

FORM 37

Rule 60(1)

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Court reference: 1118/08

Inquest into the Death of LAURENCE WAYNE ALLEN

Delivered On: 27 February 2012
Delivered At: Melbourne
Hearing Dates: 27 February 2012
Findings of: JANE HENDTLASS
Representation: L/S/C Tania Christiano
Place of death/Suspected death: St Vincent's Hospital

FORM 37

Rule 60(1)

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Court reference: 1118/08

In the Coroners Court of Victoria at Melbourne
I, JANE HENDTLASS, Coroner

having investigated the death of:

Details of deceased:

Surname: ALLEN
First name: LAURENCE
Address: Port Phillip Prison, Laverton Victoria 3028

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 27 February 2012 at Melbourne find that the identity of the deceased was LAURENCE WAYNE ALLEN and death occurred on 17 March 2008

at St Vincent's Hospital, 41 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065

from

1a. ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA IN THE SETTING OF ACUTE
MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION IN A MAN WITH DIALYSIS
DEPENDENT END STAGE RENAL FAILURE

in the following circumstances:

1. Laurence Allen was 66 years old when he died. He lived at Port Phillip Prison. His partner was Pam Barmer. Mr Allen's medical history included quadraplegia arising from a motor vehicle collision in 1959, obstructive sleep apnoea, cardiac arrhythmia, hearing deficit, osteoarthritis in the left foot and end stage renal failure requiring dialysis at the Austin Hospital and, more recently, the St Vincents Hospital three times a week.
2. On 16 March 2007, Mr Allen was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment with a non-parole period of seven years for trafficking a commercial quantity of ecstasy. He was placed in the St John Unit at Port Phillip Prison due to his disabilities.
3. On 5 February 2008, Mr Allen was admitted to St Vincents Hospital with atrial fibrillation and diagnosed with acute myocardial infarction. On 8 February, he was discharged back to Port Phillip Prison.

4. On 12 February 2008, Mr Allen's condition deteriorated and he was unable to speak for a period of about two minutes. He was transferred by ambulance and readmitted to St Augustines Ward at St Vincents Hospital. On 28 February 2008, an MRI enabled diagnosis of a brain tumour.

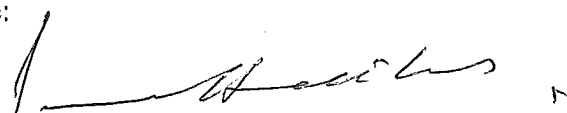
5. On 8 March 2008, Mr Allen developed aspiration pneumonia but refused antibiotics. On 13 March, active treatment was withdrawn.

6. At 4.40am on 17 March 2008, Laurence Allen died.

7. The forensic pathologist who performed the autopsy formed the opinion that the cause of death is aspiration pneumonia in a setting of acute myocardial infarction in a man with dialysis dependent end stage chronic renal failure secondary to nephropathy.

8. Accordingly, I find that Laurence Allen died of aspiration pneumonia in a setting of acute myocardial infarction in a man with dialysis dependent end stage chronic renal failure secondary to nephropathy.

Signature:



Dr Jane Hendtlass
Coroner
27 February 2012

