

The A-Z Bathtub/Bathing Environment Investigation Form

Note: This form can be used for bathtub, hot tub, whirlpools, spas or any arena used for soaking or washing such as sinks for infants or open-water areas for homeless people. ["Bathtub" representsthesearenas throughout this form.](#)

The Three Primary Investigation Questions:

- 1) Does it make sense that the **victim (V*)** was in that water at that time?
- 2) Does the location, position, posture, physical state, and scene of the **VandReporting Party (RP)** make sense?
- 3) Does it make sense that the V did not survive the immersion or submersion? if the v has no disease, disability or drugs/alcohol then why is theV dead? E.g. healthy 2 year-olds can sit and stand up.

***V – refers to a person found dead or alive who had reportedly been found fully or partially in a bathtub or bathing environment**

Document changing evidence first (e.g. wetness, temp, rigor...). In addition to documenting the scene/body as you observe them, it is **critical** to learn/document as much as possible about them as found by the RP and first responders.

RP(S) Name/contact info: _____

PHOTOGRAPH REPORTING PARTIES w & w/o full clothes (Full body shot, front and back, plus close ups)

FIRST RESPONDING OFFICER

Name: _____

Time Started: _____

Date form completed: _____

Time completed: _____

I. **Scene Documentation:** Complete the following based on your observations.

- a. **DEGREE OF WETNESS:** Document the scene to show what areas are dry, damp, wet, soaking wet.

When photographing moisture: overexpose dark items and underexpose light items to make wet/damp areas more visually evident. Document condensation if present. Use unwrapped, new toilet paper to blot 'invisible' moisture areas, photo results, and take the paper into evidence. Ask RP(s) and first responders if anything (scene, RP, V) was dried off prior to your arrival (e.g. to apply defib pads).

List all areas on **the scene** that show evidence of moisture and describe (i.e damp, wet, soaking, puddle..). Use extra paper as necessary since details are critical. If water in a bathtub, document depth 3 times over an hour. If emptied by someone prior to your arrival, photograph that person pointing to the water level prior to emptying it. Document hampers, garbage, and any areas that wet towels, paper towels, etc could have been moved to, dried, or washed.

RP clothing and skin: Document and describe any areas of wetness with same process used on scene. Ask RP if any clothing was changed or removed. If yes, document and secure.

V clothing and skin: Document and describe any areas of wetness with same process used on scene.

Water temp in tub: _____ Use gloved finger & describe if no thermometer. Document faucet states.

b. **V and Bathtub as found by RP:** Documenting details is very important.

Body position when found by RP: face up face down on right side on left side

Have RP describe and draw stick figure picture of body in relationship to tub. Show drain, faucet, water line (depth), V's airway. When possible have RP position someone else in the V's discovery position on a floor and document.

Water state: Faucet running or off if running describe flow/drips: _____

Drain open -- closed? if drain closed- with what type of obstruction?: _____

Did RP change any aspect of tub? Yes? No? if yes: Unplug drain? Turn off water? Other: _____

Nose/mouth of V: Fully submerged Fully above water Partially submerged, describe: _____.

Did RP attempt to remove body from tub?: yes / no Document how in detail (physically 'show me'), and if successful or not. Describe the specific locations of V's body touched by RP. _____

If someone other than RP removed body, get same description and list names.

If drained, was the water drained before or after the V was pulled out of the tub: _____

Document Ambient lighting: list what lights RP says were turned on that could affect lighting in bathroom:

Bathroom door: fully openpartially opened locked other: _____

Did RP move anything in bathroom or make any changes (e.g. open window..?)

If any other person moved anything in bathroom or made changes describe and list names

List all names of persons who touched the body prior to Detectives' arrival (RP, EMS, etc):

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR

Name: _____

Date form completed: _____ Time completed: _____

Document/process/collect as much as possible to enable later reconstructions.

Physically take and document the reported or apparent journeys of the RP and V to see if there is evidence to support previous or future statements. For example:

- Document ambient lighting and what the RP could possibly have seen from the RP's eye height.
- What could or should the RP have been able to hear in regards to water running, V sounds, etc. if the RP had been outside the bathroom in different locations? Document if any TV's or other sound devices had been on at time of incident.
- What should or shouldn't be wet/damp./dry, knocked over, moved, damaged if the RP's statement is correct? Document changes made by first responders and other parties on the scene.
- What trace evidence could be present on V/RP/environment based on RP statements for example?

c. Repeat Patrol Officer pages in reference to scene documentation

d. **(Temp)**. Use gloved finger and describe if that's all you have at first. Infrared thermometers can be used to take temps of hard surfaces such as floors, bathtub walls, etc. but are not necessarily good for documenting liquid temps

Instrument used to record temps? _____

Water temp: _____ Time: _____ Water temp: _____ Time: _____

Water temp: _____ Time: _____ Document 3x in an hour or more to document depth changes Bathroom

Air Temp : _____ Time: _____

Can use IR thermometer: Tub wall temps: _____ Time: _____

Floor Temp under body: _____ Time: _____ Floor Temp near body: _____ Time: _____

Maximum water temper from tub faucet: _____ Minimum temp from tub faucet: _____

Maximum temp for hot water heater: _____ Misc. Temp: _____

Air temperature in bathroom: _____ Air temperature in rest of residence/facility: _____

e. **Tub Conditions**—take enough photos/measurements so that the scene can later be accurately reconstructed

Depth: Over-flowing at rim at over flow drain partial-full _____ puddle empty

Water Depth: _____ Time: _____ Water Depth: _____ Time: _____

Water Depth: _____ Time: _____ Document 3x in an hour or longer time to document depth changes

Was Faucet/shower running: Yes No Describe flow: _____ Time was turned off: _____

If running when found, video flow as shown by RP or whoever saw it running. Recreate if necessary.

Drain closure type: standard with bath manual plug Other: _____

Drain State: open closed partial Describe: _____

Photo any surfaces that could cause injuries – eg. All sides of faucets, drain impressions,

Items in tub: _____

Substances in tub? (hair, feces, dirt, etc) Describe. Collect as necessary: _____

Operation of overflow and tub drain/obstruction (functioning properly): Yes No *if possible video the tests.*

Note: document all items in/ near tub –their locations/positions, show labels of bottles for example and describe the quantity of contents (full, half full, etc.). Are items at all wet? If appropriate, take items into evidence.

Items on tub rim: _____

Bathing tools: (washcloth, soap, bath oil....): _____

Water clarity: Describe: _____

Intentional Contaminants: soaps bubbles oils salts other: _____

Unintentional Contaminants: blood spills purge other: _____

Sketch tub with measurements: *Make sure to document height of overflow drain.*

Fingerprint bathtub and perhaps bathroom for possible hand position/location evidence. Consider taking parts of or the entire bathtub into evidence if there are possible indicators of a crime. Swab outside of tub.

Take whole, or parts of, the bathtub into evidence. For e.g.: Are there linear marks on the V that could match the railing of a sliding shower door? Could the V have come in contact with the underside of the faucet with resulting injury? Could the drain have left an impression on the V?

Tests to perform after processing the scene:

If any tub leak (poor drain closure, etc) document duration from full to bottom of overflow drain: _____
full to empty: _____ Full to reported depth when V found: _____ overflow drain to empty: _____

Determine filling of tub duration with drain fully closed and with faucet on full force: Duration from empty to overflow drain: _____ If the overflow drain prevents overflowing, keep water running for at least 3 minutes after that max depth is reached and document depth. Max depth _____ *show with ruler.*

Repeat with drain as obstructed when found by RP or First Responders (FR). Empty to overflow drain: _____

Empty to max depth: _____. Max depth: _____

Repeat with drain as obstructed when found by RP/FP and with water flow as described by RP/FP. Empty to overflow drain: _____ Empty to max depth: _____. Max depth: _____

Distance between overflow drain and observed or reported water level? _____

Does the reported depth make sense? Consider the drop in depth that should have occurred when the body was reportedly removed from the tub.

If whirlpool, spa, hot tub, etc... describe state of jets, heat, lights, when V reportedly discovered:

f. **Bathroom Information:** sketch dimensions

Describe lighting when V discovered: _____

Take ambient lighting photos – especially of what RP's say RP saw or did not see.

Lights(s) when body found: open on off Describe: _____

Disturbed or broken items: _____

State of bathroom: clean messy Compared to rest of residence: _____

State of toilet (contents, seat cover, etc.): _____

Door when body found: open partial closed locked or unlocked Make sense? _____

Window(s) when body found: open partial closed locked or unlocked

Ventilation or other fan(s) when body found: on off Describe: _____

Anything damaged or seemingly out of place?: _____

Other information:

g. Residence/Facility Information: sketch dimensions

Hamper, Dryer, Washer, diaper pail etc: _____

Any evidence of wet/damp or recently washed items?

Indoor/outdoor garbage: _____

Any evidence of wet/damp items, empty pill bottles, etc, clean up items such as paper towels?

State of bed and bedroom(s) of V and RP: _____

Any potential signs of struggle or mishap?

II. V Information: Describe the state of the victim.

Nude or Clothed: describe: _____

Accessories? Watch, jewelry... _____

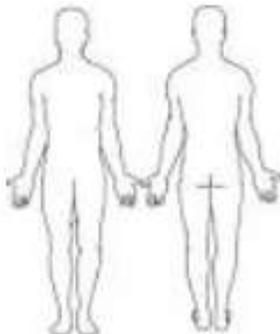
a. Wetness(including under V if V is dead or incapacitated)

Body Wetness: label parts as: soaking wet wet dampdry

Hair Wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry

Clothing wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry describe: _____

Hair state: loose/secured up describe: _____



Pre-bath clothes: locationstate describe: _____

Post-bath clothes: locationstate describe: _____

Robe, slippers, towels: location state Describe: _____

- b. **VBody Information**- Work with law enforcement and death investigators to make sure there is a sketch of V body location, position, posture when first found by RP. The following information is in regards to when the V was first discovered:

Body position: supine prone left sideright side

Body: fully in tub Body parts out of tub: _____

Orientation to faucet: head toward head away head in middle

Airway status: submerged partially submerged not submerged

Body Temperature: _____ How taken?: _____

Actual time when the following is examined and documented: _____

Rigor: **None** **Easy-to-Break** **Fixed** -- Jaw _____ Neck _____ Arms _____ Fingers _____ Knees _____

Lividity:fixed not fixed gravity-dependent Lividity List body locations _____

Skin wrinkling: **None**, **Mild**, **Moderate**, **Severe**: left hand _____ right hand _____ left foot _____
Right foot _____ other parts/comments _____ take close up, perpendicular photos of all

Temperature of V _____ How taken? _____

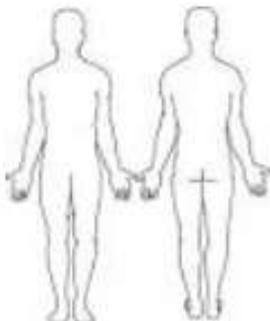
Decomposition: skin slippage discoloration bloating marbling blistering odor
purge insects comments: _____

Eyes: Petechial hemorrhage Left/right tache noir Left/right corneal clouding
Carefully photograph eyes w/ upper & lower lids pulled away and note time

Presence of fluid or vomit from airway: Yes No Describe & perhaps collect as evidence _____

Signs of Sexual Assault: yes no comments: _____

- iii. **Reporting Party/ First Responder Information** – get as much detailed info as possible to facilitate a later reenactment of the scene, what the RP/FR's did on the scene, what the RP/FR's observed, and the V's state.



- a. **Wetness** photograph and blot with paper. Did RP remove or change any clothing? Dry off? How?

Body Wetness: label parts as: Soaking Wet Wet Damp Dry

Hair Wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry

Clothing wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry describe: _____

Did RP change or remove any clothing after discovering V? _____

b. **RP Injuries** Photograph and describe any injuries/defects. Check under clothes.

DETECTIVE / INVESTIGATOR

Name: _____

Date form completed: _____

Time completed: _____

Read previous pages of this form to see what still needs to be documented and original RP(s) and first responder info.

IV. Who found V: _____ Who removed V from bathtub _____

Explain in detail how V was removed from bathtub: _____

Ask RP to verbally describe in detail, then write a statement, then do a physical show me that is documented with video or photos.

Does the wetness of the RP match the statement? Yes No Describe in section III. Reporting Party

Explain in detail how and where the V was placed after removal from tub: _____

Have RP draw a sketch of the V on floor if first responders moved V prior to V being photographed

Date/Time of discovery: _____ Date/Time last known alive: _____

Estimated Time of Immersion: _____ Explain; _____

Did anyone other than the RP see V in bathtub: _____

Who was the last person(s) to see the V alive or prior to the incident if nonfatal?: _____

- Investigate prior deaths in the RP / caregiver history. For example, if the V and RP are intimate partners, are there any prior intimate partner deaths regardless of manner of death in the RP's history? Any prior insurance claims? Same for child deaths/injuries.
- Is the RP an insurance beneficiary of the V?
- Does the RP have any history of domestic violence or assaults?
- Any commission of strangulation or other forms of criminal asphyxia in the RP's history?
- Investigate if there is any possibility of sexual assault or pedophilia.

V. **Bathing Habits/Routines/scene evidence**— Compare/document what you see on the scene, as told by the RP(s), and the V's normal routines that you obtain from interviews. *Interview anyone (children, family, previous intimate partners, roommates...) who might know about V's bathing habits. How, when, why, where. If possible show scene photos during interviews to see if knowledgeable interviewees see something out-of-character. Ask about what could change a routine – e.g. sick, heavy workout, got very dirty..... write "unk" if no information is available.*

Information from RP and family/friends: (use a different page for information from each person):

Examples of questions to ask if this info not provided when an interviewee is asked a general question about V's routines.

Did it appear that the V was taking a bath or a shower on day of incident? _____

Does the Vevertake baths: no yes evidence for answer: _____

If the V has a history of bath-taking – when would V’s take baths? Time of day, how often, describe: _____

If the V has NO history of bath-taking – when would V’s take showers? Time of day, how often, describe: _____

Normal bathing durations: _____ change with reason for bath? _____

Where would V take baths or showers if there is more than one in residence: _____

If the V has a history of bath-taking – why would V’s take baths? _____
e.g. to feel better when sick, relax, wash, soak sore muscles, play, have sex, warm up, have privacy time

What lights would V normally have turned on/off in bathroom? _____ in residence? ____

Where would V undress pre-bath clothing? _____ Normal state of clothing (*e.g. leave in pile on floor? Put away neatly? Hamper*)? _____

Compare with actual location/state of pre-bath clothes: _____

Did V normally use robe or slippers or wrap in towel? _____ Before or after bath? _____

Does V normally wear jewelry/watch when bathing? _____

If long enough would V put her up/back or leave down to get wet? If yes, describe: _____

Location/state post-bath clothes: _____

What would D do with bathroom door when bathing or showering? Describe: _____
Close, lock, leave open, depends on outside temperature?

What bathroom lights would normally be on when bathing? Describe: _____

If there is a vent fan switch in bathroom would the V have it on or off on when bathing? _____

Would V ‘always’ have towel in bathroom? No Yes Within reach of bathtub? No Yes _____

Would D have water running from faucet while V was bathing? Describe: _____

Activities V performs in bathtub (i.e. play, talk on phone): _____

Does V wash in bathtub and if yes with what (washcloth, shower gel, shampoo...)? Or normally just soak in tub and if yes, shower afterwards? Shave in bath?

Cleaning tools: Loofa washcloth shaving razor other: _____

Put anything in water? Bath oil bubbles bath salts other: _____

If whirlpool tub describe use: keep jets on? How long?

What items would normally be in/on bathing area: book drink: _____

phonetablet radio/music: _____ candle lit/unlit Toys Describe: _____

other: _____

Are there any items present on the scenethat are out of character for V: _____

What do you (RP or family/friends) think could have contributed to the V's death: _____

VI. **Bathing Habits as evidenced on scene**– What was observed on the scene

Did it appear that the V was taking a bath or a shower on day of incident? _____

Is there any evidence of why the D was taking a bath or shower? _____
e.g. to feel better when sick, relax, wash, soak sore muscles, play, have sex, warm up, have privacy time

Describe lighting n rest of residence _____

Where did the V appear to undress pre-bath clothes? _____

Evidence of use robe or slippers or wrap in towel? _____

Is the V wearing jewelry/watch?: _____

State of V's hair? Loose? If up/back describe how? _____ neat or disheveled?

Location/state pre-bath clothes: _____
(e.g. left in pile on floor? Put away neatly? Hamper?)

Location/state pre-bath clothes: _____

State of bathroom door when V was first discovered? Describe: _____

Bathroom lights on and off? Describe: _____

If there is a vent fan switch in bathroom was it on or off when V first found? No Yes

Was there 1 or more towels in bathroom? Within reach of bathtub? Describe: _____

Activities V performs in bathtub (i.e. play, talk on phone): _____

Normal bathing times of day/night: _____ Normal bathing location; _____
Normal bathing durations: _____ change with reason for bath? _____

Towel(s) present: Yes No Towel state: _____

Is there any evidence of activity performed by V in bathtub? (washing, relaxing, shaving...): Describe:

Tools present within reach of V is bathtub: Loofa washcloth shaving razor other: _____

Put anything in water? Bath oil bubbles bath salts other: _____

Was water turned off or on when V discovered? Describe if on: _____

If whirlpool tub state of jets?

Were any 'activity' items found in/on/near bathing area: book drink: _____ phone
tablet radio/music on/off: _____ candle lit/unlit Toys Describe: _____
other: _____

Any items that could relate to suicidal intentions? _____

Items present that are out of character for V or unusual in general: _____

Was V in the bathroom the V normally used?: _____

Environmental factors that could have contributed to the V's death (electrocution, carbon monoxide,
scalding water): _____

Other factors that could have contributed to the V's death (medical history, toxicology, disability...):

Remember to consider the possibility that incapacitation can be used to stage a drowning accident.

Evidence of aquatic erotic asphyxia, pedophilia or aquatic sexual sadism: yes no
If possible look at devices -computers, phones, etc

Compare History questions in section V with Scene Evidence in section VI:

VII. **Injuries:** Photograph all defects/injuries/indentations. Includescales (use money if scale not available). Immersion can 'hide' injuries so carefully look through hair at scalp, look at neck for indentations....

Neck: yes no Head: yes no Back: yes no

Other apparent injuries: _____

Body planes with injury: Front back left side right side top of head soles feet

Can injuries be reasonably explained? e.g. by removal from tub? _____

VIII. **V Medical History**

Fall reported: yes no comments: _____

History of falls: yes no History of Dizziness: yes no Seizure reported: yes no

History of seizures: yes no Physical Disability: yes no describe: _____

Mental Illness/ Disability: yes no explain: _____

Suicide Ideation: yes no method(s) : _____

Suicide attempt(s) (number): _____ method(s) _____

Drug/Alcohol abuse: yes no Describe: _____

Any drugs/alcohol on scene: yes no List what and where: _____

If RP is spontaneously reporting that the V was intoxicated don't assume that is true until toxicology results are in. Be aware that toxicology increases vulnerability and can be used to incapacitate potential victims.

List any other diseases/ conditions (diabetes, cardiac, pulmonary, neurological, etc.)

Previous history of pneumonia or other lung problems/illness that could result from inhaling water?

If possible history of being a victim of domestic or intimate partner violence use an effective lethality assessment and strangulation form. Request evidence-based forms: <http://respondagainstviolence.org>

Prescriptions: _____

History of Abuse: yes no by whom: _____

Explain: _____

Does the V have any insurance policies: yes no Investigate beneficiaries, \$ amount _____

Did RP spontaneously talk to anyone on the day of the incident or other times about a history of suicide ideation or attempts on the part of the V? if yes, describe? _____

Is there evidence to support the RP's statements? _____

Pediatric or dependent-adult Vs:

Who was supervising V in bath? _____ Relationship to V _____

Who normally bathes V? _____ Normal bath time: _____

Is that person the normal caregiver? Explain: _____

Why was V in bathtub – being bathed? – **especially if not normal bath time:** _____

What occurred prior to bath?:

Enter tub w/o assistance: yes no Exit tub w/o assistance: yes no

Manipulate faucets w/o assistance: yes no Manipulate drain closure w/o assistance: Yes no

How many children in residence?: _____

Possible evidence of co-bathing w/ child? Adult? : yes no with whom: _____

Fever: yes no temp: _____ Was V 'fussy' today? _____

Was V misbehaving today? _____

V soiled prior to bathing: Yes no Explain:

_____ *Check for dirty or water-soaked diapers/clothes on V, in residence, in garbage.... And take into evidence.*

If RP states that RP had been outside the bathroom while V was inside the bathroom: Could RP have heard RP making vocal or other sounds while RP was outside the bathroom, and if yes, in what locations? *There are sound meter apps you can use on your phone to document sounds in bathroom and locations RP said RP was located if child was left alone in tub. Make sounds with door open/halfway/closed. Document dB's in bathroom and corresponding dB's in the appropriate locations outside bathroom.*

Possible history of dunking as punishment: yes no are any children taken into bathroom after misbehaving? History of any child crying in bathroom? Was the V crying prior to incident? Fear of baths?

Possible sexual assaults or aquatic sexual sadism in bathroom? Yes no. check devices of caregivers.

Ask living children in residence in age-appropriate language if they ever had their airway submerged in water or under running water by another person.

Ask same question regarding any type of airway obstruction or strangulation.

Ask if the child was ever put in cold water. Describe.

Is the child normally bathed alone or with other children.

Who normally gives the child baths?
Is the child ever given a bath after the child has done something bad? Explain

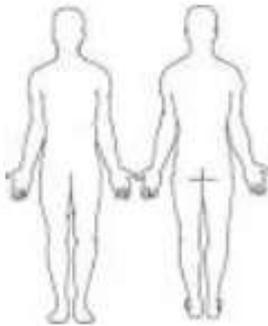
Previous history of pneumonia or other lung problems/illness that could result from inhaling water?

Munchausen by Proxy – any possible signs: yes no

Does the caregiver / RP have a history of any other deaths of persons in their care?

IX. Reporting Party/ First Responder Information – get as much detailed info as possible to facilitate a later reenactment of what the RP/FR's did on the scene, what the RP/FR's observed, and the V's state.

a. Witness photograph (overexpose dark absorbent materials and underexpose light) and blot with paper



Body Wetness: label parts as: Soaking Wet Wet Damp Dry

Hair Wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry

Clothing wetness: soaking wet wet damp dry describe: _____

Did RP change or remove any clothing after discovering V? _____

b. RP Injuries Photograph and describe any injuries. Check under shirt and if necessary under other clothes.

c. RP's actions

How did RP come to find V? _____

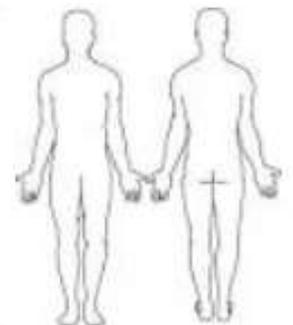
If RP did not remove V from bathtub explain why not:

Did RP attempt CPR? Yes No Explain:

If yes, was this witnessed: Yes No If yes, by Whom and

Describe: _____

Does RP have any CPR Training Yes No Describe: _____



d. EMS/Hospital Care EMS respond: yes no

EMS care: CPR IVs Intubation suctioning Describe: _____

Describe details regarding eyes when examined: _____

Did EMS make any changes to scene? Describe if yes: _____
e.g. dry off patient or environment? Move items to gain access to V. Move V and if yes, where was the V held by EMS or others when moved? Open doors/windows? Turn of TV?

Did EMS remove anything from V (clothing, etc): _____
What happened to those items?

When airway was opened was there any resistance: Yes No Describe: _____

Describe anything coming out of V's airway (fluid, vomit..) _____

Obtain detailed written statements from EMS with scene sketch of body position. This info can be invaluable for later reenactments and investigations. Include communication with RP, state of V when first examined (temp, wetness, position, posture), state of RP (wetness, demeanor, actions), state of bathroom.

Hospital care: CPR IV Intubation Ventilator Other care: _____

- IV. **Autopsy** Autopsy done: yes no if no: external examine?
Posterior neck/back dissection: yes no
Gastric contents: _____
Vomit Aspiration: yes no
Injuries: _____

V. Toxicology

Drug	OTC/Illicit/Prescription	Therapeutic/Above/Below/Unknown

Did RP spontaneously talk to anyone on the day of the incident or other times about a history of alcohol or drug use/abuse on the part of the V? if yes, describe? _____

Is there evidence to support the RP's statements? _____