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March 4, 2008

TO: Carolyn Ausley

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Dear Carolyn,

I have received the hard copy of Dr. Goldberger's toxicological analysis on the samples submitted as Joyce Suster. This report will deal strictly with the toxicological issues based on the received results.

Joyce's comprehensive blood drug screen was positive for morphine with a free fraction of 155 ng/ml, not appreciable different from the New Jersey State Toxicology Lab (NJSTL). A difference easily explained by degradation of the sample between testing times, or perhaps a slightly different blood tube tested. The absence of Fentanyl in the blood from Dr. Goldberger's lab may be as a result of the same degradation over the time between the two separate testings. The Fentanyl also being present in the urine, based on Dr. Goldberger's results, is consistent with the findings at the NJSTL.

As you recall the whole reason for the additional toxicology testing was to check for the presence or absence of evidence of dehydration and/or starvation, which was never performed or explored as a possibility by Dr. DiCarlo. This case came to Dr. DiCarlo's attention as a "suspicious death" and as such should have received a full autopsy complete with thorough toxicology prior to any rulings regarding the cause or manner of death of the deceased. External examinations in this background are usually inappropriate to answer all the questions that occur in a suspicious death which is precisely why a full autopsy is mandatory. That is the only way you ensure that you have all the available facts prior to permanent loss of the evidence, which in this case, occurred because of the subsequent cremation of the deceased. That evidence is now forever lost.

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