

# **FORENSIC AUTOPSY REPORT**

**CASE NUMBER: 11**

**Name of the Decedent:** Marcus Eldridge

**Age:** 42

**Profession:** Independent artist

**Sex:** Male

**Date and Time of Autopsy:** 1: 00 AM, 6th September 2025

**PMI:** Estimated 8-12 hours prior discovery

**Performed By:** R. Amisa, Medical Trainee under Supervision, Moncton Medical Center

**Location of Autopsy:** Forensic Pathologist Lab, University Medical Teaching Hospital

**Authority Requesting Autopsy:** Office of Medical Examiner

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## **Summary of Case:**

The victim was found lying supine on the studio floor, near the window that overlooked the alley. No sign of forced entry. The messy studio exhibited signs of sudden disruption/ struggle.

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## **Condition of Body upon Arrival:**

The body was found lying supine on the studio floor. Palms facing up, arms slightly bent, legs extended. Slightly cool upon touch. No evidence of decomposition/ insect activity.

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## **External Examination:**

**Apparent Sex:** Male

**Height:** 5'10" / 177.8 cm

**Weight:** 145 lbs/ 66 kg

**Build:** Slightly malnourished, ribs slightly visible with mild thin limbs

**Ethnicity:** Caucasian

## **Head and Face:**

- **Hair:** : Brown with streaks of grey, medium-length, slightly wavy
- **Eyes:** Green
- **Skin:** Pale with faint brushstrokes of paint on hands and forearm
- **Nails:** No defensive scraping, but window still dust under finger nails
- **Dentition:** Intact, no recent dental work

### **Clothing:**

- **Shirt:** Loose, paint-stained white t-shirt ( Streaked with dried paint of multiple colors— mostly acrylic greens and red.)
- **Pants:** Denim jeans, frayed at the hems, with minor paint flecks on thighs and knees
- **Undergarments:** Present
- **Feet:** Bare
- **Accessories:** Silver bracelet on left wrist.

### **HEAD:**

- Small contusion on left temple
- Small scrape near the right cheek

### **NECK**

- No ligature mark or abrasions
- No palpable hyoid fracture
- No defensive scratches or bruises
- No petechiae on remaining conjunctiva or facial skin

### **ABDOMEN:**

- Faint bruising on lower ribs

### **LIMBS:**

- Laceration (~3 cm) on right forearm, dried blood
- Abrasions on knuckles, possibly from contact with a rough surface

**Postmortem changes:**

- Rigor mortis present in the jaw and upper limbs, less in lower limbs.
- Livor mortis was fixed, mostly posterior.
- The core temperature of the body was 35°C.
- Eyes slightly glassy

**Summary:**

- Faint bruising on ribs— from external force or trauma
  - Lacerations on right arm (3 cm) and head trauma ( small contusion on left temple)
  - Evidence of struggle and sudden disruption
  - The victim was malnourished.
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**Internal Examination:**

- **Head and Brain:** Mild hematoma on left side
- **Neck:** No fractures of hyoid bone or thyroid cartilage
- **Blood Lost:** 200 ml
- **Lungs:** Lungs clear; minor contusions on ribs; no signs of internal bleeding.
- **Cardiovascular System:** Heart structurally normal; a small clot in left atrium
- **Abdomen:** Stomach contains traces of a light meal consumed ~4 hours before estimated time of incident
- **Genitourinary System:** Unremarkable; no evidence of antemortem or perimortem sexual trauma

**Liver, spleen, kidneys:** Normal

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**Discussion:**

The deceased, Marcus Eldridge, was found in his disorganized studio after a disturbance. The wounds (Faint bruising on the ribs, 3 cm lacerating on forearm), and blood on the window, disheveled hair indicates the struggle of unsuccessful escape. According to the examinations, the victim was slightly malnourished—making him more vulnerable. Along with trauma on the victim's ribs, slight blood loss, mild subdural hematoma—combined with malnutrition and no medical intervention lead to brain herniation which ultimately caused his death.

Prior to death, the victim's condition was likely compromised due to neglecting self-care (Indicated by the long working hours, abandoned canvases, not collecting mails and slight malnutrition) and this became a contributing factor in his death later on. The offender likely knew this and took advantage of his weakened condition.

Taken together, the result of mild subdural hematoma amplified by malnutrition leads to a set up for brain herniation leading to cardiac arrest. The manner of death is best classified as homicide, with no strong forensic support for accidental or suicide.

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**Cause of death:** Brainstem failure due to herniation

**Mechanism of Death:** Pressure in the skull rises due to subdural hematoma  
→Brain herniation enhanced with malnutrition and hypoxia→ Brainstem failure→  
Cardiac arrest

**Manner of Death:** Homicide

**Evidence Supporting Homicide:**

- The abrasions on the knuckles were likely from the victim's vigorous attempt to defend himself from the offender—consistent with dried blood on the window and victim's placement during death.
- The offender was also possibly aware of the victim's weakened physical and emotional condition due to malnutrition and stress, and exploited.

- Prior to death, the victim was actively painting before getting caught up in the sudden, unexpected event— proved by the paint on the victim's clothing and upper limbs.

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**Signature**

*Ruhi A.*

*Medical Trainee under Supervision*

*6th September 2025*