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March 11, 1999

The Honourable Robert W. Runciman
Solicitor-General of Ontario
25 Grosvenor St., 11th floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Mr. Runciman,

Our daughter, Lisa Shore, aged 10, died on Oct. 22, 1998 at the Hospital for Sick Children. She had been admitted late in the preceding evening due to a chronic pain condition in her leg which had flared up and was causing her distress. This condition was not fatal or dangerous, and her death was a terrible shock.

An autopsy was performed, which we were told showed no obvious cause of death. It is noteworthy that the family had to contact the coroner's office in order to obtain this information rather than having had the courtesy of a phone call from the coroner. According to Dr. Morton Reingold, the investigating coroner, further toxicology tests were still to be conducted.

We - Lisa's family - obtained copies of the hospital records covering her last two days, and had them reviewed by family and friends who are physicians and nurses. This review raised many questions about the circumstances surrounding her death as well as pointing out numerous discrepancies in the medical records. These questions were sent in writing to Dr. William Lucas, Regional Coroner, on December 11, 1998 (copy attached, A). Dr. Lucas responded on December 17th that Dr. Reingold would be working on obtaining answers to those questions, and that toxicology results would be forthcoming within six to eight weeks (copy attached, B).

Eight weeks later, on February 8th, we contacted the coroner's office, only to be told that toxicology results were not yet available. No expected date was given.

On March 1, Dr. Reingold held a meeting with the Hospital for Sick Children, the purpose being ostensibly to obtain the Hospital's answers to the questions that WE had asked. When subsequently queried as to the nature of the responses provided by the hospital, he answered only the most basic of our questions (i.e. what a corometric monitor was). He also informed us that he "was not satisfied with their answers", and had directed them to put these answers in writing.

On March 3rd we requested a copy of this written response from the hospital, and were told by them that this was a coroner's investigation, therefore their response would go directly to the coroner - within the next day or so (letter from lawyer Patrick Hawkins attached, C).

On March 9th our lawyer, Frank Gomberg, spoke to Dr. Reingold and asked when we could get a copy of the hospital's response as well as the final toxicology report and pathology report. Dr. Reingold stated that we could not obtain the toxicology report and the pathology report as we had not formally requested them (in writing). We sent a fax to him within the hour requesting them (copy attached, D). He also stated that we had sent our questions directly to the hospital. In fact, we did no such thing. If indeed the hospital obtained these questions, it was directly from the coroner's office and not from us.

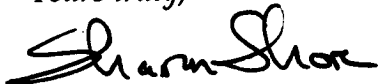
On March 10th Dr. Reingold called Mr. Gomberg to advise us that although the toxicology report and the pathology report were just about ready (in his words, they were "being printed up"), they were not to be released to us, nor would the coroner's office release a copy of the hospital's written response to OUR questions.

Our ten year old daughter died suddenly at the Hospital for Sick Children, of no apparent cause and for no obvious reason - almost five months ago. We have raised many very serious questions about the nature and quality of the medical care that she received at the hospital, and which may in fact have contributed to or even led to her death. We have not received any answers from the hospital or the coroner. Rather than working with us, the coroner's office seems to treat us as annoyances, and attempts to brush us off accordingly.

We want answers. We have been waiting quietly since October, and we still have no idea why our daughter died. We wish we could believe that the coroner's office is working with and for us, but we do not.

We await your response.

Yours truly,



Sharon and William Shore

*cc: Dr. James Young
Dr. James Cairns
Dr. William Lucas
Dr. Morton Reingold
Hon. David Tsibouchi*

*Chief Coroner for Ontario
Deputy Chief Coroner for Ontario
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