

SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

DEPARTMENT: SAYREVILLE
ORI NO.: 1219
CASE NO.: 05-21781
CRIME/INCIDENT: HOSPICE DEATH/SUSPICIOUS DEATH
VICTIM/COMPLAINANT:
LOCATION:

NARRATIVE:

On 10-29-05, this officer was contacted while off duty by Sgt. Donnataria, who advised me that they needed a detective to respond to work in reference to a suspicious hospice death. He stated he had contacted Sgt. Szkodny and was given a list of detectives to contact, all with negative results, no one was available. He contacted Sgt. Szkodny again and Sgt. Szkodny advised him he was not available and to call Sgt. Sprague. Sgt. Donnataria advised me that it was a hospice death at [REDACTED] and they received a phone call from the brother of the deceased stating that the [REDACTED] had starved her and overdosed her on medication and he had assisted in her death through his negligence and his care [REDACTED]. This officer responded to Headquarters and at 2150 hours, I was briefed by Lt. Brennan, who provided me with the following information. He stated that the brother of the deceased, Bill Strouse, [REDACTED] contacted and spoke to him in reference to his sister, a Joy Sauder, who [REDACTED]. He stated that his sister had died this evening and he felt that [REDACTED] something to do with her death. Lt. Brennan stated that they contacted the Medical Examiner's Office and spoke with Giraldi at 732-826-3535, which was the answering service. He stated their concern is that the deceased's body was taken to a crematory and was going to be cremated immediately on Sunday and they were concerned for the cause of death of his sister. This officer was given a


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copy of the report and advised Lt. Brennan I would be speaking to the brother in [redacted] On 10-29-05 at 2208 hours, this officer contacted the Medical Examiner's Office and spoke to Giralda in reference to the case. Information was exchanged in reference to the officer's initial report at the scene and I advised her I would be speaking to the brother of the deceased and get back to her as soon as I had further information. This officer then contacted the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office in reference to the information received and was contacted by Inv. Todd Gerba at 2218 hours. He was briefed in reference to the information thus far which had been provided to me in reference to this death. It was agreed that this officer would contact the brother and find out further information in reference to his concerns about his sister's death. At 2313 hours, this officer spoke to Mr. Bill Strouse in reference to his sister's death. He stated that she was sick during the spring and was diagnosed with cancer. He stated she had numerous PET scans and the second one did not change drastically from the first one. He stated he saw her on 6-24-05 and he knew she was sick and dying of cancer, but she did not look that bad. He stated that approximately two weeks ago, 10-3-05, he saw her and she lost a lot of weight and he was concerned about her health care. He stated he thought her cancer was in remission and he did not think [redacted] was doing enough for her in reference to seeking other opinions and feeding her. He stated he had a niece named [redacted] who was tending to her mother and [redacted] was afraid of [redacted] and there were concerns by him and his sister, Caroline who lives [redacted] that the proper treatment was not being given. He stated he believed she was being starved and overmedicated with morphine and he did not think that was proper and, through his observations, he thought he was heavily medicating her and starving her and killing her. He stated he contacted an attorney in Red Bank and the attorney stated that as of this time, he had no standing in the care of his sister, but he would be checking with another attorney on Wednesday or Thursday of this week whose last name is Cassidy and he would be discussing further legal action in reference to [redacted] [redacted] is sister. During my conversation with the Medical Examiner's

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Office, it was ascertained that the additional information the initial officer needed for his report was the location of where the deceased was and the hospice nurse's phone number. This officer, after speaking to the Medical Examiner's Office, responded to [REDACTED] and found out that the deceased was taken to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The manager is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It was also found that the hospice nurse's phone number is [REDACTED]. It should be noted that this officer and Ptl. Jamie Sztukowski, who accompanied this officer to the residence, had to [REDACTED] as he [REDACTED] at the time. He provided these officers with the above information.



Sgt. Jeffrey J. Sprague

10-29-05

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