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KIM GUADAGNO
Lieutenant Governor

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18140365 SHERIDAN JR., JOHN PATRICK

## FINAL REPORT

THE AUTOPSY REPORT WAS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

CAUSE OF DEATH:

SHARP FORCE INJURIES AND SMOKE INHALATION

MANNER OF DEATH:

UNDETERMINED

AMENDED BY:

Andrew L. Falzon, M.B., DABP

State Medical Examiner

DATE: JANUARY 13, 2017

ALF/no

DIST: County Pros. Off; File (1) ALF (1)



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## State of New Jersey

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Case Review Report John Patrick Sheridan Jr. Case# 1814-0365

In response to a request to amend the death certificate of John P. Sheridan Jr. (case# 1814-0365) who expired on September 28, 2014, I have reviewed the following items:

- 1. Autopsy report of John P. Sheridan Jr. (1814-0365) which was conducted by Dr. Eddy J. Lilavois on September 29, 2014.
- 2. Autopsy report of Joyce Sheridan (1814-0365) which was conducted by Dr. Eddy J. Lilavois on September 30, 2014.
- 3. Scene and autopsy photographs taken by the NRMEO pertaining to John P. Sheridan Jr. (1814-0365) and Joyce Sheridan (1814-0366).
- 4. Report of Investigation by Medical Examiner (RIME) on John P. Sheridan Jr. and Joyce Sheridan.
- 5. DNA reports compiled by New Jersey State Police, Office of Forensic Sciences.
- 6. Medical records of John P. Sheridan Jr.
- 7. Affidavit of Dr. Michael Baden consisting of review/opinion regarding the deaths of John P. Sheridan Jr. and Joyce Sheridan dated December 16, 2015.
- 8. Metallurgic evaluation of metal piece recovered at scene, which was conducted by Affiliated MRD, LLC.
- 9. Discussions with Dr. Eddy J. Lilavois, Assistant Medical Examiner who conducted the postmortem examinations of John P. Sheridan Jr. and Joyce Sheridan.
- 10. Discussions with Christine Schlenker and Tanvi Kothari, scientists with the NJ State Police, Office of Forensic Sciences who conducted DNA testing on evidence submitted.
- 11. The report of the Somerset County Prosecutors Office on the deaths of John P. Sheridan Jr. and Joyce C. Sheridan.

Having reviewed the abovementioned documents, and after discussions with the persons indicated, my conclusions are outlined below.



## **Opinion**

Following this review, it is my opinion that the cause of death remains unchanged, namely: "Sharp force injuries and smoke inhalation."

Regarding the determination of the manner of death, it was observed that the wounds documented on the body of John P. Sheridan Jr. have the appearance of self-inflicted wounds. However, no weapon was recovered from the scene that could be conclusively associated with the wounds sustained by Mr. Sheridan. All this is unfortunately compounded by the extensive destruction of the scene by the fire. It is therefore my opinion that the manner of death is best classified as "Undetermined." Should additional information regarding the case become available in the future, the case will be re-evaluated and amended if necessary.

Andrew L. Falzon, M.D. State Medical Examiner

Darrow 13, 2014.

