



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: Pamela Davie

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202013042

Name: Pamela Davie Date of Birth: 1958/09/21 Date of Death: 2013/11/04

YYYY/MM/DD

YYYY/MM/DD

Address: #3, 121 Nisutlin Way, Watson Lake, Yukon

Street Address

Province/Territory

Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Location of Death: Watson Lake Hospital

Cause of Death

Hypothermia due to Exposure to Cold Environment. Other significant medical causes contributing to death:
Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease and Complications of Chronic Alcoholism

Manner of Death

Accidental

Autopsy Findings

An autopsy was performed at Vancouver General Hospital by Dr. Carol Lee, Forensic Pathologist on November 7, 2013.

The autopsy revealed hypertensive cardiovascular disease. There were changes in the kidneys in keeping with ketoacidosis and/or hypothermia, a fatty liver, generalized jaundice and healing lung infection, and a healing right-sided subdural hematoma (likely associated with previous fall).

Toxicological Findings

Post-mortem toxicological analysis was performed at the Provincial Toxicology Centre of British Columbia. Blood codeine level was within a range considered therapeutic in living patients. Estimates indicate a slightly elevated level of citalopram, therapeutic level of acetaminophen, subtherapeutic level of salicylate, and use of clonazepam. No evidence of diabetic ketoacidosis was noted.

Circumstances of Death

A neighbour last saw Ms. Davie in the afternoon of November 3, 2013. On the morning of November 4, 2013, another neighbor found Ms. Davie unresponsive in her home and called Emergency Medical Services.

Ms. Davie liked to keep the front door and a few windows open. She reportedly liked to sleep with the window in her bedroom open. The weather temperature in the community of Watson Lake between November 3, 2013 and November 4, 2013, ranged from -7C to -11C (min).

Ms. Davie was located in her bedroom supine on the floor beside her bed. There was no evidence of trauma or injuries, but she was very cold to the touch.

On arrival to Watson Lake Hospital, chest compressions were being performed and her pupils were fixed and dilated. Her body temperature was 23.4C. Despite resuscitative efforts, Ms. Davie was pronounced deceased at 11:47hrs.

Significant Factors/Conclusions

Ms. Davie was found in her home with the window and door open at sub-zero outside temperatures.

She was very cold to the touch, and her body temperature at Watson Lake Hospital was 23.4C.

Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease and complications of chronic alcoholism were noted to have contributed to her death.

Recommendations

No recommendations



Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

January 27/15

Date

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Clear