Death: Meaning, Manner, Mechanism, Cause and Time

Terri Shiavo Case:
1. What were the major questions of this case?
2. Who do you feel should be responsible for making decisions regarding a person’s health if they are not able to do so?
3. Morally and legally, when is someone considered “dead”, or at the “point of no return”?

Death
- One definition of death is ____________________________.
  - The irreversible cessation of ____________________________.
  - Or the cessation of ____________________________
- ____________________________ can not agree
- Stoppage- ____________________________
  - As ____________________________ fails to reach the cells, the organs stop
  - When a cell dies, it ____________________________. Once enough cells break down, life cannot be restarted.
- ____________________________- cell breakdown
  - Caused by - ____________________________ - cell organelles that contain digestive enzymes

Suspicious Deaths
- In the cause of suspicious or unnatural deaths, a medical doctor called a forensic pathologist conducts an ____________________________.
- Autopsies are conducted to determine the ____________________________

Article: Mysterious Death at the Fair
- How would you define manner of death, cause of death, and mechanism of death after reading the article?
- What other descriptions or adjectives could be used for manner of death, cause of death, and mechanism of death?

The Manner of Death
- Manner of death: ____________________________
  - ____________________________ death- caused by age or disease
  - ____________________________ death – caused by unplanned events: car accident
  - ____________________________ death: caused when the person purposefully kills oneself.
  - ____________________________ death: death of person by another
  - (and in some states) ____________________________
Cause of Death

- Cause of death: ________________________________________________________________.
  - Examples:
    - ________________________, physical injury, stroke, heart attack
    - Bludgeoning, shooting, ________________________, drowning
    - Hanging, ________________________
  - "____________________ cause of death" – the ______________________ cause of death opposed to the ______________________ cause of death
  - Example: if someone is exposed to large amounts of radiation and dies from cancer. The proximate cause of death is radiation exposure.

Mechanism of Death

- Mechanism of Death describes the ______________________
  - If the cause of death is a shooting then the mechanism of death might be ______________________, exsanguination, or it might be the ______________________.
  - COD= heart attack, what would the mechanism of death be?

Time of Death & Post Mortem Interval (PMI)

- Time of Death is ______________________.
- Post mortem interval- ______________________
- Time of Death (TOD) is determined by:
  - ______________________
  - Rigor Mortis
  - ______________________ Mortis
  - ______________________
  - Changes of the ______________________ following Death
  - Stage of ______________________
  - ______________________ Evidence

Who determines Cause, Time, Manner and Mechanism of Death?

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Medical Examiners and Coroners: What’s the difference?

Video notes:
• Coroners:
  • originated in England as “________________”
  • About _________ the US uses a coroner system
  • Coroners are _____________
  • No formal education (in most states)
  • Many are _______________directors
• Medical Examiners:
  • 1877- Massachusetts was first state to have an ME
  • ME must be _______________
  • Usually appointed by the chief executive of the county or its council
  • ________________ uses Medical Examiners

**Becoming a Forensic Pathologist**

• Must obtain a ________________ degree (4 years AFTER college)
• Perform a ________________ in pathology (another 4 years)
• Obtain certification in ________________ - another year in a residency and then apply for certification from the American Board of Pathology

**The major duties of a forensic pathologist:**

• Perform ________________
• To determine the apparent __________________________
• To determine (estimate) the __________________________ (PMI), or time of death
• To ascertain the ________________ of death
• To determine __________________________ of the deceased