



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT**
Number One on Bob Hope Road
Miami, FL 33136
Phone (305) 545-2400 Fax (305) 545-2439



AUTOPSY PROTOCOL

DUERSON, David

Case No. 2011-00457

DATE: February 17, 2011
TIME ARRIVED AT SCENE: 9:35 PM
SCENE LOCATION: 19333 Collins Avenue, Suite #603
POLICE AGENCY: Miami-Dade Police Department
LEAD INVESTIGATOR: Detective Joe Zanonato

INITIAL INFORMATION:

David Duerson was an ex-football player who played in the NFL for 10 years, having been with the Chicago Bears, New York Giants and Arizona Cardinals, and had won two Super Bowls. He was divorced in 2009 and had known his current fiancée for nine months. The manager of the condominium received a telephone call at 2:45 PM from his fiancée who is in Chicago. After the manager received no answer at the door, the fiancée emailed authorization for entry to the unit. A chair was found wedged up against the door. 911 was called and after the fire department pushed in the door, two Miami-Dade police officers made entry. The body of David Duerson was found on his bed with the sheet pulled up to the neck. As the sheet was pulled off the body, a .38 Special revolver was seen next to the left hand with four intact rounds and one spent round in the five-shot cylinder. Mr. Duerson apparently had financial difficulties with bankruptcy issues, and although he had won 35 million dollars in a law suit, none of the money was collected. He also complained of memory loss and inability to spell. He had wanted his brain to be donated to the NFL Brain Bank.

OBSERVATION OF SURROUNDINGS AND VICTIM:

A dining room chair is just inside the front door of the condominium and portions of a long-stemmed glass are on the chair and the floor. Multiple documents had been laid out on the dining room table. Multiple documents are laid out on the bed in the second bedroom, along with two framed certificates, framed medals and a folded American flag at the head of the bed.

The nude body of a muscular middle-aged black male is supine in the middle of the bed in the master bedroom. The head rests on a pillow. A green sheet has been displaced to the pelvic region from its original position up by the neck; comforters cover the lower body. The arms are alongside the torso with the elbows slightly flexed. A .38 Special revolver was found medial to the left hand with the muzzle pointed toward the feet and the grip towards the body. Electrocardiographic patches are on the anterior aspects of the shoulders and both sides of the abdomen. Rigor mortis is full and generalized. The Miami-Dade Police retrieve a gold-colored necklace from around the neck.

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A few spots of blood are on the pillow, to the right of the head, and smaller specks of blood are to the left of the head. Spots of blood are on the green sheet. A contact gunshot wound is inferolateral to the left nipple and has associated soot and residue deposition in the edges. No exit wound or subcutaneous projectile is seen. The eyes have no ecchymoses or petechiae. The mouth has no injuries. No trauma is evident on the body except for the gunshot wound. The hands are swabbed for gunshot residue by the Miami-Dade Police prior to examination of the body.

The walk-in closet in the master bedroom has a football statue, three helmets from different football teams, and three football trophies.

SCENE IMPRESSION:

Self-inflicted gunshot wound to chest; suicide.

NOTE: The foregoing is of a speculative nature and subject to modification pending further information and investigation.



**Emma O. Lew, M.D.
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner**

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