

Forensic Pathology

Criminal Justice

What a post-mortem examination can establish, and where it stays uncertain.

Confidence varies enormously between these two columns.

Usually addressable

Cause of death, where it is anatomical

Injury pattern and likely mechanism

Presence of disease or intoxication

Whether injuries occurred around death

Whether findings fit an account given

Uncertain or contested

Time of death beyond a broad range

Sequence of multiple injuries

Manner of death in ambiguous cases

Interpretation of infant head injury

Any single finding treated as decisive

Educational reference. Time-of-death estimates carry wide margins, and several past certainties have been revised by later research.