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CLASSIFICATION: INTERNAL USE / TRAINING MATERIAL

RELEASE STATUS: LIMITED PUBLIC CLEARANCE

RELATED RECORD: BOUND TO WITNESS

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— ARCHIVE OVERSIGHT

WITNESS CONTAMINATION FIELD NOTE

SUMMARY

Witness contamination refers to the measurable alteration of an observed system following sustained, focused attention by a single observer. Observation does not remain passive. Once focus stabilizes, the system adapts to the presence of the witness.

PRIMARY INDICATORS

- Increased persistence of anomalous elements
- Deviation from expected degradation timelines
- Localization of loss around a single subject
- System behavior suggesting accommodation rather than decay

SECONDARY EFFECTS

- Emotional attachment between witness and subject
- Resistance to procedural detachment
- Misclassification of focus as intent
- Escalation of anomaly significance beyond original parameters

HANDLING PROTOCOL

- Limit duration of closed-system observation
- Rotate witnesses prior to focus stabilization
- Avoid personal identification markers (names, roles, narratives)
- Do not intervene once contamination thresholds are exceeded

WARNING

Observation is not neutral. Attention alters outcome. Once a subject has been fully seen, removal of the witness does not restore baseline conditions. The system retains the imprint.

Note: Sustained observation in closed systems is under review. Protocol amendments pending.