

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 15, 2025



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## County Medical Examiner shares Jazmir Tucker autopsy summary

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—On Wednesday, January 15, Summit County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Lisa Kohler, M.D. shared a summary of findings from Jazmir Tucker’s autopsy. Members of the Executive’s staff provided the report to Jazmir Tucker’s family, by way of their attorneys, as requested, prior to the media announcement. The autopsy was performed by Chief Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Robert Shott, M.D., and quality control reviewed and co-signed by Dr. Kohler. See below for Dr. Kohler’s summary.

Media members may request access to view the autopsy report at the Medical Examiner’s Office during regular business hours. Efforts will be made to accommodate requests in a timely fashion. Media members will not receive a copy of the report. To submit a request, please email the following information (as required by ORC 313.10) to Gary Guenther *and* Denice DiNapoli at [gguenther@summitoh.net](mailto:gguenther@summitoh.net) *and* [ddinapoli@summitoh.net](mailto:ddinapoli@summitoh.net):

1. The journalist’s name, title and phone number.
2. The address of the journalist’s employer.
3. A statement that granting the request is in the best interest of the public.

The Medical Examiner serves the residents of Summit County and regional counties by providing quality forensic death investigation services. Medical Examiner staff assists local law enforcement agencies with forensic evaluation of deaths to aid in their investigations and subsequent prosecutions. Dr. Kohler has been the Summit County Medical Examiner since 2001 and is Ohio’s first female Medical Examiner. Her office maintains full accreditation with the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). Dr. Shott has been Chief Deputy Medical Examiner since 2019.

The media event materials will be available at <https://co.summitoh.net/departments/Medical-Examiner.html>.

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## **Statement from Summit County Medical Examiner Dr. Lisa Kohler, M.D.**

I would like to offer my condolences to Jazmir Tucker's family and friends.

Jazmir Tucker's autopsy was performed by Dr. Shott on November 29, 2024. Dr. Shott created a report of his findings that I later reviewed for quality control purposes. I co-signed the report on 01/14/2025.

The first part of the examination involves documenting identifying characteristics and noting medical therapies and injuries. Evidence of medical therapies included:

An endotracheal tube (breathing tube) in his mouth

Intraosseous vascular access lines (needles going into the bone to rapidly infuse fluids) in the left shoulder and right lower leg

A chest seal over a wound on his back (a dressing to seal off air leakage from the lung spaces)

Thoracostomy incisions on the right and left chest (surgical incisions to treat certain lung issues)

A coarsely sutured thoracotomy incision on the left chest (a surgical incision to treat the lung)

Intravenous vascular access line in the right wrist (lines for fluids)

The autopsy examination determined that Jazmir had 3 gunshot wounds. The injuries include the following:

Two gunshot wounds injured his torso and one injured his right upper arm. It is not known what order the wounds were inflicted or what position Jazmir was in when he was shot.

One wound entered the left mid back and injured the spleen, stomach, diaphragm, left lung, and heart. The bullet exited the left lower chest. This wound was associated with blood in the left chest (hemothorax), and blood in the abdominal cavity (hemoperitoneum).

A second wound entered the lower back just to the right of the spine and injured the small intestine and the abdominal wall. A bullet was recovered from the skin of the abdomen below his belly button area. This wound was associated with bleeding into the abdomen and lacerations to the small intestine.

A third wound involved the right upper arm. The wound injured the muscle only. The upper arm bone and major blood vessel of the upper arm were not injured. The wound characteristics were not specific enough to determine which wound was an entrance and which was an exit wound. No bullet was recovered.

He had no other significant traumatic injuries or natural medical diseases.

Toxicology was positive for a marijuana metabolite in the blood.

The cause of death ruling was gunshot wounds to the torso.

Cause of death describes the injury or illness that resulted in death.

The manner of death was ruled homicide: shot by another.

Our ruling of Homicide is a medical ruling meaning death at the hands of another and is not a legal conclusion.

Manner of Death describes the circumstances surrounding the death and the choices include:

1. Natural indicating that the person is dying from a natural disease such as an infection, heart disease, or cancer
2. Accident is due to an injury or poisoning that occurred without the intent to cause injury

3. Suicide is due to an injury or poisoning that a person inflicted upon themselves with the intent to cause self-harm or death
4. Homicide signifies death at the hands of another
5. Undetermined is used when two competing manners of death cannot be separated from one another based upon our investigation and examination.

I understand that there have been questions raised regarding the performance of gunshot residue testing.

First allow me to explain what gunshot residue testing is and some additional information regarding this testing. Although the technology utilized to demonstrate the presence or absence of gunshot residues is sound, there are many factors that contribute to false positive or false negative results. Gunshot residue testing can detect specific particles related to the discharge of a firearm but the results of such testing are not conclusive as to whether an individual did in fact fire a weapon. The particles are very fine and easily dislodged from the skin by acts as simple as putting ones hands into ones pockets or by sweating. A positive test does not indicate that the person tested fired a weapon. A negative test does not mean that the person tested did not fire a weapon or was not in the vicinity of a fired weapon.

The FBI discontinued GSR testing at its lab in 2006.

Based upon the issues related to the interpretation of the testing and the ease with which these particles can be dislodged from the skin, the Medical Examiner's Office discontinued collecting these samples in 2016 and no longer purchases collection kits for use by my staff. Because of this, Jazmir Tucker's hands were not swabbed or tested for gunshot residue

Upon my co-signing the report, members of the executive staff provided the report to Jazmir Tucker's family, by way of their attorneys, as requested, prior to this media announcement.

## LISA J. KOHLER, MD

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### **BUSINESS ADDRESS**

Summit County Medical Examiner's Office  
85 North Summit Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
(330) 643-2101 FAX (330) 643-2100

### **BOARD CERTIFICATION, Time unlimited**

ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY June 11, 1997  
FORENSIC PATHOLOGY September 15, 1998

### **EMPLOYMENT**

CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER Summit County Medical Examiner's Office  
Akron, OH *April 2001 – present*

ACTING CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER Summit County Medical Examiner's Office  
Akron, OH *January 2001 – April 2001*

CHIEF DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER Summit County Medical Examiner's Office  
Akron, OH *June 2000 – January 2001*

DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER Summit County Medical Examiner's Office  
Akron, OH *November 1998 – June 2000*

### **TEACHING APPOINTMENTS**

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY  
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine *May 21, 1999-June 30, 2002*

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY  
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine *July 1, 2002- Present*

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY  
Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, *2015 - 2018*

### **COURT QUALIFICATION**

EXPERT WITNESS State of Ohio  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Commonwealth of Virginia

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
Richmond, VA *1997-1998*

PATHOLOGY RESIDENCY (AP/CP) University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA *1993-1997*

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE Medical College of Ohio at Toledo  
Toledo, OH *1988-1993*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY University of Toledo  
Toledo, OH *1984-1988*

**EXPERIENCE**

CHIEF RESIDENT, ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY      University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
1996-1997

CHIEF RESIDENT, CLINICAL PATHOLOGY      University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
1995-1996

SUMMER INTERNSHIP                              Summit County Coroner's Office  
1985, 1986

**AWARDS/ RECOGNITION**

*Cover story: Lisa Kohler, MD, Dealing with Death on a Daily Basis.* MD News (Akron/Canton Edition).  
Jan/Feb 2008

*Entry in "Guide to America's Top Pathologists, 2007 edition".* Consumers' Research Council of America.

*Distinguished Alumni Recognition.* Norton High School. February 2006.

*Junior Resident Excellence in Autopsy Service Award.* University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. June  
1994.

*Outstanding Performance and Achievement in the Department of Pathology.* Medical College of Ohio.  
June 1993.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Waite K, Deeken A, Perch S, Kohler L. *Carfentanil and Current Opioid Trends in Summit County, Ohio.*  
Abstract presentation for 2017 NAME Meeting.

Maskovyak A, Kohler L, Felo, J *Prevalence of drugs and alcohol identified in fatal work-related injuries:  
a two office experience* Academic of Forensic Pathology, 5. 98-104. 10.23907/2015.010(presented as  
abstract at NAME in 2013)

Woods SA, Robinson HB, Kohler LJ, et al, *Exome Sequencing Identifies a Novel EP300 Frame Shift  
Mutation in a Patient with Features that Overlap Cornelia de Lange Syndrome.* Am J Med Genet Part A  
9999:1-8.

Platt MS, Kohler LJ, Ruiz R, Cohle SD, Ravichandra P. *Deaths associated with liposuction: Case reports  
and Review of the Literature.* J Forensic Sci 2002;47(1): 205-207.

Dean DE, Kohler LJ, et al. *Observed Characteristics of Suicidal Hangings: An 11 year Retrospective  
Review.* J Forensic Sci 2012, 57 (5): 1226-1230.

Platt MS, Kohler LJ, et. al. *Chapter on Pediatric Pathology and Child Abuse.* In Spitz and Fisher's  
Medicolegal Investigation of Death, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition 2006

Polsky S, Markowitz J,. *Color Atlas of Domestic Violence.* Kohler, LJ contributor. Mosby 2004.

Kohler L. *Pituitary tumor - Case of the month.* Brain Pathology, 1996; 6:531-532.

Kohler LJ, Gohara AF, Hamilton RW, Reeves RS. *Crescentic fibrillary glomerulonephritis associated  
with rifampin therapy for pulmonary tuberculosis.* Clinical Nephrology, 1994; 42(4):263-265.

**LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS (Selected)**

**Lectures for medical and paramedical professionals:**

*Forensic Investigation, Clarifying important detail-* Akron Fire Run Review, November 2014  
*Forensic Death Investigation-* Akron Fire Run Review, April 2013  
*Forensic Child Death Investigation -*Grand rounds – CHMCA April 2014  
*Rocking the Cradle, Sorting out SIDS from Sleep related deaths –*CHMCA, June 2014  
*Infant mortality –* NEOMED November 2014  
*Why did they die?* Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Series, December 2012  
*Forensics and the OR Staff.* Post graduate day presentation, AGMC, June 2010

**Lectures for law enforcement professionals:**

*Forensic Death Investigation,* Richfield OPOTA April and November 2014  
*Child Death Investigation,* Columbus Ohio, Ohio Attorney General Law Enforcement Seminar, Nov 2013  
*Child Death Investigation.* Richfield OPOTA, April 2013.  
*Death Scene Investigation,* Summit County Sheriff’s Office In Service Lectures, Mar.-Nov. 2013  
*Forensic Homicide Investigation Seminar.* Ohio Attorney General BCI&I, June 2011  
*Death Scene Investigation,* Akron Police In Service Lectures, April-May 2009.

**Lectures for Forensic professionals:**

*Panel Discussion Participant, “Forensics and the Media”,* Ohio State Coroner’s Association Annual Meeting, May 2006.  
*Introduction to Penetrating Wounds,* Ohio State Coroner’s Association Annual Meeting, May 2005.  
*Pulmonary Fat Embolization in Deaths Following Bone Fractures.* Abstract Presentation at American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting, Seattle WA. February 2001.  
*The Forensic Sciences.* Death Investigation Seminar. Summit County Medical Examiner’s Office. February 1999.  
*Medicolegal Death Investigation of SIDS.* Allegheny County Coroner’s Office Continuing Education Program. May 1996, November 1996, May 1997

**Lectures for Law Students and Attorneys:**

*Forensic Medicine and Law,* University of Akron Law School, November 2007, October 2011 October 2013, October 2014  
*Civil Litigation and the Medical Examiner’s Office.* Summit County Trial Lawyers Association. February 2002.  
*Forensic Medicine and Law Enforcement.* Basic Criminal Investigation Class. Akron University. December 2000.

**Lectures to the public:**

*Forensic Pathology –* Walsh Jesuit High School Genetics Class, Spring 2015  
*Infant Mortality Summit – Moderator,* John S. Knight Center, Akron, June 6, 2013  
*Forensic Pathology.* Southern Summit Citizens Academy, *Spring 2010,* October 2010, November 2012, November 2013, November 2014  
*Forensic Pathology,* Monroe Falls, Stow, Tallmadge Citizens Academy, December 2014, October 2015, October 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021

**PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS/ACTIVITIES**

American Academy of Forensic Sciences	1991 to present
National Association of Medical Examiners	1998 to present
Ohio State Coroner’s Association	2001 to present
Member of Education Subcommittee	2002 to present
Co-Chair, Communications Subcommittee	2008 to 2010
NEOMED, Pathology Department appoint review committee	2020

*Curriculum vitae*  
**Lisa J. Kohler, MD**  
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**LOCAL SOCIETY AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

Summit County Child Fatality Review Board	1999 to present
Chair of Full Committee	2015-2016
Summit County Police Chief's Association	1998 to present

**LICENSURE**

State of Ohio

*ljk 07/2022*

# **ROBERT S. SHOTT M.D.**

Board Certified Forensic Pathologist  
Chief Deputy Medical Examiner  
Summit County Medical Examiner's Office  
Akron, OH

85 N Summit St.  
Akron, OH 44308  
(330) 643-2101  
rshott@summitoh.net

## **Undergraduate Education – 1997-2001**

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio  
Bachelor of Science, Biology 6/2001  
Cum laude

## **Medical Education – 2001-2005**

The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health, Columbus, Ohio  
M.D. 6/2005

## **Certification/Licensure**

USMLE Step 1: May 2003  
USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge: October 2004  
USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills: December 2004  
USMLE Step 3: June 2007  
State of Ohio Permanent Medical License, October 2008  
Anatomic Pathology/Clinical Pathology Board Exam: October 2009  
Forensic Pathology Board Exam: September 2010  
Anatomic/Clinical/Forensic Pathology recertification exam: August 2019

## **Work Experience**

Resident, Department of Pathology, Ohio State University Medical Center, 2005-2009;  
Chief Resident in Anatomic Pathology, 2007-2008  
Forensic Pathology Fellow/Deputy Coroner, Montgomery County Coroner's Office,  
Dayton, OH, 2009-2010  
Forensic Pathologist/Deputy Coroner, Montgomery County Coroner's Office, July 2010-  
May 2019  
Forensic Pathologist/Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, Summit County Medical  
Examiner's Office, Akron, OH, June 2019-present

## **Professional Society Membership**

National Association of Medical Examiners