

BONNEVILLE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

605 N. Capitol Ave.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

AUTOPSY REPORT

Name: KIELEE RUSTICI Weight: 104 pounds Agency No: 250303-71
Approximate Age: 23 years Height: 66 inches Pronounced Date of Death: 03/02/2025
Biological Sex: Female

Autopsy Authorized By: Shante Sanchez, Bonneville County Coroner

I hereby certify that on the 4th day of March, 2025, beginning at 1025 hours, I, Garth D. Warren, M.D., performed an autopsy on the body of **Kielee Rustici** at the Ada County Coroner's Office in Meridian, Idaho and upon investigation of the essential facts concerning the circumstances of the death and history of the case, I am of the opinion that the findings, cause and manner of death are as follows:

FINDINGS:

- I. Acute mitragynine (Kratom) intoxication:
 - A. Kratom found on scene.
- II. History of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.
- III. History of POTS syndrome.
- IV. History of chronic neck pain.
- V. History of anxiety/depression.

TOXICOLOGY:

Postmortem blood	Results	
Cotinine	Presumptive Positive	
Nicotine	Presumptive Positive	
Sertraline	Positive	690 ng/mL
Desmethylsertraline	Positive	670 ng/mL
Mitragynine	Positive	3100 ng/mL

COMMENT: The decedent was a 23-year-old biological female with a history of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, POTS syndrome, chronic neck pain, and anxiety/depression. She was found unresponsive in her basement bedroom by her sister who went to check on her. She was found lying face down on the floor next to her bed with the right side of her face up against the nightstand. 911 was called, and EMS responded and pronounced the decedent dead on scene. Over-the-counter medications and bags of Kratom were found on scene.

Autopsy revealed pulmonary vascular congestion. No significant traumatic injuries were identified.

Toxicology revealed markedly elevated and lethal levels of mitragynine (Kratom); therapeutic/non-toxic levels of sertraline and desmethylsertraline (sertraline metabolite); nicotine and cotinine (nicotine metabolite) in the blood.

Based on the available history, provided scene investigation information, medical records, law enforcement report, postmortem examination, and toxicology results, the cause of death is due to acute mitragynine (Kratom) intoxication.

250303-71

CAUSE OF DEATH: ACUTE MITRAGYNINE (KRATOM) INTOXICATION

MANNER OF DEATH: TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BONNEVILLE COUNTY CORONER



Garth D. Warren, M.D.
Forensic Pathologist

4/10/25
Date

GROSS ANATOMIC DESCRIPTION

PERSONS ATTENDING AUTOPSY:

- Ryan Belanger, Forensic Autopsy Supervisor
- Carolina Ramos, Forensic Autopsy Technician
- Lorraine Barton, Forensic Autopsy Technician
- Cora Stock, Medical Student, Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Jill Lemon, Job Shadow, Forensics Division
- Deputy Coroner Ben Harris, Bonneville County Coroner's Office

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

- The body is received in a sealed black body bag with body lock #2842409.
- The body is received clothed in a blue T-shirt and blue shorts.
- Personal effects include a gold-toned necklace with a gold-toned pendant, gold-toned hoop earrings (x2) in the left ear, a gold-toned hoop earring (x1) in the right ear, a gold-toned hoop nose ring in the right nostril, and a scrunchie.

IDENTIFICATION:

- A blue and white coroner's identification bracelet, inscribed with the decedent's name, "DOB: 8/20/01", and "DOD: 3/2/25", is around the right ankle.
- Identification is made by the Bonneville County Coroner prior to examination.
- Fingerprints and digital photographs are obtained.

MEDICAL INTERVENTION: None.

EXTERNAL BODY EXAMINATION: The body is that of a well-developed, thin, biological female who appears the reported age of 23 years. The body weighs 104 pounds and is 66 inches in length (body mass index of 16.78 kg/m²). The body is cool to the touch having been temporarily refrigerated. Rigor is present and easily broken in the jaw and extremities. Lividity is pink-red, fixed, and present in the anterior dependent portions of the body except in areas exposed to pressure. Evidence of early decomposition includes green skin discoloration of the right and left lower quadrants of the abdomen.

The scalp hair is brown, straight, and long. The irides are blue; the pupils are equal and round bilaterally and the corneas are clear. The sclerae are white with no significant congestion or postmortem drying. There are no obvious bulbar or palpebral petechial hemorrhages. The nose is normally formed and does not grate upon palpation with no significant discharge in the nostrils. The ears are normally formed and set without blood or discharge in the external auditory canals. Multiple piercings are noted in both ears. The mouth, lips, and lining of the mouth are normally formed and uninjured. The anterior teeth are natural, intact, and in a good state of repair. The anterior neck is normally formed. The trachea is midline to palpation and the neck is free of obvious palpable masses, cervical lymphadenopathy, or obvious traumatic injuries.

The body hair pattern is appropriate for age and sex. The chest is well-developed. The breasts are symmetrical and free of obvious palpable masses. The nipples are symmetrical and unremarkable. The abdomen is flat, soft, and free of obvious palpable masses. The external genitalia are those of a normal adult female. There is no trauma to the labia or immediate vaginal opening. The pubic hair pattern is appropriate for age and sex.

EXTERNAL BODY EXAMINATION, continued

The upper extremities are symmetric and normally formed with all five digits on each hand. No obvious needle puncture marks are present in either arm. The fingernails are natural, intact, and extend slightly past the tips of the fingers (with the exception of the left index finger that is chipped on the end). The lower extremities are symmetric and normally formed with all five toes on each foot. The toenails are natural, intact, extend slightly past the tips of the toes, and are clean. The soles of the feet are uninjured.

The back and anus are normally formed.

SCARS AND TATTOOS:

Scars: No surgical scars are identified.

Tattoos: Photographically documented.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY:

- Multiple punctate red hemorrhages and a linear hemorrhage, spanning 1½ inches x 1 inch, involves the anterior right shoulder.
- A red-brown, dried, superficial abrasion, ¼ inch in greatest dimension, is on the back of the distal right forearm.
- A small, red-brown, dried, superficial abrasion, ⅛ inch in greatest dimension, is on the back of the right thumb.
- Multiple small, punctate, red-brown, superficial abrasions, some with crust formation, are scattered on both lower shins.

RADIOLOGY: No postmortem radiographs were taken.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:**HEAD:**

Reflection of the scalp reveals no evidence of deep scalp or subgaleal hemorrhage. The calvarium is intact and unfractured. Removal of the calvarium shows the dura mater and falx cerebri to be intact. No collections of epidural or subdural blood are present. The brain weighs 1288 grams. The leptomeninges are thin and transparent with no evidence of subarachnoid hemorrhage or fibropurulent exudate. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetric and normally formed. There is no evidence of significant edema, atrophy, or destructive lesions. There is no evidence of uncal or cerebellar tonsillar herniation. The vessels of the circle of Willis have a normal distribution with no significant atherosclerosis, tears, or aneurysms. The cranial nerves are intact. The cerebellar tonsils show a slight downward extension (with coning) into the foramen magnum. No tonsillar necrosis or hemorrhage is identified. Sectioning reveals the cortical ribbon to be intact and there are no focal lesions in the cortex, subcortical white matter, or deep gray matter of either hemisphere. The lateral and third ventricles are of normal size. Sectioning the cerebellum and brainstem shows no focal lesions. The atlantooccipital junction is intact upon palpation.

NECK:

Anterior neck dissection reveals no strap muscle or soft tissue hemorrhage and there are no injuries to the large vessels. The hyoid bone, thyroid cartilage and cricoid cartilage are intact and unfractured. The epiglottis is pink and not swollen. The larynx and trachea are lined with tan mucosa and unobstructed. The tongue is normal externally and on cut sections.

BODY CAVITIES:

The standard Y-shaped incision is made to reveal the thoracic and abdominal organs are in their normal anatomical positions. No adhesions or abnormal collections of fluid are present in the pericardial, pleural, or peritoneal cavities.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:

The heart weighs 217 grams. The epicardium is smooth with a minimal amount of epicardial fat. The coronary arteries arise normally, follow their usual distribution, and are widely patent and free of significant atherosclerosis or thrombi. The chambers of the heart show the usual size and position relationships. The atrial and ventricular septa are intact. The foramen ovale is closed. The myocardium is red-brown and firm and has no focal or regional softening, erythema, or fibrosis. The endocardium is smooth and brown, and the cardiac valves are normally formed without vegetations. The aorta and its major branches arise normally and follow the usual course. The major aortic vascular branches are patent. The aorta has no significant atherosclerosis, tears, or aneurysms. The vena cava and its major tributaries return to the heart in the usual distribution and are unremarkable.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:

The right lung weighs 540 grams, and the left lung weighs 450 grams. The lungs demonstrate a normal lobation pattern. The pleural surfaces are smooth and have no adhesions. The upper airways are unobstructed and free of foreign material, purulence, excess mucus, hemorrhage, or masses. The pulmonary arteries course normally and are free of thromboemboli. Sectioning reveals a dark pink to red parenchyma with patchy congestion. There are no nodules, abscesses, or areas of consolidation in either lung.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:

The esophagus is lined by unremarkable appearing, gray-white, smooth mucosa. The gastric mucosa is arranged in the usual rugal folds, and the lumen contains 5 cc of green fluid. No tablets or capsules are identified within the stomach contents. External examination of the small and large bowel reveals no adhesions, diverticula, masses, or injuries. The appendix is present.

PANCREAS:

The pancreas has a soft, tan, lobulated parenchyma and is free of calcifications, cysts, hemorrhage, or masses.

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM:

The liver weighs 1361 grams and is covered by a smooth capsule. Sectioning reveals a red-brown parenchyma free of focal lesions. The gallbladder has a velvety green serosal surface and is opened to reveal dark green bile with no gallstones.

URINARY SYSTEM:

The right kidney weighs 101 grams, and the left kidney weighs 137 grams. The renal capsules are smooth, thin, and strip with ease from the underlying smooth cortical surfaces. Sectioning reveals the cortices are of normal thickness with good corticomedullary delineation. The calyces, pelves, and ureters are non-dilated.

The urinary bladder contains no urine. The bladder mucosa is tan and unremarkable.

REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM:

The uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries occupy their usual positions, are of normal size and are grossly unremarkable.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:

The pituitary is unremarkable and of normal size.

The thyroid gland is normally formed, and sectioning reveals soft, tan-maroon parenchyma without nodules or cysts.

The adrenal glands are normally formed, and sectioning reveals no focal lesions.

RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM:

The spleen weighs 185 grams. The splenic capsule is blue-gray, smooth, and intact. Sectioning reveals deep maroon parenchyma without focal abnormalities.

The thymus weight 30 grams and occupies its usual position in the superior mediastinum.

No enlarged regional lymph nodes are noted.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:

The bony framework and supporting musculature and soft tissues are unremarkable. No fractures of the clavicles, ribs, vertebrae, pelvis, or extremities are visualized or palpated. The diaphragm is intact.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

CASSETTE INDEX:

- A:** Left ventricle of heart, lower lobe right lung
- B:** Lower lobe left lung, liver, kidney, pancreas
- C:** SA node
- D:** Cerebellar tonsils.

MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION:

BRAIN: Sections of cerebellum show no significant pathological changes.

HEART: Myocardium with variably sized myocytes and no overt acute necrosis, inflammatory infiltrate, hemorrhage, or significant fibrosis. Sections of the SA node shows no significant pathological changes.

LUNG: Patchy vascular congestion; no overt acute bronchopneumonia, granulomas, or interstitial disease identified.

LIVER: No significant pathological changes.

PANCREAS: Autolysis.

KIDNEY: Tubular autolysis; no significant pathological changes.

SPECIMENS AND EVIDENCE COLLECTED

Specimens and evidence collected and retained at the Ada County Coroner's Office unless otherwise noted.

Photographs were taken and are retained at the Ada County Coroner's Office.

Representative tissue sections are taken and retained at the Ada County Coroner's Office.