the residents of Summit County and regional counties by providing quality forensic death investigation services. Medical Examiner staff assists local law enforcement agencies with forensic evaluation of deaths to aid in their investigations and subsequent prosecutions. Dr. Kohler has been the Summit County Medical Examiner since 2001 and is Ohio’s first female Medical Examiner. Her office maintains full accreditation with the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). Dr. Shott has been Chief Deputy Medical Examiner since 2019.

The media event materials will be available at <https://co.summitoh.net/departments/Medical-Examiner.html>. If you have questions regarding the media event, contact Ethan Lower at elower@summitoh.net.

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Statement from Summit County Medical Examiner Dr. Lisa Kohler, M.D.

“Mr. Walker’s autopsy was completed by Dr. Shott on June 27 and 28, 2022. Once the report was created by Dr. Shott, I, Dr. Lisa Kohler, then reviewed the report for quality control purposes and co-signed the report on July 14, 2022.

The first part of the examination involves documenting identifying characteristics and noting medical therapies and injuries. Evidence of medical intervention included tourniquets on his legs and left arm, gauze dressings to his chest and abdominal wounds, and adhesive seals over two chest wounds along with defibrillator pads on the chest.

The autopsy examination determined that Mr. Walker had 46 gunshot wound entrance or graze injuries. A graze injury results when the bullet runs along the surface of the skin but does not enter a specific area of the body. An entrance wound indicates that the bullet struck the skin and entered a part of the body and either exited the body or lodged within the tissues of the body. The photographic record shows more than 46 wounds because there are exit wounds, bullets beneath the skin and abrasions that were numbered for the purpose of identifying specific injuries in the photographs. 26 projectiles were recovered from Mr. Walker’s body during the autopsy.

15 gunshot wounds injured the torso and caused internal injury to his heart, lungs, liver, spleen, left kidney, intestines and multiple ribs.

17 gunshot wounds injured the pelvis and upper legs causing internal injury to the right iliac artery (a major artery to the leg), the bladder and fractures of the pelvis and both upper leg bones (femurs).

1 bullet struck his face and fractured his jaw.

8 gunshot wounds injured the arms and right hand.

5 gunshot wounds injured the knees, right lower leg and right foot.

The toxicology screen was negative for drugs of abuse and alcohol.

Mr. Walker’s death was due to blood loss related to these injuries. The cause of death ruling was Multiple Gunshot wounds. The manner of death was ruled Homicide; shot by others. Our ruling of Homicide is a medical ruling meaning death at the hands of another and is not a legal conclusion. The choices that we have for Manner of Death rulings are Natural indicating that the person is dying from a natural disease such as an infection or cancer, Accident due to an injury or poisoning that occurred without the intention to cause injury, Suicide is due to an injury or poisoning that a person inflicted upon themselves with the intent to cause self-harm or death, Homicide signifies death at the hands of another, and Undetermined when two competing manners of death cannot be separated from one another based upon our investigation and examination.

I understand that there have been questions raised regarding the performance of gunshot residue testing. Although the technology utilized to demonstrate the presence or absence of gunshot residues is sound, there are many factors that contribute to false positive or false negative results. Gunshot residue testing can detect specific particles related to the discharge of a firearm but the results of such testing are not conclusive as to whether an individual did in fact fire a weapon. The particles are very fine and are easily dislodged from the skin by acts as simple as putting one’s hands into one’s pockets or by sweating. A positive test does not indicate that the person tested fired a weapon. A negative test does not mean that the person tested did not fire a weapon or was not in the vicinity of a fired weapon. The FBI discontinued GSR testing at its lab in 2006.

Based upon the issues related to the interpretation of the testing and the ease with which these particles can be dislodged from the skin, the Medical Examiner’s Office discontinued collecting these samples in 2016 and no longer purchases collection kits for use by our staff. Because of this, Mr. Walker’s hands were not swabbed or tested for gunshot residue.

Upon my co-signing the report, members of the Executive staff discussed the findings with Mr. Walker’s family and representatives of the family were permitted to view the report prior to this media announcement.”

LISA J. KOHLER, MD

BUSINESS ADDRESS

Summit County Medical Examiner's Office
85 North Summit Street
Akron, Ohio 44308
(330) 643-2101 FAX (330) 643-2100

BOARD CERTIFICATION, Time unlimited

ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY June 11, 1997
FORENSIC PATHOLOGY September 15, 1998

EMPLOYMENT

CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER Summit County Medical Examiner's Office
Akron, OH *April 2001 – present*

ACTING CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER Summit County Medical Examiner's Office
Akron, OH *January 2001 – April 2001*

CHIEF DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER Summit County Medical Examiner's Office
Akron, OH *June 2000 – January 2001*

DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER Summit County Medical Examiner's Office
Akron, OH *November 1998 – June 2000*

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine *May 21, 1999-June 30, 2002*

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine *July 1, 2002- Present*

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY
Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, *2015 - 2018*

COURT QUALIFICATION

EXPERT WITNESS State of Ohio
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Commonwealth of Virginia

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Richmond, VA *1997-1998*

PATHOLOGY RESIDENCY (AP/CP) University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, PA *1993-1997*

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE Medical College of Ohio at Toledo
Toledo, OH *1988-1993*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY University of Toledo
Toledo, OH *1984-1988*

Curriculum vitae
Lisa J. Kohler, MD
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EXPERIENCE

CHIEF RESIDENT, ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
1996-1997

CHIEF RESIDENT, CLINICAL PATHOLOGY University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
1995-1996

SUMMER INTERNSHIP Summit County Coroner's Office
1985, 1986

AWARDS/ RECOGNITION

Cover story: Lisa Kohler, MD, Dealing with Death on a Daily Basis. MD News (Akron/Canton Edition).
Jan/Feb 2008

Entry in "Guide to America's Top Pathologists, 2007 edition". Consumers' Research Council of America.

Distinguished Alumni Recognition. Norton High School. February 2006.

Junior Resident Excellence in Autopsy Service Award. University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. June
1994.

Outstanding Performance and Achievement in the Department of Pathology. Medical College of Ohio.
June 1993.

PUBLICATIONS

Waite K, Deeken A, Perch S, Kohler L. *Carfentanil and Current Opioid Trends in Summit County, Ohio.*
Abstract presentation for 2017 NAME Meeting.

Maskovyak A, Kohler L, Felo, J *Prevalence of drugs and alcohol identified in fatal work-related injuries:
a two office experience* Academic of Forensic Pathology, 5. 98-104. 10.23907/2015.010(presented as
abstract at NAME in 2013)

Woods SA, Robinson HB, Kohler LJ, et al, *Exome Sequencing Identifies a Novel EP300 Frame Shift
Mutation in a Patient with Features that Overlap Cornelia de Lange Syndrome.* Am J Med Genet Part A
9999:1-8.

Platt MS, Kohler LJ, Ruiz R, Cohle SD, Ravichandra P. *Deaths associated with liposuction: Case reports
and Review of the Literature.* J Forensic Sci 2002;47(1): 205-207.

Dean DE, Kohler LJ, et al. *Observed Characteristics of Suicidal Hangings: An 11 year Retrospective
Review.* J Forensic Sci 2012, 57 (5): 1226-1230.

Platt MS, Kohler LJ, et. al. *Chapter on Pediatric Pathology and Child Abuse.* In Spitz and Fisher's
Medicolegal Investigation of Death, 4th Edition 2006

Polsky S, Markowitz J,. *Color Atlas of Domestic Violence.* Kohler, LJ contributor. Mosby 2004.

Kohler L. *Pituitary tumor - Case of the month.* Brain Pathology, 1996; 6:531-532.

Kohler LJ, Gohara AF, Hamilton RW, Reeves RS. *Crescentic fibrillary glomerulonephritis associated
with rifampin therapy for pulmonary tuberculosis.* Clinical Nephrology, 1994; 42(4):263-265.

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

Lectures for medical and paramedical professionals:

Forensic Investigation, Clarifying important detail- Akron Fire Run Review, November 2014
Forensic Death Investigation- Akron Fire Run Review, April 2013
*Forensic Child Death Investigation -*Grand rounds – CHMCA April 2014
*Rocking the Cradle, Sorting out SIDS from Sleep related deaths –*CHMCA, June 2014
Infant mortality – NEOMED November 2014
Why did they die? Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Series, December 2012
Forensics and the OR Staff. Post graduate day presentation, AGMC, June 2010

Lectures for law enforcement professionals:

Forensic Death Investigation, Richfield OPOTA April and November 2014
Child Death Investigation, Columbus Ohio, Ohio Attorney General Law Enforcement Seminar, Nov 2013
Child Death Investigation. Richfield OPOTA, April 2013.
Death Scene Investigation, Summit County Sheriff’s Office In Service Lectures, Mar.-Nov. 2013
Forensic Homicide Investigation Seminar. Ohio Attorney General BCI&I, June 2011
Death Scene Investigation, Akron Police In Service Lectures, April-May 2009.

Lectures for Forensic professionals:

Panel Discussion Participant, “Forensics and the Media”, Ohio State Coroner’s Association Annual Meeting, May 2006.
Introduction to Penetrating Wounds, Ohio State Coroner’s Association Annual Meeting, May 2005.
Pulmonary Fat Embolization in Deaths Following Bone Fractures. Abstract Presentation at American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting, Seattle WA. February 2001.
The Forensic Sciences. Death Investigation Seminar. Summit County Medical Examiner’s Office. February 1999.
Medicolegal Death Investigation of SIDS. Allegheny County Coroner’s Office Continuing Education Program. May 1996, November 1996, May 1997

Lectures for Law Students and Attorneys:

Forensic Medicine and Law, University of Akron Law School, November 2007, October 2011 October 2013, October 2014
Civil Litigation and the Medical Examiner’s Office. Summit County Trial Lawyers Association. February 2002.
Forensic Medicine and Law Enforcement. Basic Criminal Investigation Class. Akron University. December 2000.

Lectures to the public:

Forensic Pathology – Walsh Jesuit High School Genetics Class, Spring 2015
Infant Mortality Summit – Moderator, John S. Knight Center, Akron, June 6, 2013
Forensic Pathology. Southern Summit Citizens Academy, *Spring 2010*, October 2010, November 2012, November 2013, November 2014
Forensic Pathology, Monroe Falls, Stow, Tallmadge Citizens Academy, December 2014, October 2015, October 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS/ACTIVITIES

American Academy of Forensic Sciences	1991 to present
National Association of Medical Examiners	1998 to present
Ohio State Coroner’s Association	2001 to present
Member of Education Subcommittee	2002 to present
Co-Chair, Communications Subcommittee	2008 to 2010
NEOMED, Pathology Department appoint review committee	2020

Curriculum vitae

Lisa J. Kohler, MD

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LOCAL SOCIETY AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Summit County Child Fatality Review Board

1999 to present

Chair of Full Committee

2015-2016

Summit County Police Chief's Association

1998 to present

LICENSURE

State of Ohio

ljk 07/2022

ROBERT S. SHOTT M.D.

Board Certified Forensic Pathologist
Chief Deputy Medical Examiner
Summit County Medical Examiner's Office
Akron, OH

85 N Summit St.
Akron, OH 44308
(330) 643-2101
rshott@summitoh.net

Undergraduate Education – 1997-2001

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Bachelor of Science, Biology 6/2001
Cum laude

Medical Education – 2001-2005

The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health, Columbus, Ohio
M.D. 6/2005

Certification/Licensure

USMLE Step 1: May 2003
USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge: October 2004
USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills: December 2004
USMLE Step 3: June 2007
State of Ohio Permanent Medical License, October 2008
Anatomic Pathology/Clinical Pathology Board Exam: October 2009
Forensic Pathology Board Exam: September 2010
Anatomic/Clinical/Forensic Pathology recertification exam: August 2019

Work Experience

Resident, Department of Pathology, Ohio State University Medical Center, 2005-2009;
Chief Resident in Anatomic Pathology, 2007-2008
Forensic Pathology Fellow/Deputy Coroner, Montgomery County Coroner's Office,
Dayton, OH, 2009-2010
Forensic Pathologist/Deputy Coroner, Montgomery County Coroner's Office, July 2010-
May 2019
Forensic Pathologist/Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, Summit County Medical
Examiner's Office, Akron, OH, June 2019-present

Professional Society Membership

National Association of Medical Examiners