





# HISTORY

Investigator: C. BOUCHIE/A.CUBA

At 1921 hours on Thursday, October 15, 2015, Rural Metro Ambulance reported the death of an adult black female, tentatively identified as Mary Fields. She was found in her sister's home at 1858 Cordova Avenue in Youngstown. Paramedics advised that the decedent's sister, Barbara Copeland, was a Youngstown Police officer who had apparently contacted her attorney prior to calling 911 and was not providing first responders with information pertaining to Mary's identification, living circumstances, or medical history. Paramedics, detectives, and Crime Scene Unit officers from the Youngstown Police Department were present at the scene.

Detectives report that Barbara Copeland finished her shift at 1800 hours this evening. 911 was called by Attorney Kim Akins, who was waiting outside the home with Barbara Copeland upon the arrival of first responding officers.

The two-story home at 1858 Cordova Avenue is cluttered with boxes filled with mail, newspapers, clothing, and shoes cover the floors. Empty food and beverage containers are throughout the house. Cookware, plates and cups, food containers, food and trash bags are on all kitchen counters, the floor, and kitchen table. Boxes of hats, fast food wrappers, and plastic bags are throughout an upstairs bedroom. A toilet in a nearby bathroom is filled with brown liquid. A trash bag immediately outside the bathroom door contains clothing and a pair of black shoes with feces on them. A compact refrigerator containing food is in the hallway. No running water in the residence.

The body of an adult black female is partially supine on the bed. The lower torso is rotated to the left. The right arm is bent at the elbow and rests across the chest. The left arm is bent at the elbow and the hand is near the shoulder. The body is warm to the touch. Blanched lividity is present and rigor mortis is present in the jaw. The body is clothed in a green sweatshirt and black athletic pants. Empty water bottles, empty food containers, a pair of slippers, and plastic utensils are on the bed near the body. A Marriott hotel room key, \$7.00 U.S. Currency, and a tissue are in the left front pants pocket. A white beaded necklace with a medical alert device attached encircles the neck. Plastic wrap is around the right foot. Both feet rest in feces. Brown and red fluids are on the sheets and mattress underneath the body. An ulcer is on the right calf and the buttocks. Insect activity is present around the feet. No other injuries are on the body. The body is photographed and transported to the Mahoning County Coroner's Office for investigation.

No medical records for Mary L. Fields were available at St. Elizabeth Hospital or North Side Hospital in Youngstown. Requests for medical records were submitted to local hospitals and health clinics in the vicinity of Waldorf, Maryland.

On December 4, 2012, Mary Fields was admitted to University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center for a behavioral health evaluation. It is noted local area police were called to Mary's residence in because she was not seen by neighbors in two weeks. Police report they kicked in the door to gain access and observed Mary holding a rusty saw. A struggle ensued and Mary cut her hand with the saw. Police report the house was clean but the windows were "calked" around the seams and were unable to see in or out of them. Mary was discharged two days later to her sister, Barbara Copeland. It is noted Mary had no signs of suicidal ideation.

On October 19, 2015, the case was reviewed and an autopsy was conducted by forensic pathologist Joseph S. Ohr, M.D. Photographs were taken of the body and a DNA blood standard was made. Blood and vitreous specimens were collected for toxicological analysis. At the request of Tonya Copeland, the body was released to L.E. Black Funeral Home upon completion of the examination.

At 0900 hours on October 20, 2015, I spoke with Tonya Copeland, Barbara's daughter and niece of the deceased. To Tonya's knowledge, Mary Fields had no known medical problems and no history of hypertension, diabetes mellitus, or congenital heart problems.

Tonya described Mary's eating habits as irregular and very particular. She did not eat balanced meals at regular mealtimes and would only consume snack foods of particular brands, specifically, Spam® canned meat, Cheez-It® crackers, Welch's® grape juice, and Planters® peanuts.

*I, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby certify that the foregoing is the investigative information of the above investigator and myself over the deceased body of MARY LOUISE FIELDS pronounced dead within Mahoning County, Ohio and whose death was the result of criminal or other violent means, or by casualty, or by suicide or suddenly when in apparent health, or in any suspicious or unusual manner.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Youngstown, Ohio this 25TH day of MARCH, 20 16*

(Seal)

*Joseph S. Ohr, M.D.*  
Deputy Coroner, Mahoning County, State of Ohio