



**FOR PUBLIC RELEASE: Coroner Judgement of Inquiry and Inquest
Inquisition and Recommendations**

Department of Justice, Legal Services
Yukon Coroners Service
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Yukon Coroners Service: Judgement of Inquiry into the death of: Aileen Bedard

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202014034

Name: Aileen Bedard Date of Birth: 1962/08/03 Date of Death: 2014/10/29
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD
Address: Whitehorse, Yukon
Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code
Ethnic Origin: Caucasian Location of Death: Own home - Whitehorse

Cause of Death

Blunt force head injury due to Fall Down Stairs. Contributory Factors: Acute Mixed Drug Toxicity and Pneumonia

Manner of Death

Accidental

Autopsy Findings

An autopsy was performed at Vancouver General Hospital on November 3, 2014.

The autopsy revealed brain contusions on the right side of the brain. There were also multiple subarachnoid hemorrhages on the back, right side, and under the brain. There were signs of concussive-type brain injury noted.

There were signs of evolving pneumonia, which the pathologist suggested may have evolved after the fall and before death.

Toxicological Findings

Blood levels of the prescribed medication zopiclone were in a range associated with toxic and lethal effects. The blood levels of the prescribed medication methotrimeprazine were also in the range associated with toxic effects. There were normal levels of topiramate, clonazepam, diazepam, alprazolam, loxapine, haloperidol, warfarin, and lithium.

Circumstances of Death

Aileen Bedard was a 52 year old woman living in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Ms. Bedard missed a health appointment which resulted in RCMP conducting a wellness check at her residence on October 30, 2014.

Ms. Bedard was found deceased lying on her back at the bottom of the stairs in her home.

Significant Factors/Conclusions

Ms. Bedard had toxic and lethal-ranging prescribed medications detected in her blood. Toxicology analysis also detected a combination of prescribed medications which put Ms. Bedard at risk for over sedation. Over sedation can cause drowsiness, dizziness and sleepiness.

Ms. Bedard fell down the stairs in her home and sustained a blunt force head trauma which caused her death.

It is unknown if the presence of pneumonia observed at autopsy was a result of the terminal events. It is unlikely however, that this condition would have been significant enough to cause a sudden collapse.

Recommendations

No recommendations

maedwald

Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

Oct. 22/15

Date

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