

MINNEHAHA COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

421 N. Western Ave., Suite 200 • Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Telephone: (605) 367-4060 • Fax: (605) 367-4061

RECEIVED - D1-OFFICE

October 15, 2015

The Honorable Sandra K. Burrell

Minnehaha County State's Attorney

Minnehaha County Courthouse, Suite 310

415 N. Dakota Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

RE: Formal Notification – Suspicious / Undetermined Death

ME Case No. 2015-ME-0447 – MARSH, Eleanor Anne – DOB 03/22/1969

Dear State's Attorney Burrell,

see also EV-J – email subpoena – MLS

Pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law and the established protocols between this office and the Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office, I write to formally notify you of a death under investigation by the Medical Examiner's Office and the Sioux Falls Police Department that we believe warrants your office's awareness and potential involvement.

Apex Fin. – Q3 review initiated 10/21

On October 14, 2015, this office assumed jurisdiction over the body of Eleanor Anne Marsh, female, date of birth March 22, 1969, age 46, discovered deceased in her place of business at 4200 S. Western Ave., Suite 712, Sioux Falls, SD. Autopsy was performed the same day by Dr. R.G. Adeyemi, Associate Medical Examiner. Cause and manner of death have been deferred pending completion of toxicological analysis, neuropathological review, and ancillary histological studies. A final autopsy report is anticipated in mid to late November 2015.

The circumstances of Ms. Marsh's death have been deemed suspicious by the SFPD Homicide Unit (case number SFPD-2015-48801, assigned to Det. M.L. Santos). My office concurs that the circumstances do not support a straightforward natural death conclusion at this time. I am not in a position to characterize the toxicological findings further pending completion of the full case review, but I believe your office should be apprised of this matter now rather than upon issuance of the final report.

Additionally, I understand that the SFPD investigation has developed information suggesting potential financial irregularities at the decedent's place of employment, Apex Financial Group, Inc. The decedent apparently

ASSIGNED – FIN. CRIMES UNIT

communicated concerns about financial reporting accuracy to a senior colleague in the hours before her death. While financial matters are outside the Medical Examiner's purview, I note this context because it may be relevant to the question of manner of death and because your office's Financial Crimes Unit may have independent jurisdiction to investigate regardless of the outcome of the death investigation.

I am available to brief you or your designee at your convenience and will provide the final autopsy report and all associated ME records to your office promptly upon completion. I respectfully request that any inquiries regarding the status of the medical examination be directed to this office rather than to the SFPD, to ensure that investigative integrity is maintained.

Respectfully,

Dr. Patricia A. Okonkwo, MD, JD

Chief Medical Examiner

Minnehaha County Medical Examiner's Office

cc: Dr. R.G. Adeyemi, Associate ME

Det. M.L. Santos, SFPD Homicide Unit

ME Case File 2015-ME-0447

ME Office - Correspondence - ME-0447-CORR-003 - October 15, 2015