

Manitoba Ombudsman

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November 5, 2018

Karen Herd
Deputy Minister
Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Active Living
310 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

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Inquest into the Death of Ali Al Taki Our file: 2018-0400

Dear Ms. Herd:

As you are aware, the Manitoba Ombudsman has a procedure for monitoring inquests called by the Chief Medical Examiner (CME) under the Fatality Inquiries Act. A Provincial Court Judge is assigned conduct of the inquest proceedings and following completion of the inquest, we obtain a copy of the inquest report issued by the Judge.

If the inquest report contains recommendations directed at or within the jurisdiction of a Manitoba government department or agency, or a municipal authority, we make inquiries to determine what action that office may be taking with respect to the recommendations. At the end of our follow-up on the inquest recommendations, we report to the Provincial Chief Judge on the results of our inquiries.

The inquest report into the death of Ali Al Taki was issued on October 4, 2018 and based on the findings of the Honourable Provincial Judge Timothy Killeen, no recommendations were made in this instance. We will briefly summarize the findings and conclusion of Judge Killeen in the following paragraph, as your office would have received a copy of the full inquest report.

In his inquest report, Judge Killeen found that on April 18, 2016 Mr. Al Taki fell and struck his head after being struck or pushed by another patient at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre. Mr. Al Taki was taken to the Selkirk General Hospital and then the Health Sciences Centre for treatment. While at the Health Sciences Centre, he developed pneumonia and eventually died on June 24, 2016. The immediate cause of death was bilateral bronchopneumonia due to immobility due to blunt head trauma. Significant conditions contributing to the death but not causally related were frontotemporal lobar degeneration and early changes of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The manner of death was homicide.

Judge Killeen did not find that the patient who struck or pushed Mr. Al Taki acted in a violent manner. The action appeared to be more reflexive and was over in seconds. There was no argument or disagreement that staff should have responded too, nor was there any reason that either patient should have been isolated from others or kept away from public space. Judge Killeen did not find any concerns regarding the medical care received by Mr. Al Taki. Therefore, Judge Killeen made no recommendations in his inquest report.

In light of the above, this letter is for notification purposes only, as we have no further action(s) to take regarding this inquest. Accordingly, we will not be providing a report on the matter to the Provincial Court Chief Judge. However, we will note on our website that no recommendations were issued on this inquest, and that our office is taking no further action and closing our file.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact me directly at (204) 982-9164, or Lori Roberts at (204) 982-9137.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Cormier".

Marc Cormier
Acting Manitoba Ombudsman