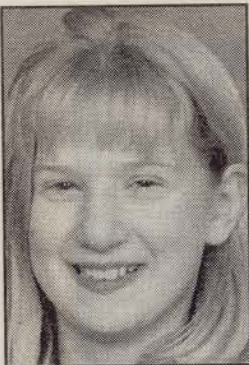


Sick Kids case over

By JONATHAN KINGSTONE
Toronto Sun

Crown drops charges in girl's death



LISA SHORE
Died at Sick Kids

The criminal case against two Hospital for Sick Children nurses in the death of Lisa Shore was dropped yesterday, but the care they gave the 10-year-old remains under a microscope.

Shortly after the Crown withdrew criminal negligence charges against Ruth Doerksen and Anagaile Soriano, the College of Nurses of Ontario announced it will go ahead with a disciplinary hearing.

"We were just waiting for the outcome of the criminal charges," the college's Deborah Jones said.

A meeting will be held next week to

schedule a tribunal that will probe the actions of the nurses, who are accused of professional misconduct, Jones said.

Girl had broken leg

The charges against Doerksen and Soriano stemmed from Shore's death on Oct. 22, 1998, after she was admitted to Sick Kids for complications from a broken leg. She died about six hours later of respiratory and heart failure.

A coroner's jury at an inquest three years ago returned a verdict of homicide. The hospital settled a civil suit

with the Shore family in 1999 and apologized to them during the inquest.

Crown attorney Hank Goody said his case changed significantly since the preliminary inquiry began four weeks ago. New evidence has come to light, as well as information that casts doubt on the credibility of prosecution witnesses, Goody said in a statement.

Lawyers for the nurses blasted police and the Crown for laying charges.

Doerksen's lawyer, Marlys Edwardh, said the investigation was "incomplete, inadequate and unreliable," while Soriano's lawyer, Elizabeth McIntyre, said

the courts are no place to deal with the "complexities" of patient care.

Nurses consider future

Doerksen, a nurse for 19 years, and Soriano, at the time of Lisa's death a recent nursing graduate, are still contemplating their futures in the profession, McIntyre said.

Bill and Sharon Shore, Lisa's parents, said they were "saddened" to learn the charges had been withdrawn and called on Sick Kids to insist the nurses remain on paid leave of absence until the disciplinary hearings are over.

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