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County Executive

Saint Louis  
**COUNTY**  
**HEALTH**

Dolores J. Gunn, MD  
Director

# FAX

Date / Time: 2/9/11

To: Chief Thomas Becker

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

St. Louis County  
Medical Examiner's Office

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Re: \_\_\_\_\_

# Pages, including cover sheet 5

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**MARTIN, ADRIENNE N.**

**2010-8048  
Exam Case**

## Supplemental Report of Investigation

In reference to MEO 2010-8048, the reported death of Adrienne Martin, wherein the original medicolegal death investigation report was completed by Investigator Wendell Payne documenting the preliminary police investigative details as known at the scene at the time of the original report. The following supplemental information is relative thereto.

On Monday, January 31, 2011 I (Terrance Ledbetter) had a telephone conversation with Colonel Thomas Becker, Chief of Police for the Frontenac Police Department. Chief Becker told me that his police department had received a copy of the medicolegal death investigation report prepared by Investigator Wendell Payne, relative to the death of Adrienne Martin.

Chief Becker brought to my attention a typographical error in the spelling of August Busch, IV's name and he had a question about a specific time element documented in medicolegal death investigation report. Specifically, Chief Becker was inquiring about the time of 11:45 AM noted in the report wherein the narrative indicates that August Busch woke up at 11:45 AM. Chief Becker advised that the police report narrative indicates that August Busch woke up at 1:00 PM. Chief Becker told me that Investigator Payne's narrative report documents that the Frontenac Police Department made the death notification to the decedent, Adrienne Martin's next-of-kin. Chief Becker said that August Busch notified the decedent's family about her death. Chief Becker also mentioned that he wanted to know if Investigator Payne obtained any of his investigative details from sources at the scene other than the police officers.

I told Chief Becker that Investigator Payne was not on-duty, and that I would have to contact him by telephone to follow up on this information, and that I would call him back.

On Monday, January 31, 2011 I had a telephone conversation with Investigator Payne regarding the 11:45 AM time as indicated in his report. Investigator Payne said that the details in his investigative report were provided to him by police officers at the scene.

Investigator Payne told me that P.O. Scronce was his primary source for details gathered for his report, but that there were multiple police officers at the scene who also provided preliminary scene investigative information. Investigator Payne said that he did not obtain the names of each police officer that offered information to him at the scene. Investigator Payne told me that he was not able to speak with August Busch due to the fact Arthur Margulis, Attorney who was at the scene during the investigation was representing August Busch. Investigator Payne said that he did not speak with anyone else at the scene about the pending investigation other than police personnel and Arthur Margulis.

On Monday, January 31, 2011 I contacted Chief Becker by telephone. I told Chief Becker about my conversation with Investigator Payne. I also told the police chief that his concern about a time element discrepancy and subsequent death notification to the decedent's family would be addressed in a supplemental report prepared by the Medical Examiner's Office.

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On Tuesday, February 1, 2011 I received e-mail correspondence from Chief Becker regarding the Adrienne Martin death investigation. The synopsis of the e-mail was that there were serious concerns about the medicolegal death investigation report. Also regarding a straw with residue on it that was found in the decedent's clothing at the Medical Examiner's Office by Investigator Payne. Chief Becker asked if a meeting could be arranged. I responded back by e-mail and a meeting was agreed upon to take place at the Medical Examiner's Office on Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 10:30 AM.

On Tuesday, February 1, 2011 I contacted by telephone Investigator Payne. I asked him about the discovery of the straw that was in the decedent's possession as documented in his original report. Investigator Payne told me that when he returned to the Medical Examiner's Office from the scene where the decedent had been conveyed from he obtained the decedent's postmortem body temperature.

The decedent was inside of white transport bag that was secured at the scene with a security lock. Investigator Payne said he removed this security lock. While he was moving the decedent's clothing to access the decedent's body to obtain her postmortem body temperature he felt an item in the right side jacket pocket which the decedent was clad in.

Investigator Payne removed the item from the jacket pocket finding that the item was a straw. Investigator Payne described this item as a white straw that was approximately three inches in length. One end of the straw was "flanged". The straw had a white colored residue on the straw.

Investigator Payne returned the straw to the jacket pocket that the decedent was wearing, so that this item would be inventoried by the on-duty pathologist assistant along with her personal property prior to the forensic examination by the pathologist. Investigator Payne secured the bag with security lock #0741309.

Investigator Payne said that he did not notify the police about his discovery of the straw due to the fact he knew that a member of the Frontenac Police Department was apparently going to be present at the time of the forensic examination.

I checked the Medical Examiner report system for the decedent's personal property sheet finding that the decedent's personal property was no longer in our custody. The body of Adrienne Martin and her personal property had been released on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 to a representative of the Walnut-Lawn Funeral Home.

On Tuesday, February 1, 2011 I spoke with Richard Keen, Pathologist Assistant. Richard Keen is the pathologist assistant that had inventoried the decedent's personal property and completed the property report. Richard Keen told me that he did not recover the straw from the decedent's clothing.

Also present was Mary Hunt, Pathologist Assistant. Mary Hunt assisted Dr. Michael Graham, Assistant Medical Examiner with the forensic examination of the decedent. Mary Hunt said that she did not see the straw.

On Tuesday, February 1, 2011 I contacted Joe Crifasi who is a member of the toxicology laboratory staff at the Medical Examiner's Office. I asked Joe Crifasi if a straw connected with the case had been submitted to the toxicology laboratory for analysis. He checked the toxicology case file and found that no such item was received at the toxicology laboratory.

On Tuesday, February 1, 2011 I contacted by telephone Dr. Michael Graham, Assistant Medical Examiner. I asked that Dr. Graham whether he had inspected the straw that was found to be in the clothing worn by the decedent? Dr. Graham told me that he reviewed the medicolegal death investigation report and remembers the notation in the report about the straw. However, a straw was not given to him for inspection.

On Thursday, February 3, 2011 at or about 10:30 AM a case conference was held at the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office. Those who were in attendance are as follows:

Representing the Frontenac Police Department  
Colonel T. Becker, Chief of Police  
Captain M. Guttman  
Detective J. Ford

Representing the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office  
Ed McGee, Investigator

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Representing the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office  
Wendell Payne, Investigator  
Terrance Ledbetter, Chief Investigator

During the case conference Chief Becker said that there were concerns about what he cited as discrepancies in the Medical Examiner's Office investigative report. These specific alleged discrepancies will be mentioned later herein.

During the case conference the discovery of the straw at the Medical Examiner's Office was discussed. The details about that discovery and its final disposition of the subsequent unknown whereabouts of the straw were provided as aforementioned in this report. The summation is that the straw remained in the decedent's clothing and was unknowingly released in the clothing to a funeral home representative.

Det. Ford provided information that a straw was also recovered at the scene of the fatal event. The description of this straw was similar to that which was found by Investigator Payne while he was obtaining the decedent's postmortem body temperature in the autopsy suite.

During the case conference Chief Becker asked Investigator Payne who he talked with to obtain the investigative details for his report. Investigator Payne said that he talked with the police officers at the scene. Chief Becker said that his police officers that were at the scene denied providing Investigator Payne with some of these details in his report.

Chief Becker questioned as to the specific names of the police officers that provided the information to Investigator Payne. Investigator Payne said that there were multiple police officers at the scene. He listed P.O. Scronce as the reporting officer, but as he asked questions information was provided by other police officers and their names were not obtained.

During the case conference Chief Becker and Investigator Ed McGee asked what was going to be done with the medicolegal death investigation report to address the discrepancies? As I had stated at the beginning of the case conference the original report would not be edited, but that a supplemental report would be completed.

Det. Ford who had been involved in the police department's investigation of Adrienne Martin's death had a faxed copy of the medicolegal death investigation report. This copy had blue highlighter marking on the narrative of the report what the police department felt were discrepancies. The police investigation had continued after the completion of the Medical Examiner's Office death scene investigation, resulting in the later interview of August Bush, IV. Det. Ford volunteered to write on this copy of the medicolegal death investigation report the subsequent police investigative findings in response to the highlighted discrepancies. These are as follows:

1. The decedent's mother had been made aware of the deceased death by the Frontenac Police. Det. Ford's written response: "August Busch made Notification to mother at approximately 1:30 pm".
2. The decedent was located in the northeast bedroom. Det. Ford's written response: "Northwest corner bedroom".
3. In the right jacket pocket was a straw which was covered with white residue. Det. Ford's written response: "This Dept. was not made aware of this straw".
4. Typographical error in the spelling of August Busch, IV's name. Which the original report reflected as "Augustst Bush IV".
5. He reported that they were drinking most of the evening and at approximately 0330 hours they both fell asleep on the bed. Det. Ford's written response: "Subjects were not drinking, and did not go to sleep at the same time. After 2AM Busch and Martin went to bed and fell asleep separately".
6. "He woke up at 1145 hours and she was still in bed and appeared to be asleep. He went to the kitchen and made a breakfast shake, then he made her one and went back into the room at approximately 1230 hours and at this time he found her unresponsive in bed. He had his assistance call 9-1-1". Det. Ford's written response: "Busch awoke at approximate 12:30 pm and met his domestic assistant in the kitchen and prepared Protein shakes for

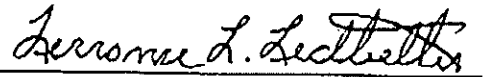
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himself and Martin. He returned to the bedroom, discovered the body, contacted his assistant to help him revive Martin, then his Assistant contacted Police, 9-1-1".

7. It was reported that the deceased had a history of depression. Det. Ford's written response: "unknown History of Depression".
8. The deceased had a history of engaging in illicit drugs. Det. Ford's written response: "No know history of drug use, at that time.
9. When she was last seen alive she had no complaints. There was no written response to this by Det. Ford. However, during the case conference Det. Ford mentioned that later police investigation indicates that the decedent, Adrienne Martin, had made complaints of not feeling well days prior to the fatal event.

This concludes the police response to the discrepancies in the medicolegal death investigation report as aforementioned. This report with highlighted narrative and Det. Ford's written response has been retained in this case file.

No other information was available at this time. Any further information relative to this investigation will follow in the usual supplementary manner.



Terrance L. Ledbetter  
Chief Investigator



Reviewed by: Dr. Mary E. Case  
Chief Medical Examiner