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.
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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