

TITLE: RADIOGRAPH AND DENTAL COMPARISON

Policy: The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is responsible for the positive identification of all decedents whose deaths are investigated pursuant to DC Code § 5-1403 and 1409.

Purpose: To ensure efficient and timely identification of decedents under the jurisdiction of OCME.

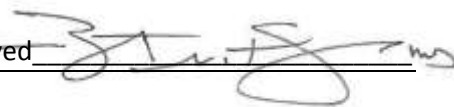
Scope: The following procedure is to assist the ID Unit and any OCME staff member involved in the identifications of a decedent.

1. Radiograph Comparison

- 1.1. The Investigations staff searches for antemortem radiographs, skeletal and dental, by speaking with the family and searching local hospitals.
- 1.2. When radiographs are available, the Investigations staff requests a copy and retrieves them from the medical facility.
- 1.3. Once received, an Investigator places the radiographs in the case chart. He/she notifies the Anthropologist via e-mail, cc'ing the Mortuary Supervisor, that radiographs have been received.
- 1.4. The Anthropologist reviews the radiographs for appropriateness and notifies the Mortuary staff of the postmortem radiographs needed.
- 1.5. The Mortuary staff takes the postmortem radiographs and uploads them to the PACS system. He/she sends an e-mail to the Anthropologist, CC'ing the Mortuary Supervisor, stating that the postmortem radiographs are available.
- 1.6. The Anthropologist makes the radiograph comparison.
- 1.7. The Anthropologist sends an e-mail to the Investigation staff, CC'ing the case Medical Examiner, notifying them that the case is or isn't positively identified.
 - 1.7.1. If positive, the Anthropologist updates the Identification page within FACTS, notifies family, and submits the chart to the ID Unit for death certificate preparation
 - 1.7.1.1. Method – (ID by Dental X-rays or ID by X-rays);
 - 1.7.1.2. By Whom – (Name of Anthropologist);
 - 1.7.1.3. Date & Time – (MM/DD/YYYY 00:00);
 - 1.7.1.4. NOK Form Signed? – (Not Applicable);
 - 1.7.1.5. Grief Counseling Provided? – (No).
 - 1.7.2. If negative, the Anthropologist returns the chart to the Case File drawer and makes a comment in the Identification page of FACTS.

Section 11: Decedent Identification
D: Radiograph and Dental Comparison

Approved _____



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- 1.8. If the radiograph comparison is a dental comparison and an Odontologist is needed, the Anthropologist contacts the Odontologist to schedule a dental identification. The Odontologist submits the results of the comparison to the Anthropologist. The Identification page in FACTS is completed.
 - 1.8.1. Method – (ID by Dental X-rays);
 - 1.8.2. By Whom – (Name of Odontologist);
 - 1.8.3. Date & Time – (MM/DD/YYYY 00:00);
 - 1.8.4. NOK Form Signed? – (Not Applicable);
 - 1.8.5. Grief Counseling Provided? – (No).
 - 1.8.6. Family is notified of the identification and the following information is entered into the Comment section of the Identification page of FACTS:
 - 1.8.6.1. Staff's initials;
 - 1.8.6.2. Date and time of the family notification;
 - 1.8.6.3. To whom the staff spoke.

2. Contact Information

- 2.1. Forensic anthropologist
 - 2.1.1. Jennifer C. Love, PhD, D-ABFA
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202-698-9045
- 2.2. Forensic odontologist
 - 2.2.1. Paul D. Cohen, DDS
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