

Travis County Medical Examiner's Office

Official Autopsy Report

Case Number: TC-23-0815-017

Name of Deceased: Alex Reynolds

Date of Birth: March 22, 2004

Age: 19

Date of Death: August 15, 2023

Time of Death: 1:07 AM

Place of Death: Travis County General Hospital, Trauma Unit

Autopsy Performed By: Dr. Jonathan Hayes, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner

Date of Autopsy: August 15, 2023

External Examination

Body Condition: Well-developed, well-nourished male, 5'10", 165 lbs. No tattoos or significant scars.

Clothing: Patient arrived unclothed; personal effects were removed at the hospital.

Postmortem Changes: Rigor mortis beginning to set in, lividity present on posterior surface. No decomposition observed.

Notable External Injuries:

- **Head Trauma:** Large contusion and hematoma to the occipital scalp, approximately 7 cm in diameter.
 - **Facial Injuries:** Minor abrasions to left cheek and chin, likely from fall impact.
 - **Other Injuries:** No defensive wounds, no additional significant injuries observed.
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Internal Examination

Head, Brain, and Skull:

- **Skull Fracture:** Linear fracture at occipital bone extending to the base of the skull.
- **Brain Examination:**
 - Massive cerebral edema (swelling of the brain).
 - Acute **subdural hematoma** (bleeding between the brain and skull) with a **midline shift of 6 mm**, indicating increased intracranial pressure.
 - **Brain Herniation Present** – fatal compression of the brainstem.

Neck and Spine:

- No evidence of cervical spine fracture or trauma.

Cardiovascular System:

- Heart size normal (320g), no abnormalities detected.
- Coronary arteries clear, no signs of preexisting cardiac conditions.

Respiratory System:

- Lungs showed mild pulmonary edema, likely secondary to prolonged medical intervention.
- No evidence of aspiration or inhalation injury.

Abdominal Organs:

- All major organs appeared unremarkable. No internal bleeding or trauma detected outside of the cranial region.
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Toxicology Report

Samples Collected: Blood, urine, and gastric contents.

- **Ethanol:** Negative (0.00%)
 - **Illicit Drugs:** Negative for cocaine, amphetamines, opioids, and marijuana.
 - **Prescription Medications:** Negative for sedatives or narcotics.
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Cause of Death:

Blunt force trauma to the head resulting in skull fracture, subdural hematoma, and fatal brain herniation.

Manner of Death:

Homicide – due to an assault leading to fatal head trauma.

Final Remarks:

- The injuries sustained by the deceased are consistent with witness accounts of a single punch

followed by an impact with a hard surface.

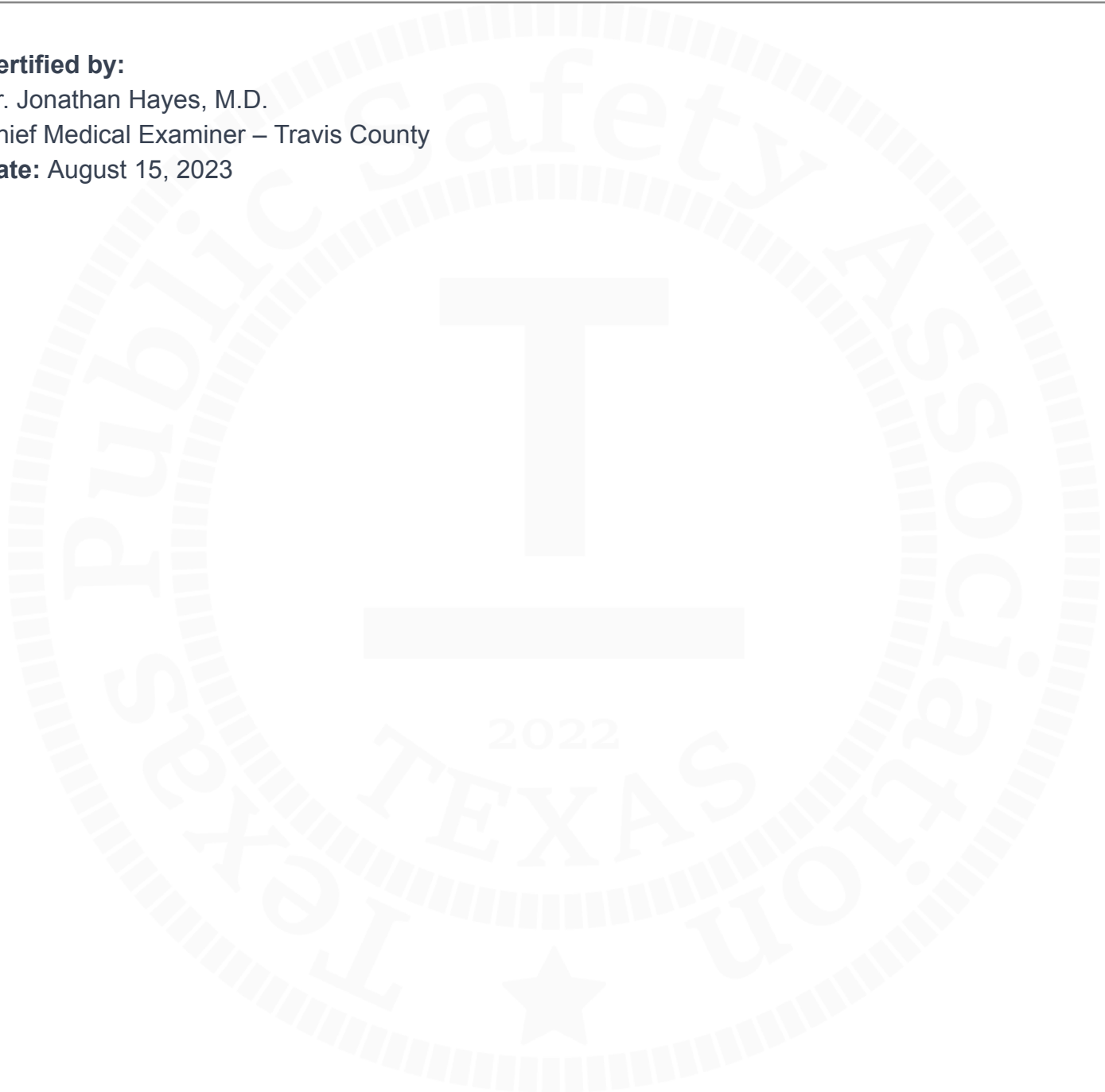
- The force of impact caused a catastrophic brain injury that was **non-survivable despite medical intervention**.
- No evidence suggests defensive wounds or additional injuries beyond the head trauma.

Certified by:

Dr. Jonathan Hayes, M.D.

Chief Medical Examiner – Travis County

Date: August 15, 2023



Curriculum Vitae

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Professional Summary

Dr. Jonathan Hayes, M.D., is a highly respected and experienced forensic pathologist and the current Chief Medical Examiner for Travis County, Texas. With over 20 years of experience in forensic pathology, Dr. Hayes has conducted thousands of autopsies and provided expert testimony in numerous high-profile cases. He is known for his meticulous approach to forensic investigations and his commitment to advancing the field through research, education, and professional service.

Education

- Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)
 - University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, TX
 - Graduated: 1998
- Bachelor of Science in Biology
 - University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
 - Graduated: 1994

Certifications and Licenses

- American Board of Pathology (ABP)
 - Certified in Anatomic Pathology (1999)
 - Certified in Clinical Pathology (2000)
 - Certified in Forensic Pathology (2003)
- Texas Medical License
 - Active and in good standing

Professional Organizations

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)
 - Member since 2000
 - Board Member (2015-2018)
 - Chair, Forensic Pathology Section (2017-2019)
- National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME)
 - Member since 2001

- Board Member (2012-2015)
- President (2014-2015)
- Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP)
 - Member since 2000
 - Vice President (2016-2018)
 - President (2018-2020)
- College of American Pathologists (CAP)
 - Member since 1999

Professional Training and Continuing Education

- Forensic Pathology Fellowship
 - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, New York City, NY
 - 2001-2003
- Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Residency
 - University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
 - 1998-2001
- Advanced Forensic Pathology Training
 - National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Training Program
 - 2005, 2010, 2015
- Continuing Medical Education (CME)
 - Annual participation in CME programs through the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the National Association of Medical Examiners

Current Employment

- Chief Medical Examiner
 - Travis County Medical Examiner's Office, Austin, TX
 - 2010 - Present
 - Responsibilities:
 - Oversee all forensic investigations and autopsies conducted by the office.
 - Provide expert testimony in criminal and civil cases.
 - Collaborate with law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders in the forensic community.
 - Conduct and publish research in forensic pathology.
 - Train and mentor forensic pathologists and medical examiners.

Past Employment

- Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
 - Harris County Medical Examiner's Office, Houston, TX
 - 2005 - 2010
 - Responsibilities:
 - Supervise and conduct forensic investigations and autopsies.

- Provide expert testimony in criminal and civil cases.
- Manage a team of forensic pathologists and support staff.
- Develop and implement quality assurance programs.
- Forensic Pathologist
 - Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office, Dallas, TX
 - 2003 - 2005
 - Responsibilities:
 - Conduct forensic investigations and autopsies.
 - Provide expert testimony in criminal and civil cases.
 - Collaborate with law enforcement and other agencies.

Publications

1. Hayes, J., & Smith, R. (2015). "The Role of Forensic Pathology in Investigating Sudden Unexplained Deaths." *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 60(2), 345-352.
2. Hayes, J., & Johnson, M. (2012). "Forensic Pathology and the Identification of Blunt Force Trauma." *Forensic Science International*, 220(1-3), 123-129.
3. Hayes, J., & Brown, L. (2008). "Challenges in the Investigation of Heat-Related Deaths." *American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology*, 29(3), 187-192.

Presentations and Lectures

- "Advances in Forensic Pathology: A Case Study Approach"
 - Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, San Francisco, CA (2019)
- "The Forensic Pathologist's Role in Investigating Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)"
 - National Association of Medical Examiners Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (2017)
- "Forensic Pathology and the Legal System: Bridging the Gap"
 - Texas Society of Pathologists Annual Meeting, Austin, TX (2016)
- "Forensic Pathology in the 21st Century: New Technologies and Techniques"
 - University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, TX (2014)
- "The Role of Forensic Pathology in Public Health"
 - College of American Pathologists Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (2012)

Awards and Honors

- Outstanding Contribution to Forensic Science Award
 - American Academy of Forensic Sciences (2018)
- Distinguished Service Award
 - National Association of Medical Examiners (2014)
- Excellence in Forensic Pathology Award
 - Texas Society of Pathologists (2010)