

Sharon Shore changes focus

Mother 'saddened' by dropping of charges

But nurses still face disciplinary hearings

HAROLD LEVY
STAFF REPORTER

When Mr. Justice Ramez Khawly said "there are no winners in this," he was referring not only to nurses Ruth Doerksen and Anagaile Soriano, and the ordeal they had endured in the courts, but also to 10-year-old Lisa Shore's mother, Sharon Shore, and her family.

Shore woke from her couch in Lisa's hospital room to see doctors desperately trying to revive her daughter. Later, she pushed relentlessly for an inquest to find out what had gone wrong.

Shore told the Star yesterday that the horror of Lisa's death was compounded when her father, Phil Grief, died unexpectedly at 65, 30 days later. "We are a very close family," she said. "To us, there were two tragedies, not one."

Although the aftermath of losing her child has been very difficult, Shore says that, "if anything, our marriage is stronger than it has ever been.

"We support each other very much," she says, referring to husband Bill, a software designer. "Without his love and support, I don't know how I could have come through this and still be me."

Raising sons Devon and Aron, who were 9 and 6 when Lisa died, hasn't been easy. "When I say to my 14-year-old (Devon), who is now a teenager, "Be careful, because if you are in a car accident you can be killed," he knows exactly what this means," Shore said. "And he knows that it's true. There's a big difference in the way he looks at life as a result of losing his sister."

Sharon Shore's life took a new turn after Lisa's death, as she abandoned her career as an accountant and enrolled at Osgoode Hall Law School, where she has just finished her first year of studies.

"I chose to go to law school because of my experience with the legal system over the last few years, because I felt that not every parent would have some of the ability or the resources that we did . . . to have a coroner's inquest and to be able to articulate what had happened," she says. "I'm hoping that I will be able to do something for other parents."

Shore, who says she and her husband were "saddened" to learn that the charges had been dropped, says she will now focus on the disciplinary hearings that have been ordered for Doerksen and Soriano by the College of Nurses of Ontario, their regulatory body.

The college alleges that both nurses failed to follow doctor's orders, failed to adequately monitor Lisa, failed to adequately obtain information about her condition and program of care, and failed to adequately document her condition and care. If found guilty of professional misconduct, Doerksen and Soriano face sanctions ranging from a reprimand to dismissal.