

INTRODUCTION

The Water-Related Death Scene Investigation (DSI) Protocol is a tool to help investigators collect detailed, standardized information in drowning and other water-related deaths. It provides a process for investigators to seek and collect rich, detailed, and contextual information that can support more effective investigations, public safety, public health, and prevention planning. Throughout this protocol, the decedent is referred to as “the subject.”

The Water-Related DSI Protocol is divided into three parts:

REPORTING PARTY/WITNESS INTERVIEW FORM

Found on **page 2**, this portion of the Protocol is intended to collect important information from people at the scene, including witnesses or those who found the subject. It poses time-sensitive questions to those in the vicinity of the incident or where the subject was found. If family members are the witnesses/reporting party, additional questions from the Decedent Information Report should be asked.

SCENE PROCESSING FORM

Found on **page 6**, this portion of the Protocol is intended to collect important information about the location and environment where the subject was found. It poses time-sensitive questions to collect transient information and process the scene.

DECEDENT INFORMATION FORM

Found on **page 18**, this portion of the Protocol includes important information about the subject, including significant risk factors for drowning. Information in this section may be collected from multiple sources including further investigation activities, autopsy reports, and family members.

The following report summarizes the investigation of the following individual:

Name of subject: _____

Subject date of birth: _____ Subject date of death: _____

Subject sex at birth: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Subject gender identity: ☐ No identity expressed/Unknown ☐ Non-binary
☐ Male, not transgender ☐ Female, not transgender
☐ Transgender male ☐ Transgender female

Subject race *(Check all that apply)*: ☐ Alaska Native, specify tribe: _____ ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ American Indian, specify tribe: _____ ☐ White
☐ Pacific Islander, specify: _____ ☐ Black
☐ Asian, specify: _____ ☐ Unknown

Hispanic or Latino/a origin?: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

Subject height and weight: _____ feet _____ inches _____ pounds _____ ounces

Time of death, if known (Military): _____ ☐ Unknown

REPORTING PARTY/WITNESS INTERVIEW FORM

These questions should be asked of the reporting party as well as any witnesses present **at the scene** of the incident or recovery. If the individuals interviewed for this information are also family or caregivers of the subject, the questions in the Decedent Information Form should also be asked. In addition to asking reporting parties and witnesses to describe what happened, investigators are encouraged to ask them to show, or reenact, what happened, ideally in the location of the incident. Please iterate to family or witnesses that this is a standard protocol and these questions will be asked in all circumstances and are not to be interpreted as an interrogation or belief of guilt.

1. Was the incident witnessed?

☐ Yes, proceed to 1a

☐ No, skip to 1e

☐ Unknown, skip to 1e

1a. If witnessed, who witnessed the incident? Check all that apply.

☐ Bystander

☐ Parent/guardian/caregiver

☐ Patron/swimmer

☐ Other family member, describe: _____

☐ Boater

☐ Intimate partner

☐ Lifeguard

☐ Friend

☐ Other facility staff

☐ Other, describe: _____

☐ Resident or neighbor

☐ Unknown

1b. If witnessed, who first noticed that the subject was in trouble? Check all that apply.

☐ Bystander

☐ Parent/guardian/caregiver

☐ Patron/swimmer

☐ Other family member, describe: _____

☐ Boater

☐ Intimate partner

☐ Lifeguard

☐ Friend

☐ Other facility staff

☐ Other, describe: _____

☐ Resident or neighbor

☐ Unknown

1c. Were any of the witnesses aged 18 or older?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

1d. What was the reporting party or witness doing when they realized the subject needed help?

1e. Witness/reporting party names/contact information:

1f. If incident was not observed, what prompted discovery of subject?

2. Prior to the incident, where was the subject last seen?

3. When subject was last seen, were they observed:

☐ In the water ☐ On the water ☐ Near the water ☐ Not near any water

4. What was the subject's last activity immediately prior to the incident? Check all that apply.

☐ Swimming ☐ Breath-holding or feat of endurance
☐ Sunbathing ☐ Traveling (land, water, ice, air), describe: _____
☐ Playing outside ☐ Water sports/boating/recreation (including cliff jumping or scuba diving), describe: _____
☐ Playing inside ☐ Sleeping
☐ Working ☐ Other, describe: _____
☐ Bathing ☐ Unknown

5. Was subject forcibly submerged by another person, including roughhousing or being pushed?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

6. Was the subject supervised at the time of the incident? Include lifeguards present.

☐ Yes ☐ No, but supervision was not needed
☐ No, but supervision was needed ☐ Unknown

**Supervision can be needed for a variety of reasons, including age, development, swimming ability, or cognitive or physical disability. In some instances, a person may have been in a supervisory role but turned their back or been distracted. In those instances, answer "yes" and detail their distractions in 6c-6e.*

6a. If subject was supervised, who was providing supervision? Check all that apply. **If no supervision, skip to question 7.**

☐ Lifeguard(s) ☐ Swim instructor/Camp counselor
☐ Parent or caregiver ☐ Babysitter
☐ Family member (i.e. sibling, cousin, grandparent) ☐ Other, specify: _____
☐ Friend ☐ Unknown

6b. Was the supervisor (or the main supervisor, if multiple supervisors) under age 18?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

6c. Was anything impacting the main supervisor's ability to attentively supervise?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

6d. What was impacting supervision for the main supervisor? Check all that apply. If not, skip to question 7.

☐ Glare on the water

☐ Distracted by mobile device

☐ Weather (*rain, fog, bright sun*)

☐ Other distractions, describe: _____

☐ Toys/play equipment in the water

☐ Alcohol use

☐ White water/foam on the water

☐ Drug use

☐ Too many people for attentive supervision

☐ Other, specify: _____

6e. What was the main supervisor doing when they realized the subject was missing or in trouble? If the incident was not observed, what made them realize something was amiss?

7. Was a flotation device used by the subject at the time of incident?

☐ Yes, life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD)

☐ No, skip to 8

☐ Yes, inflatable device, describe: _____

☐ Unknown

☐ Yes, other, describe: _____

7a. If subject was wearing a life jacket or inflatable device, was it... (check all that apply)

The correct size?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ N/A

☐ Unknown

Approved by the U.S. Coast Guard?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ N/A

☐ Unknown

This can be ascertained by checking the tag.

Worn properly (*fully buckled and tightened*)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ N/A

☐ Unknown

Properly inflated?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ N/A

☐ Unknown

7b. Did the life jacket or inflatable device contribute to the death?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

8. Check all that apply in regards to the subject.

☐ Alcohol, drugs, or paraphernalia found at scene

☐ None of the above

☐ Subject observed using alcohol or drugs at time of incident

☐ Unknown

☐ Subject suspected of using alcohol or drugs at time of incident

9. Was subject breathing/attempting to breathe when discovered?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

10. Describe the state of the witnesses and/or reporting parties. Include if any witnesses had wet clothing or injuries and their physical and emotional condition.

SCENE PROCESSING FORM

This information should be collected by a responder or investigator **at the scene of the investigation**.

When possible, make photographic documentation of the following evidence and note time taken. Take photographs of the body and scene as quickly as possible after the body is discovered. Include the hands, feet, and eyes of the body, and any layers of protection at the scene (alarms, fencing). Gather other video or photos if taken by bystanders or security footage.

1. Location of Incident

Location of incident: _____

Street: _____ Unit: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

GPS Coordinates: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

2. Date and time of incident:

_____ ☐ Unknown _____ [Military] ☐ Unknown

3. Person completing this report, and rank or title: _____

4. Agency: _____

5. How many people were present at the incident location at the time of incident? Estimate if necessary.

_____ ☐ Unknown

6. What was the estimated time between when the subject was last seen and the body was recovered?

☐ Not applicable, body never recovered

☐ 0-5 minutes

☐ 6-10 minutes

☐ 11-30 minutes

☐ 31-59 minutes

☐ 1-4 hours

☐ 5-24 hours

☐ More than 24 hours

☐ Unknown

7. Who found the subject? _____ ☐ Same person as listed as witness or reporting party

8. Was the incident captured on surveillance video or other video, including from bystanders?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

9. Describe the position the subject was found in.

☐ Not applicable, body never recovered

☐ At bottom of water (i.e. bottom of the pool, riverbed)

☐ On shore

☐ Floating on the surface

☐ Other, describe: _____

☐ Tangled or entrapped under/by objects/debris, describe: _____

10. Describe the body of the subject when found, including position.

11. How was the subject removed from the water? Include by whom and how.

12. Were any of the following observed upon recovery of the subject? Document injuries in scene photographs or a body diagram. Check all that apply.

☐ Fixed lividity¹

☐ Wrinkling on feet

☐ Wrinkling present on hand(s)

☐ Tache noir present in left eye

☐ Tache noir² present in right eye

☐ Other injuries, describe: _____

☐ Pulmonary edema/foam cone/vomit

☐ None of the above

☐ Rigor

☐ N/A, body not recovered

13. Describe everything the subject was wearing when recovered, including undergarments, life jackets/other PFDs, accessories, glasses, jewelry, and footwear. Include what was on subject, such as cellphone, wallet, keys, etc.

14. Please upload any images or videos of the body and the scene, including any notable objects, including the shore, patio, dock, stairs, fences, barriers, or other landmarks. If unable to share for legal reasons, please note what media exists.

15. Document all applicable temperatures (° Fahrenheit):

Water temperature: _____

Unknown

Air temperature: _____

Unknown

Core body temperature: _____

Unknown

15a. If assessed, how was core body temperature measured? If not assessed, proceed to question 16.

☐ Rectal

☐ Under the arm

☐ Other, describe: _____

☐ Unknown

¹ Lividity occurs when the heart is no longer pumping blood throughout the body. It is considered 'fixed' when the blood cannot be blanched, typically 8-12 hours after death.

² Tache noir is a postmortem drying artifact visible in the eyes that does not occur when eyes remain submerged postmortem. Eyes should be photographed as soon as possible after body recovery.

16. Environmental factors can sometimes contribute to a drowning or hamper rescue efforts. Select all relevant environmental factors that may have increased risk or contributed to the drowning.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ None | ☐ Rip current/undertow | ☐ Rocky shore/outcropping |
| ☐ Water temperature | ☐ Wind, proceed to 16b. | ☐ White water/foam |
| ☐ Ice | ☐ Flash flood | ☐ Waves, proceed to 16c. |
| ☐ Current, proceed to 16a. | ☐ Other severe weather event, describe: _____ | |
| ☐ Water clarity | ☐ Other, describe: _____ | |
| ☐ Dropoff | ☐ Unknown | |

16a. Speed of current, in knots:

_____ Unknown

16b. Speed of wind, in knots:

_____ Unknown

16c. Were the waves:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Calm (<6") | ☐ Rough spray (3'-14') |
| ☐ Choppy (6"-2') | ☐ Gale (14'+) |
| ☐ Small whitecaps (2'-3') | ☐ Unknown |

17. Select all relevant events that may have increased risk or contributed to the death. Additional medical conditions that may have increased risk or contributed are asked about in the Decedent Investigation Form.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ None | ☐ Watercraft speed |
| ☐ Fell into water | ☐ Dam |
| ☐ Jumped from height | ☐ Carbon monoxide poisoning |
| ☐ Pushed into water | ☐ Homicide |
| ☐ Fell through ice | ☐ Attempting to rescue a person, animal, or object |
| ☐ Suicide | ☐ Trauma or injury, describe: _____ |
| ☐ Airplane crash | ☐ Other, describe: _____ |
| ☐ Trapped in vehicle | ☐ Unknown |
| ☐ Boat/watercraft involvement, proceed to 17a | |

17a. Boat or watercraft involvement?

Capsized

Swamped or took on water

Fell overboard (*not due to other problem listed above*)

Crashed

Sinking/sunk

Other, describe: _____

18. Was there a trained or certified lifeguard present? If no or unknown, skip to 19.

☐ Yes, proceed to 18a

☐ No, no lifeguards at hour of incident

☐ Unknown

☐ No, no lifeguards for that body of water

18a. If there were lifeguards present, how many lifeguards were supervising that area at the time of the incident?

_____ ☐ Unknown

18b. Was there a rotation system for lifeguards?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

If yes, describe, including positions (on-deck standing vs. in chair or tower) and time lifeguard(s) had been on duty:

18c. Approximately how many swimmers was this lifeguard in charge of supervising at the time of the incident?

_____ ☐ Unknown

18d. Describe the experience and qualifications of the lifeguard(s) on duty, including training and experience.

19. How did subject access the water?

☐ Subject placed into water (such as bathtub)

☐ Permitted access with supervisor accompaniment

☐ Permitted access, No supervisor required

☐ Permitted access but not accompanied by supervisor

☐ Unpermitted access, Fell or wandered in

☐ Other, specify: _____

☐ Unpermitted access, Breached a protective barrier

☐ Unknown

☐ Unpermitted access, Trespassing, including access after swimming hours

20. Did any of these barriers or layers of protection exist to prevent access to the water? Check all that apply.

☐ Fence ⇒ Was it breached? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ U If yes ⇒ **Proceed to 20a**

☐ Gate ⇒ Was it breached? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ U If yes ⇒ **Proceed to 20b**

☐ Door/window ⇒ Was it breached? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ U If yes ⇒ **Proceed to 20c**

☐ Pool or door alarm ⇒ Was it breached? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ U If yes ⇒ **Proceed to 20d**

☐ Pool cover ⇒ Was it breached? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ U If yes ⇒ **Proceed to 20e**

☐ None If yes ⇒ **Proceed to 21**

20a. **FENCE:** How was the fence breached? Fences around pools should surround all sides and not have any horizontal or vertical gaps. Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Climbed fence | ☐ Fence too short |
| ☐ Gap in fence | ☐ Other, specify: _____ |
| ☐ Fence had pre-existing damage | ☐ Unknown |
| ☐ Fence was damaged expressly to gain access | |

20b. **GATE:** How was the gate breached? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Gate left/propped open | ☐ Gate unlocked |
| ☐ Gap in gate | ☐ Other, specify: _____ |
| ☐ Gate latch failed | ☐ Unknown |

20c. **DOOR/WINDOW:** How was the door or window breached? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Door/window left/propped open | ☐ Door unlocked |
| ☐ Door/window or screen broken | ☐ Other, specify: _____ |
| ☐ Door self-close failed | ☐ Unknown |

20d. **POOL OR DOOR ALARM:** How was the alarm(s) breached? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Pool alarm not answered | ☐ Door alarm not answered |
| ☐ Not working/broken/failed | ☐ Other, specify: _____ |
| ☐ Not armed/set at time of incident | ☐ Unknown |

20e. **POOL COVER:** How was the cover breached? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Cover not locked | ☐ Non-rigid cover bypassed |
| ☐ Cover torn/damaged | ☐ Other, specify: _____ |
| ☐ Cover left off | ☐ Unknown |

21. Were any warning signs or labels posted? E.g., 'Enter at Own Risk,' 'Thin Ice,' 'Strong Current', beach flags, pool depth, etc.? If no or unknown, skip to 22.

- ☐ Yes, proceed to 21a ☐ No ☐ Unknown

21a. If there were signs or labels, was subject (or their supervisor) able to read and understand the warning or sign?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No, describe: _____ ☐ Unknown

22. Were swimmers required to pass a swim test to access water?

- ☐ Yes, access to whole area Describe the test, including if subject passed or failed and who administered it:
- ☐ Yes, but only for deep end _____
- ☐ N/A, drowning was not in a typical swimming body of water (*i.e., bathtub, water feature, etc.*)
- ☐ No ☐ Unknown

23. Was a rescue* attempt made? If not, skip to question 24.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

**This is only for attempting to pull someone out of the water while they were still alive. Do not include recovery of deceased bodies here.*

23a. If attempt was made, by whom? Check all that apply.

☐ Family member 18 years or older

☐ Other facility staff

☐ Family member under 18 years

☐ EMS/First responder

☐ Other adult

☐ The person who discovered the subject

☐ Other child

☐ Bystander

☐ Lifeguard

23b. Provide rescuer details if available: _____ ☐ Same person as listed as witness above

23c. Did anyone attempting to rescue the subject also require assistance or aid? Check all that apply.

☐ Yes and drowned

☐ Yes and survived

☐ Unknown

☐ Yes and required hospitalization

☐ No

24. What rescue equipment was present, and subsequently used, at the scene? Check all that apply.

Present

☐ None

☐ Rescue can

☐ Rescue tube

☐ Ring buoy

☐ Life hook/shepherd's crook

☐ Rescue throw rope bag

☐ Rescue watercraft (boat, surf/paddleboard, etc.)

☐ Other, describe: _____

Used

☐ None

☐ Rescue can

☐ Rescue tube

☐ Ring buoy

☐ Life hook/shepherd's crook

☐ Rescue throw rope bag

☐ Rescue watercraft (boat, surf/paddleboard, etc.)

☐ Other, describe: _____

25. What resources were dispatched in response to the incident? Check all that apply.

☐ EMS/Fire/Ambulance

☐ Coroner/Medical examiner

☐ Police/Law enforcement/Investigator

☐ State Boating Law Administrator

☐ Dive team/Marine patrol

☐ Other, describe: _____

26. Select all resuscitative methods that were used or administered on-scene or in transit from the scene.

☐ Rescue breaths

☐ First aid

☐ Chest compressions

☐ Rescue medications, including Naloxone

☐ Automated external defibrillator (AED)

☐ Supplemental oxygen/Bag-valve-mask

☐ None of the above, skip to 27

☐ Other, describe: _____

Unknown

26a. If any of the above methods were used, who applied them? What was their training/certifications, and were certifications currently active? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ The person who found the subject: _____ | ☐ Other facility staff: _____ |
| ☐ Bystander: _____ | ☐ Police/Law enforcement: _____ |
| ☐ Family member: _____ | ☐ EMS/Fire: _____ |
| ☐ Lifeguard: _____ | ☐ Diver or dive team: _____ |

26b. What was the approximate duration of resuscitation? _____

27. When found, was the subject (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Deceased | ☐ Transported to the hospital |
| ☐ Treated in the field | ☐ Admitted to the hospital |

28. How deep was the water in feet?

Where subject was last seen?	☐ N/A, last seen on land	☐ Unknown
Minimum depth of incident body of water?		☐ Unknown
Maximum depth of incident body of water?		☐ Unknown
Where incident occurred?		☐ Unknown
Where subject was recovered?		☐ Unknown

28a. How were depths measured? _____

29. This question will determine some of the next questions asked. Where did the subject drown?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ In contained water available to the public, customers, or patrons, such as pool, hot tub/spa, water park, etc. | ⇒ | Proceed to Public Pool on page 13. |
| ☐ In contained water at a private residence, such as a pool, hot tub, bathtub, or water container. This includes private vacation rentals, apartments, mobile home parks, or a hotel/motel if it was the current residence of the subject. | ⇒ | Skip to Private Residence on page 14. |
| ☐ In natural/open water, including open water on public or residential property such as a pond or other water access point; drainage ditch, canal, lake, or river. This includes falling through ice. | ⇒ | Skip to Open Water on page 16. |

PUBLIC POOL

1. What type of facility was this?

☐ Government/city/neighborhood pool

☐ Camp

☐ School or university

☐ Hotel/motel (*as guest*)

☐ Gym

☐ Water feature

☐ Private membership/country club

☐ Other, describe: _____

2. In what type of pool, hot tub, etc. did the incident occur in? Check all that apply.

☐ Outdoor facility

☐ Lazy river

☐ Spa/hot tub

☐ Indoor facility

☐ Therapy pool

☐ Water park feature (*slide, tank, wave pool*)

☐ Main pool

☐ Diving pool

☐ Other, specify:

☐ Wading pool

☐ Zero entry pool

☐ Unknown

3. In what type of water did the drowning occur?

☐ Saltwater

☐ Chlorine

☐ Freshwater

☐ Unknown

4. Was facility open or operating at the time?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

5. Did facility have posted rules/codes about any of the following?

Supervision?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

Alcohol/substance use?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

Swim test for water access/use?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

6. Did the pool have any known prior safety complaints or legal compliance issues? If yes, please describe, including when the issue occurred.

7. What was the maximum swimmer capacity of the area the incident occurred in?

_____ ☐ Unknown, skip to question 8

7a. If capacity was known, at the time of incident was the venue:

☐ Over capacity

☐ At or near capacity

☐ Under capacity

☐ Unknown

8. Was subject a/an:

☐ Employee

☐ Trespassing

☐ Paying/permitted person

☐ Unknown

Proceed to Decedent Information Form on page 18.

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

1. Type of dwelling?

☐ Single family home

☐ Vacation rental

☐ Multi-unit home, such as apartment, townhome, condo, duplex

☐ Other, specify: _____

☐ Manufactured/mobile home park

☐ Unknown

☐ Hotel/motel, if subject was residing there at time of death

2. Was this dwelling a HUD-subsidized housing unit?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

3. Type of body of water?

☐ Above ground pool

☐ In-ground pool

⇒ **Proceed to question 3a**

☐ Hot tub/spa

☐ Wading/kiddie pool

☐ Bathtub

⇒ **Skip to question 3e**

☐ Bucket, toilet, or other item not intended for bathing or swimming

☐ Water feature

☐ Other, describe: _____

3a. In what type of water did the drowning occur?

☐ Saltwater

☐ Freshwater

☐ Unknown

☐ Chlorine

☐ Other, describe: _____

3b. Does state or locality have safety laws, regulations, or requirements for pools, including fences/gates or pool drains?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

3c. Was pool in compliance?

☐ Yes, fully

☐ Unknown

☐ Partially

What was out of compliance? _____

☐ No

What was out of compliance? _____

☐ No, but was grandfathered in

What was out of compliance? _____

3d. Was pool fenced?

☐ Yes, fenced on all four sides

☐ Yes, fenced on three sides with a structure as the barrier on the fourth

☐ Not fenced completely

☐ Other, describe: _____

Skip to Private Residence question 4

Unknown

3e. If drowning occurred in a bathtub, select all that were present:

- ☐ Infant mini bath Was subject in the device at time of incident? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unknown
- ☐ Infant bath seat Was subject in the device at time of incident? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unknown
- ☐ Protective spout cover ☐ Water thermometer
- ☐ Other safety equipment, describe: _____

4. At whose home did the incident occur?

- ☐ Subject's residence ☐ Vacation rental ☐ Neighbor's home
- ☐ Relative's home ☐ Friend's home ☐ Unknown
- ☐ Other, specify: _____

Proceed to Decedent Investigation Form on page 18.

OPEN WATER

1. In what type of water did the incident occur?

☐ Lake

☐ Ocean

☐ Irrigation canal/ditch/retention pond

☐ Estuary/bay

☐ Ice road

☐ Gravel pit/quarry

☐ Reservoir

☐ Bayou

☐ Other, specify: _____

☐ Natural/constructed pond

☐ River

☐ Unknown

2. What was the approximate distance subject was found from shore? _____

3. Did the incident occur at a park?

☐ Yes, proceed to question 3a

☐ No

☐ Unknown

3a. What kind of park?

☐ National park

☐ State park

☐ City/county/neighborhood park

☐ Unknown

☐ Other park, describe: _____

4. Was there a designated swimming area? If not, skip to question 5.

☐ Yes, proceed to question 4a

☐ No

☐ Unknown

4a. Did drowning occur in the designated area? If no or unknown, skip to question 5.

☐ Yes, proceed to question 4b

☐ No

☐ Unknown

4b. How was the swimming area designated? Check all that apply.

☐ Ropes

☐ Buoys

☐ Lifeguard stations

☐ Rescue equipment

☐ Other, describe: _____

4c. What size is the swim area?

_____ by _____ feet/yards/meters

☐ Unknown

4d. What is the maximum swimmer capacity of the area?

_____ ☐ Unknown, proceed to question 4f

4e. If capacity was known, at the time of drowning was the area:

☐ Over capacity

☐ At or near capacity

☐ Under capacity

☐ Unknown

4f. Was there a diving platform or other structure? If no or unknown, skip to question 5.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

4g. If there was a diving platform or structure, was subject seen playing on or around it?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

5. Was subject engaging in transportation or a recreational activity in or on a boat, watercraft, or snowmobile at the time of the incident? If no or unknown, skip to question 6.

☐ Yes

☐ No, skip to question 6

☐ Unknown, skip to question 6

5a. If subject was on a boat or watercraft, what type of watercraft?

☐ Motorboat, commercial (*includes transportation*)

☐ Sailboat

☐ Jet ski

☐ Motorboat, personal

☐ Paddleboard

☐ Kayak

☐ Kiteboard/wind surfing

☐ Pedal boat

☐ Snowmobile

☐ Innertube

☐ Canoe

☐ Other, specify: _____

☐ Inflatable raft

☐ Row boat

☐ Unknown

5b. What was the length of the boat or vessel? _____

5c. Was subject operating the boat/device?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

5d. Had boat operator completed mandatory boater education?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not required for location or circumstances

☐ Unknown

5e. Did the boat/device have all legally required safety equipment?

☐ Yes, describe: _____

☐ No

☐ Unknown

6. On shore, was there any of the following water safety equipment?

☐ None

☐ Life jacket loaner board, stocked

☐ Lifeguard station, staffed

☐ Life jacket loaner board, no proper sizes

☐ Lifeguard station, closed or unstaffed

☐ Life jacket loaner board, empty

☐ Life rings

☐ Other, specify: _____

Proceed to the Decedent Investigation Form on page 18.

DECEDENT INVESTIGATION FORM

This section contains questions that may be answered on-scene during an investigation, or answered after one has left the scene, including autopsy and toxicology screening. This also includes information from the subject's family or caregivers.

1. What happened? Please describe the incident and the sequence of events leading up to it, including the source of the information, details around entry or submersion, or additional drownings that may have occurred at the same time. *PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY IDENTIFIERS IN THIS TEXT. This includes names, addresses, business names, and specific service providers.*

2. What sources were used to gather information for this report? Such as medical records to verify diagnoses. Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Autopsy/pathology report | ☐ EMS report | ☐ Subject's medical records |
| ☐ CDR meeting notes | ☐ Family interview | ☐ SUIDI form |
| ☐ Court records | ☐ Hospital records | ☐ Toxicology results |
| ☐ CPS records | ☐ Law enforcement report | ☐ Water-related DSI protocol (<i>this form</i>) |
| ☐ Death alert | ☐ MEI/Coroner report | ☐ Obituary |
| ☐ Death certificate | ☐ Other, specify: _____ | |

3. Did the subject have a history of experiencing child maltreatment, abuse, or neglect?
- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ No | ☐ Unknown |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|

4. Was there an open child welfare case at the time of the incident?
- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ No | ☐ Unknown |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|

5. Did the subject have a history of criminal activity?
- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ No | ☐ Unknown |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|

6. Was subject familiar with the location?
- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ No | ☐ Unknown |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|

7. Subject's swimming ability?

☐ Not a swimmer (*may not voluntarily enter water or cannot put their face in the water or float*)

☐ Intermediate swimmer (*comfortable and/or safe in deep water*)

☐ Beginner swimmer (*comfortable putting their face in the water or floating*)

☐ Advanced swimmer (*can swim multiple strokes efficiently*)

☐ Unknown

8. Did subject usually rely on a flotation device for water-related activities?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

9. If the subject could swim, how did they learn? Check all that apply.

☐ Formal swimming lessons

Describe the instruction, including skills taught and how many lessons: _____

When did the instruction occur? Estimate if necessary: _____

☐ Taught by family member or friend

Describe the instruction, including skills taught and how many lessons: _____

When did the instruction occur? Estimate if necessary: _____

☐ Other, describe: _____

Describe the instruction, including skills taught and how many lessons: _____

When did the instruction occur? Estimate if necessary: _____

☐ Unknown

☐ Subject could not swim

10. Did any of the following prevent the subject from participating in swimming lessons? Check all that apply.

☐ Distance to swimming facility

☐ Family's lack of knowledge or fear of water

☐ Lack of swimming lessons in geographic area

☐ Family thought subject too young for lessons

☐ Child fear of water

☐ Family cultural/religious beliefs

☐ Cost (*including equipment, childcare, time off work, etc.*)

☐ Family did not think lessons could accommodate the subject's needs

☐ Family did not think swim lessons were necessary

☐ Other, describe: _____

☐ No barriers

☐ Unknown

11. Select all of the following skills the subject was able to do without the assistance of a flotation device.

☐ Float on their back

☐ Return to the surface if submerged

☐ Step or jump into water over their head

☐ Swim 25 yards

☐ Tread water for one minute

☐ Exit water safely

☐ Find a safe exit from the water

☐ None of the above

☐ Control their breathing in the water

☐ Unknown

12. What language did the subject primarily speak at home? _____

13. Additional language(s) spoken: _____

14. Did subject have or experience any of the following? (Check all that apply).

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Recent illnesses or injuries | ☐ Intellectual and/or developmental (such as Down Syndrome or cerebral palsy) |
| ☐ Autism Spectrum Disorder | ☐ Mobility (such as paralysis, amputation, or neuropathy) |
| ☐ Seizure disorder (such as epilepsy) | ☐ Illnesses, injuries, or general malaise on day of incident |
| ☐ Cardiac/heart condition | ☐ Increased risk for adverse events (such as heart attack, stroke, or emboli) |
| ☐ Long QT syndrome | ☐ Mental illness (such as active suicidal ideation) |
| ☐ Sensory (such as deafness or blindness) | ☐ Chronic illness/autoimmunity (such as multiple sclerosis or rheumatoid arthritis) |
| ☐ Previous suicide attempt(s) | ☐ Access or functional needs (such as poor balance requiring an assistive device such as a ramp or handrail) |
| ☐ None | ☐ Other diagnosed disability or condition |

Describe or specify any of the above conditions: _____

15. Did the subject have an illness or medical condition that may have contributed to the drowning?

- ☐ Yes, describe: _____ ☐ No ☐ Unknown

16. Did the subject have an emotional, mental, or behavioral condition that may have contributed to the drowning?

- ☐ Yes, describe: _____ ☐ No ☐ Unknown

17. Did the subject have a biological relative that died suddenly before the age of 50? If no or unknown, skip to 18.

- ☐ Yes, proceed to 17a ☐ No ☐ Unknown

17a. If yes, what relative? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Parents ☐ Grandparents ☐ Aunt or Uncle ☐ Siblings ☐ Cousins

17b. If yes, how did they die? _____

18. Did the subject have a biological relative with heart disease? If no or unknown, skip to 19.

- ☐ Yes, proceed to 18a ☐ No ☐ Unknown

18a. If yes, what relative? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Parents ☐ Grandparents ☐ Aunt or Uncle ☐ Siblings ☐ Cousins

18b. If yes, what disease? _____

19. Did the subject have a known history of alcohol or substance use/misuse, including prescription medication?

- ☐ Yes, describe: _____ ☐ No ☐ Unknown

20. Was the subject known to be taking any prescription or non-prescription medications or supplements?

☐ Yes, list: _____ ☐ No ☐ Unknown

21. Had subject recently experienced any of the following? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Poverty | ☐ Problems at work or school |
| ☐ Subsidized housing | ☐ Violence |
| ☐ Discrimination or racism | ☐ Abuse |
| ☐ Language barriers | ☐ Neglect |
| ☐ Immigration | ☐ Family problems |
| ☐ Bullying | ☐ None of the above |
| ☐ Housing instability (<i>including homelessness, transience, frequent moves, or "couch surfing"</i>) | ☐ Unknown |

22. Was supervision of the subject indicated for any of the following reasons? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Age | ☐ Recent illness or injury, describe: _____ |
| ☐ Autism Spectrum Disorder | ☐ Long QT syndrome |
| ☐ Seizure disorder, such as epilepsy | ☐ Access or functional needs, describe: _____ |
| ☐ Intellectual or developmental disability/delay (<i>such as Down Syndrome or cerebral palsy</i>), specify: _____ | |
| ☐ Mobility limitations (<i>such as paralysis, amputation, or neuropathy</i>), specify: _____ | |
| ☐ Illness, injury, or general malaise on day of incident: _____ | |
| ☐ Increased risk for adverse health events (<i>such as heart attack, stroke, or emboli</i>), specify: _____ | |
| ☐ Sensory differences (<i>such as deafness or blindness</i>), specify: _____ | |
| ☐ Mental illness (<i>such as active suicidal ideation</i>), specify: _____ | |
| ☐ Cardiac condition, specify: _____ | |
| ☐ Other, specify: _____ | ☐ Unknown |

23. Home address:

Street: _____ Unit: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

24. Next of kin, including relationship to subject and contact information:

25. Official cause of death as stated on death certificate: _____

26. Official manner of death stated on death certificate: _____

27. Death was referred to:

☐ Medical examiner

☐ Coroner

☐ Unknown

28. Was toxicology performed?

☐ Yes, describe any substances detected and at what levels: _____

☐ No

☐ Unknown

29. Was an autopsy conducted?

☐ Yes

☐ No, proceed to question 30

☐ Unknown, proceed to question 30

29a. Is there evidence the subject had experienced prior physical or sexual abuse?

Yes, describe: _____ ☐ No ☐ Unknown

29b. Were any of the following observed on autopsy?

☐ Traumatic brain injury

☐ Tache noir present in left eye

☐ Tache noir present in right eye

☐ Other injuries, describe:

☐ Pulmonary edema (foam in lungs)

☐ None of the above

☐ C-spine injury

29c. Were there other significant findings on autopsy, including histology?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

29d. Time of death if estimated at autopsy (Military):

_____ ☐ Unknown

30. List or describe any enforcement actions or safety improvements planned as a result of the drowning.