Harris County Medical Examiner Report

The following information was received from the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences on March 23, 2026.

CANDID ID: TX_25_5074

Case Number: ML25-3600

Decedent Name: Payton Bess

Date of Birth: 5/28/2025

Date of Death: 9/14/2025

Age: 3 months

Gender: Male

Cause of Death: Acute cocaine toxicity

Manner of Death: Undetermined

Synopsis: Hospital death (5 min after arrival) of a 3 mo. BM with echogenic intracardiac focus (EIF) found lying on the right side unresponsive in a u-shaped pillow. LKA ~9.5 hr. earlier placed prone on pillow after feeding. Postmortem rectal temp 80 F. No other diagnostics performed. **HPD Det Lopez requested a call post exam. Mother is requesting full autopsy d/t personal preference.**