



“Committed Service and Responsiveness”

**OFFICE OF THE CORONER  
COUNTY OF CHESTER**

**Coroner:** Christina VandePol, M.D.

**Chief Deputy Coroner:** David Daugherty, D-ABMDI

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601 Westtown Road, Suite 090  
West Chester, PA 19382

Phone: 610- 344-6165  
Fax: 610- 344-6018

**For Immediate Release**

**Skeletal Remains found in Caln Township in 2017 Positively Identified as those of Missing Marcus Hook Woman**

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January 12, 2018

The Chester County Coroner’s Office has positively identified the skeletal remains found in Caln Township in March 2017 as those of Barbara Keenan of Marcus Hook, Delaware County, PA. The results of a forensic DNA analysis performed by the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification were received on January 8, 2018, and provided the basis for this definitive identification.

Christina VandePol, M.D., Chester County Coroner, stated “This DNA identification finally allows closure for Ms. Keenan’s family, which has been notified of these findings. Although forensic DNA testing is complex and takes time, it leaves no doubt as to identity. With current DNA identification techniques using STR (short tandem repeats) and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis, scientists can determine identity with extreme precision even in difficult situations like this.”

A presumptive identification of the remains as those of Barbara Keenan, 52, of Marcus Hook, Delaware County, was made by Caln Police and the Chester County Coroner’s Office on March 25, 2017. Information released at that time by Caln Police noted that Keenan had last been seen in Caln when she was discharged from Brandywine Hospital on July 9, 2016.

Prior to DNA testing, a forensic anthropological examination was performed by Dr. Dennis C. Dirkmaat of the Forensic Anthropology Laboratory at Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA. The examination did not reveal any suspicious findings. The Chester County Coroner’s Office stated that in the absence of further information the cause and manner of death remain undetermined.

The Chester County Coroner’s Office is an independent agency serving the citizens and honoring the deceased of the county by investigating the facts and circumstances concerning jurisdictional deaths which have occurred within Chester County. It is our responsibility to determine the cause and manner of death, to identify the decedent, and to provide notification to

the legal next of kin, while exhibiting the highest degree of compassion, professionalism, and integrity.

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Approved for Release

Christina VandePol, M.D.