

## Body Found in Bathtub/Bathing Environment Investigation Form

Note: This form can be used for bathtub, hot tub, whirlpools, spas or any arena used for soaking or washing such as sinks for infants or open-water areas for homeless people. "Bathtub" represents these arenas throughout this form.

### The Three Primary Investigation Questions:

- 1) Does it make sense that the victim was in the water at that time?
- 2) Does the location, position, posture and physical state of the Decedent (**D**) and Reporting Party (**RP**) make sense?
- 3) Does it make sense that the D did not survive the immersion or submersion?  
**If the D has no disease, disability or drugs/alcohol then why is the D dead? E.g. healthy 2 year-old can sit and stand up.**

Document changing evidence first (e.g. wetness, temp, rigor...). In addition to documenting the scene/body as found, it is **critical** to learn as much as possible about the scene as found by the reporting party and first responders.

Reporting Party Name/contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHOTOGRAPH THE REPORTING PARTY (Full body shot, front and back, plus close ups)**

### FIRST RESPONDING OFFICER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date form completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Time completed: \_\_\_\_\_

I. **Scene Documentation:** Complete the following based on your observations.

a. **Degree of Wetness:** Circle/Check the appropriate response

*Use filter paper, toilet paper, paper napkins, or other mediums to blot items to show degree of wetness, or lack thereof, and photograph the results. Take the paper into evidence.*

Bathroom walls:      soaking wet      wet      damp      dry      other: \_\_\_\_\_

Bathtub basin:      soaking wet      wet      damp      dry      other: \_\_\_\_\_

Bathtub walls:      soaking wet      wet      damp      dry      other: \_\_\_\_\_

Bathmat:      soaking wet      wet      damp      dry      other: \_\_\_\_\_

Floor:      soaking wet      wet      damp      dry      other: \_\_\_\_\_

Shower curtain/door:      soaking wet      wet      damp      dry      other: \_\_\_\_\_

Condensation anywhere? :      Y      N      Location(s) \_\_\_\_\_

RP clothing or skin? Any areas wet/damp? Where \_\_\_\_\_

Water temp in tub: \_\_\_\_\_ *Use gloved finger & describe if that's all you have at first.*

Towels (check hamper, washer, garbage):      soaking wet      wet      damp      dry  
locations: \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous wet/damp areas: \_\_\_\_\_

## CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date form completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Time completed: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. **Temperature (Temp).** Use gloved finger and describe if that's all you have at first. Infrared thermometers can be used to take temps of hard surfaces such as floors, bathtub walls, etc... but are not good for temp of water itself.

Instrument used to record temp? \_\_\_\_\_

Water temp in tub: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Bathroom Air Temp : \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Tub wall temps: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Floor Temp under body: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum water temper from tub faucet: \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum temp from tub faucet: \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum temp for hot water heater: \_\_\_\_\_ Misc. Temp: \_\_\_\_\_

- c. **Tub Conditions** – take enough photos so that the scene can later be accurately re-enacted

Depth: Over flowing at rim at over flow drain half full puddle empty

Water Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Water Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Document 3x in an hour or longer time to document depth changes

Was Faucet running: Yes No Describe flow: \_\_\_\_\_ Time faucet was turned off: \_\_\_\_\_

Drain closure type: standard with bath manual plug Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Drain State: open closed partial Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Operation of overflow and tub drain (functioning properly): Yes No

Purposefully drained?: No Yes: by whom: \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Was the water drained before or after the decedent was pulled out of the tub: \_\_\_\_\_

Items on tub rim: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: take items on or near the tub into evidence if possible*

Items in tub: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: photo all items in and near tub – show labels of bottles for example and describe the quantity of contents (full, half full..)*

Water clarity: Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Intentional Contaminants: soaps bubbles oils salts other: \_\_\_\_\_

Unintentional Contaminants: blood spills purge other: \_\_\_\_\_

Sketch tub with measurements: *Make sure to document height of overflow drain.*

*Fingerprint bathtub and perhaps bathroom to document hand positions, a lack of prints due to a cleanup, etc. Consider taking the bathtub into evidence if there are possible indicators of homicide. Fingerprint entrance/exit to room if necessary.*

*After processing the scene, determine how long it takes to fill the tub to the observed water depth and to overflow drain depth, and to top using max flow rate. Duration to: observed/reported depth: \_\_\_\_\_ overflow drain depth: \_\_\_\_\_ maximum depth: \_\_\_\_\_*

If tub leaks (poor drain closure, etc) document duration from full to empty. Full to bottom of overflow drain: \_\_\_\_\_ Full to reported depth when D found: \_\_\_\_\_ overflow drain to empty: \_\_\_\_\_

Distance between overflow drain and observed or reported water level? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does the reported depth make sense? Consider the drop in depth that should have occurred when the body was reportedly removed from the tub.

If whirlpool, spa, hot tub, etc... describe state of jets, heat, lights when body discovered: \_\_\_\_\_

d. **Bathroom Information:** sketch dimensions

Describe lighting when body found: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Take ambient lighting photos – especially of what RP's say they saw or did not see.*

Disturbed or broken items: \_\_\_\_\_

State of bathroom: clean messy Compared to rest of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

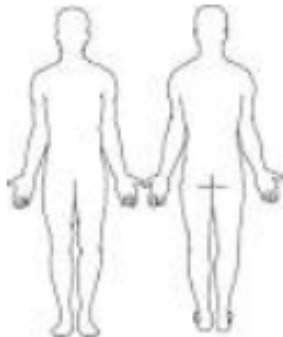
State of toilet (contents, seat cover, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Door when body found: open partial closed locked or unlocked Make sense? \_\_\_\_\_

II. **Decedent Information:** Is the following information what you saw, or the state of body when found by RP?

Nude or Clothed: describe: \_\_\_\_\_

a. **Wetness**



Body Wetness: label parts as: soaking wet wet damp dry

Hair Wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry

Clothing wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
N/A \_

Hair state: loose secured up describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
N/A

b. **Body Information**- Draw a sketch of body location/position/posture when first found by RP.

The following information is in regards to when the D was first discovered:

Body position: supine prone left side right side

Body: fully in tub Body parts out of tub: \_\_\_\_\_

Orientation to faucet: head toward head away head in middle

Airway status: submerged partially submerged not submerged

Body Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_ How taken?: \_\_\_\_\_

Actual time when the following is examined and documented: \_\_\_\_\_

Rigor: **N**one **E**asy-to-Break **F**ixed -- Jaw \_\_\_\_\_ Neck \_\_\_\_\_ Arms \_\_\_\_\_ Fingers \_\_\_\_\_ Knees \_\_\_\_\_

Lividity: fixed not fixed gravity-dependent Lividity List body locations \_\_\_\_\_

Skin wrinkling: **N**one, **M**ild, **M**oderate, **S**evere: left hand \_\_\_\_\_ right hand \_\_\_\_\_ left foot \_\_\_\_\_  
Right foot \_\_\_\_\_ other parts/comments \_\_\_\_\_ take close up, perpendicular photos of all

Temperature of D \_\_\_\_\_ How taken? \_\_\_\_\_

Decomposition: skin slippage discoloration bloating marbling blistering odor  
purge insects comments: \_\_\_\_\_

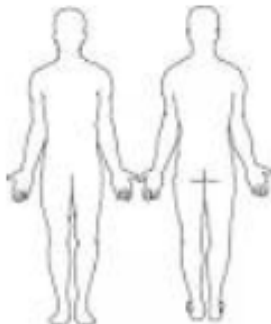
Eyes: Petechial hemorrhage Left/right tache noir Left/right corneal clouding  
Carefully photograph eyes w/ upper & lower lids pulled away and note time

Presence of fluid or vomit from airway: Yes No Describe & perhaps collect as evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Signs of Sexual Assault: yes no comments: \_\_\_\_\_

III. **Reporting Party/ First Responder Information** – get as much detailed info as possible to facilitate a later reenactment of the scene, what the RP/FR's did on the scene, what the RP/FR's observed, and the D's state.

a. **Wetness** photograph and blot with paper



Body Wetness: label parts as: Soaking Wet Wet Damp Dry

Hair Wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry

Clothing wetness: soaking wet wetdamp dry describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Did RP change or remove any clothing after discovering D? \_\_\_\_\_

b. **RP Injuries** Photograph and describe any injuries. If necessary check under other clothes.

## **DETECTIVE OR INVESTIGATOR**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date form completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Time completed: \_\_\_\_\_

- IV. Who found D: \_\_\_\_\_  
Who removed D from bathtub \_\_\_\_\_

Explain in detail how D was removed from bathtub: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ask RP to verbally describe in detail, then write a statement, then do a physical show me that is documented with video or photos.*

Does the wetness of the RP match the statement? Yes No Describe in section III. Reporting Party

Explain in detail how and where the D was placed after removal from tub: \_\_\_\_\_

*Have RP draw a sketch of the D on floor if first responders moved D prior to D being photographed*

Date/Time of discovery: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time last known alive: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Time of Immersion: \_\_\_\_\_ Explain; \_\_\_\_\_

Did anyone other than the RP see D in bathtub: \_\_\_\_\_

- V. **Bathing Habits** – Interview anyone who might know about D’s bathing habits. How, when, why, where.

Did it appear that decedent was taking a bath or a shower? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the decedent normally take baths: yes no Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Normal bathing time: \_\_\_\_\_ Normal bathing location; \_\_\_\_\_

Towel(s) present: Yes No Towel state: \_\_\_\_\_

Cleaning item: Loofa wash cloth other: \_\_\_\_\_

Jewelry/Watch on D: \_\_\_\_\_

Does D normally wear jewelry/watch when bathing? \_\_\_\_\_

What items would normally be in/on bathing area: book drink: \_\_\_\_\_ phone  
tablet radio/music: \_\_\_\_\_ candle lit/unlit robe slippers Toys Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
other: \_\_\_\_\_

Which of above items were present now: \_\_\_\_\_

Other items present: \_\_\_\_\_

Items present that are out of character for D or unusual in general: \_\_\_\_\_

Location/state pre-bath clothes: \_\_\_\_\_ is that in character? \_\_\_\_\_

Location/state pre-bath clothes: \_\_\_\_\_ is that in character? \_\_\_\_\_

Correct bathroom for D:        yes        no        Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Other environmental factors that could have contributed to the decedent's death (electrocution, carbon monoxide, scalding water):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Evidence of aquatic erotic asphyxia, pedophilia or aquatic sexual sadism:        yes        no  
*If possible look at computers, phones, etc*

VI. **Injuries:** *Photograph all defects/injuries/indentations. Include scales (use money if scale not available). Immersion can 'hide' injuries so carefully look through hair at scalp, look at neck for indentations....*

Neck: yes no    Head: yes no    Back: yes no

Other apparent injuries: \_\_\_\_\_

Body planes with injury:    Front    back    left side    right side    top of head    soles feet

Can injuries be reasonably explained? e.g. by removal from tub? \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. Medical History**

Fall reported:    yes        no        comments: \_\_\_\_\_

History of falls:    yes        no        History of Dizziness:    yes        no        Seizure reported:    yes        no

History of seizures:    yes        no        Physical Disability:    yes        no        describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Mental Illness/ Disability:    yes        no        explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Suicide Ideation:    yes        no        method(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Suicide attempt(s) (number): \_\_\_\_\_ method(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Drug/Alcohol abuse:    yes        no        Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Any drugs/alcohol on scene:    yes        no        List what and where: \_\_\_\_\_

*If RP is spontaneously reporting that the D was intoxicated don't assume that is true until toxicology results are in. Be aware that toxicology increases vulnerability and can be used to incapacitate potential victims.*

List any other diseases/ conditions (diabetes, cardiac, pulmonary, neurological, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prescriptions: \_\_\_\_\_

History of Abuse:      yes      no      by whom: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the decedent have any insurance policies: ye no Investigate beneficiaries, \$ amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Pediatric or dependent-adult decedents only:**

Who was supervising D in bath? \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to D \_\_\_\_\_

Who normally bathes D? \_\_\_\_\_ Normal bath time: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter tub w/o assistance:      yes      no      Exit tub w/o assistance:      yes      no

Manipulate faucets w/o assistance: yes no      Manipulate drain closure w/o assistance: Yes no

Possible evidence of co-bathing: yes no      with whom: \_\_\_\_\_

Fever: yes no      temp: \_\_\_\_\_      Was decedent 'fussy' today? \_\_\_\_\_

Was decedent misbehaving today? \_\_\_\_\_

D soiled prior to bathing:      Yes      no      Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Check for dirty or water-soaked diapers/clothes on D, in residence, in garbage.... And take into evidence.*

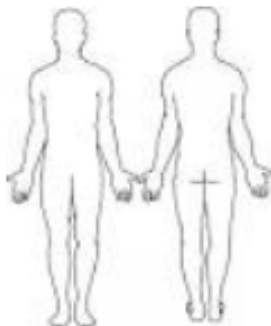
Possible history of dunking as punishment: yes no      *are any children taken into bathroom after misbehaving? History of any child crying in bathroom? Was the D crying prior to incident? Fear of baths?*

Previous history of pneumonia or other lung problems/illness that could result from inhaling water?

Munchausen by Proxy – any possible signs:      yes      no

**VIII. Reporting Party/ First Responder Information** – *get as much detailed info as possible to facilitate a later reenactment of the scene, what the RP/FR's did on the scene, what the RP/FR's observed, and the D's state.*

**a. Witness** *photograph and blot with paper*



Body Wetness: label parts as: Soaking Wet Wet Damp Dry

Hair Wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry

Clothing wetness: soaking wet wetdamp dry describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Did RP change or remove any clothing after discovering D? \_\_\_\_\_

- b. **RP Injuries** Photograph and describe any injuries. Check under shirt and if necessary under other clothes.
- c. **RP's actions**

How did RP come to find D? \_\_\_\_\_

If RP did not remove D from bathtub explain why not:

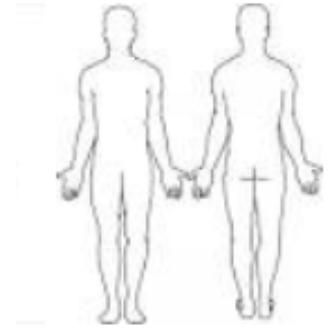
\_\_\_\_\_

Did RP attempt CPR? Yes No Explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, was this witnessed: Yes No If yes, by Whom and describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Does RP have any CPR Training Yes No Describe: \_\_\_\_\_



- d. **EMS/Hospital Care** EMS respond:            yes        no

EMS care:        CPR        IVs        Intubation        suctioning Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Did EMS make any changes to scene? Describe if yes: \_\_\_\_\_

When airway opened was there any resistance: Yes No Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe anything coming out of D's airway (fluid, vomit..) \_\_\_\_\_

*Obtain detailed written statements from EMS with scene sketch of body position. This info can be invaluable for later reenactments and investigations. Include communication with RP, state of D when first examined (temp, wetness, position, posture), state of RP (wetness, demeanor, actions), state of bathroom.*

Hospital care:    CPR        IV        Intubation        Ventilator        Other care: \_\_\_\_\_

- IV. **Autopsy** Autopsy done:    yes        no
- Posterior neck/back resection:    yes        no
- Gastric contents: \_\_\_\_\_
- Vomit Aspiration:        yes        no
- Injuries:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## V. Toxicology

Drug	OTC/Illicit/Prescription	Therapeutic/Above/Below/Unknown
------	--------------------------	---------------------------------

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_