

**FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY  
OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER  
CITY OF NEW YORK**

**CASE INFORMATION AND RESULTS**

**OCME CASES**

The final toxicology report is issued upon completion of all necessary testing and multilevel data review. The original report is submitted to the OCME Records Department to be included in the OCME case file and scanned into the DMS. Until November 22, 2010, one copy was submitted to the pathologist (medical examiner) who performed the autopsy (or the external examination) and one copy was retained for the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory (FTL) case file to be included with all the laboratory data generated in the course of toxicologic analyses. Effective November 22, 2010, due to a city wide paper reduction project, medical examiners are notified via e-mail that the final report was submitted to the OCME Records Department and that it can be viewed through the DMS browser.

FTL will issue reports only to the medical examiner of record. All other interested parties need to request reports from the OCME Records Department.

Litigation packages are provided to respective attorneys upon written request, subject to authorization from the Chief Medical Examiner or the General Counsel.

Preliminary results (by telephone or electronically) may be reported to the Chief Medical Examiner and the respective borough Deputy Chiefs. Reporting of preliminary results to the pathologists of record has to be authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner or the respective borough Deputy Chief. Reporting of preliminary results to any other individual has to be authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner.

Inquires from the public regarding toxicology results (families, lawyers representing families, police officers, media representatives, insurance companies, etc.) are referred to the Director of Forensic Toxicology or the Director of Public Affairs.

Any complaints against the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory regarding routine laboratory operations (turnaround time, accuracy of results, inability to do certain testing, etc.) should be referred to the Director of Forensic Toxicology. Any complaints of a legal nature should be referred to the Chief Medical Examiner or the General Counsel.

Statements to the media may be issued only upon authorization by the Chief Medical Examiner.

## **NON OCME CASES**

The final toxicology report is issued upon completion of all necessary testing and multilevel data review. A copy of the report is submitted to the Assistant District Attorney upon receipt of a written request. Litigation packages are provided to respective attorneys upon written request.

Preliminary results may not be reported (by telephone or electronically) unless authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner.

Inquires from the public regarding toxicology results (families, lawyers representing families, police officers, media representatives, insurance companies, etc.) are referred to the Director of Forensic Toxicology or the Director of Public Affairs.

Any complaints against the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory regarding routine laboratory operations (turnaround time, accuracy of results, inability to do certain testing, etc.) should be referred to the Director of Forensic Toxicology. Any complaints of a legal nature should be referred to the Chief Medical Examiner or the General Counsel.

Statements to the media may be issued only upon authorization by the Chief Medical Examiner.

## **REPORTING ERRORS AND DEFICIENCIES**

The laboratory may occasionally uncover errors or deficiencies which may have affected the reliability of toxicology results that have been reported. Such cases must be immediately reported to the FTL Director, Assistant Directors and the QA/QC supervisor. Respective clients (e.g., pathologist of record, assistant district attorney) will be notified when such errors or deficiencies are judged to be forensically significant. ABFT and the NYS Commission on Forensic Science must be notified at the same time.