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Review of Forensic Autopsy Evidence in Proving the Crime of Murder: A Narrative Literature Review

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1. Introduction

Investigations related to murder cases require proving procedures through the examination of forensic experts.^{1,2} Article 133 paragraph (1) of the criminal procedure code (KUHAP) states that in the interests of justice regarding a victim, either injured, poisoned, or injured or died allegedly due to an event constituting a criminal act, the judiciary has the authority to submit a request for expert testimony.³ The application of forensic medicine can prove a person's death and whether a crime occurred in that death.^{4,5} This literature review aimed to describe a forensic autopsy review on the crime of murder.

ABSTRACT

An autopsy or post-mortem is a medical examination procedure performed on a person's body after death to find out the cause of death or other medical conditions that can be identified from the deceased's body. This literature review aimed to describe a forensic autopsy review on the crime of murder. To be able to prove that a crime has been committed a forensic autopsy is used to prove whether the crime actually occurred or not. Forensic autopsy evidence is used to facilitate judges in making decisions and to expedite the course of proceedings in court so that the truth can be proven. Forensic autopsies are performed for criminal and legal investigation purposes. This autopsy can help identify the cause of a person's death, as well as gather evidence and information needed to assist the investigation process. The specific goals of a forensic autopsy are to study the cause of death of a person, gather evidence, identify victims, assist in criminal investigations and identify signs of violence. A forensic autopsy aims to reveal a cause of death for a person and for legal/court purposes.

Forensic autopsy

An autopsy or post-mortem is a medical examination procedure performed on a person's body after death to find out the cause of death or other medical conditions that can be identified from the deceased's body.⁶ An autopsy is performed by a pathologist or forensic specialist.^{7,8} The goal is to determine a person's cause of death, evaluate the effectiveness of previous treatments, and obtain medical information that can assist in the research and development of medical science. Autopsies may be performed at the request of the family or authorities or as part of a criminal investigation.⁹ Proving a criminal act using an autopsy can speed up the case being handled.¹⁰

Forensic autopsies help law enforcement determine whether an event under investigation is a crime or not. With an autopsy, law enforcers can find out how the criminal act is related to the death of the victim, including when, where, how, and the consequences

related to the crime committed.^{10,11} Law enforcers can also identify victims and perpetrators of crimes through autopsies.

Overview of autopsy evidence

Evidence is a tool needed by justice seekers and courts to prove events or facts related to the case being tried in court. According to Article 1866 of the Civil Code, evidence in civil matters consists of written evidence, evidence with witnesses, presumption, and oath.¹⁰ A forensic autopsy is a judicial post-mortem carried out at the request of the authorities (investigators) in a criminal case where the victim died.¹² Usually performed on unnatural deaths such as murder, suicide, accidents, traffic accidents, poisoning, sudden death, and death with unknown or suspicious causes.¹³

To be able to prove that a crime has been committed a forensic autopsy is used to prove whether the crime actually occurred or not.^{12,13} Forensic autopsy evidence is used to make it easier for the judge to make a decision and to facilitate the proceedings in court so that the truth can be proven.

Forensic autopsies are performed for criminal and legal investigation purposes. This autopsy can help identify the cause of a person's death, as well as gather evidence and information needed to assist the investigation process. The specific goals of a forensic autopsy are to study the cause of death of a person, gather evidence, identify victims, assist in criminal investigations and identify signs of violence. A forensic autopsy can help determine whether a person died from an illness, accident, or crime.^{11,12} Forensic autopsies can help gather evidence that can be used in court proceedings. This evidence could include DNA, fingerprints, or information about injuries found on the victim's body.

Forensic autopsies can help identify victims who cannot be identified directly. Identification can be made by collecting information on the victim's physical characteristics, teeth, fingerprints, or DNA. Forensic autopsies can also help investigators find out how crimes were committed and find who the perpetrators were. A forensic autopsy can help find signs of violence on the victim's body, such as scars or signs of torture, which can assist in the investigation process.

Visum et repertum

Visum et repertum is a Latin term used in the field of forensic medicine. Literally, "visum" means "seen", while "repertum" means "found". Visum et repertum is a written report prepared by a forensic doctor or forensic pathologist after examining the body of a victim or suspect in a criminal case or accident that requires forensic analysis.¹⁴ This report contains examination results, observations, findings, and conclusions regarding causes of death or injury, as well as other information that may assist in investigations or litigation.

Visum et repertum is an important document in the legal system and can be used as evidence in a trial. This report contains detailed information about the condition of the victim's or suspect's body, including signs of violence, injuries, poisoning, and cause of death or injury.^{15,16} Visum et repertum must be prepared with care and accuracy because errors or omissions in this report could have an impact on the final outcome of the case.

2. Conclusion

A forensic autopsy aims to reveal a cause of death for a person and for legal/court purposes. Visum et repertum can be categorized as a convincing written document or letter, which Indonesian criminal law calls evidence of expert testimony.

3. References

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