

ONTARIO
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF
RESIDENTS IN THE LONG-TERM CARE HOMES SYSTEM

AFFIDAVIT OF DIANNE CRAWFORD
(sworn July 22, 2018)

I, DIANNE CRAWFORD, of the City of Cambridge, in the Province of Ontario,
MAKE OATH AND SAY:

1. I was the daughter of James Silcox, and his Power of Attorney. My father was one of Elizabeth Wettlaufer's victims. As such, I have knowledge of the matters deposed to herein.

Background

2. My father was admitted to the Caressant Care Woodstock long term care facility ("Caressant Care Woodstock") on July 25, 2007. He suffered from a number of conditions, including Alzheimer's disease and diabetes.

3. My father's time at Caressant Care Woodstock was very brief. On August 1, 2007 – only one (1) week after his admission – I found a physiotherapy assistant trying to ambulate my father. He was in severe pain and unable to bear weight. At this time, I insisted that my father be transferred to Woodstock General Hospital for an x-ray. After x-rays were performed, we were advised that surgery was required.

4. On August 4, 2007, my father underwent surgery and on August 10, 2007, he was re-admitted to Caressant Care Woodstock. When he was returned from the hospital, his condition was stable and we did not anticipate any complications arising from his surgery.

5. As such, I was very shocked by his sudden passing on August 12, 2007 – which was within forty-eight (48) hours after his return from the hospital.

Interactions with the Coroner

6. That morning, at approximately 4:00 am, I received a phone call from a nurse notifying us that my father had passed away. My husband and I drove to Caressant Care Woodstock. After viewing my father, my husband and I drove to pick up my mother to inform her of my father's passing. At approximately 5:30 am, my mother, my husband and I went back to Caressant Care Woodstock so she could view his body and say her goodbyes.

7. While we were at Caressant Care Woodstock, I had a discussion with Elizabeth Wettlaufer and asked whether the Coroner would perform an autopsy on my father. As a registered nurse, my understanding was that ten (10) days is the critical time period for post-operative complications. As such, I was concerned about the cause of death given that my father's death occurred nine (9) days after surgery, and thought an autopsy could be appropriate in the circumstances.

8. In response, Ms. Wettlaufer advised that the Coroner was unlikely to perform an autopsy in this case. She suggested that I could contact the Coroner within 4-6 weeks to follow up about getting a coroner's report.

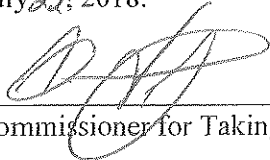
9. I have been advised by Alex Van Kralingen, counsel for my sister Andrea Silcox, that the Coroner's records indicate that someone spoke with our family that day and that there were no concerns raised.

10. That is incorrect. At no time did I, or my mother, or other members of our family have discussions with the Coroner on August 12, 2017 about my father's death.

11. As suggested by Ms. Wettlaufer, I contacted the Coroner sometime within 4-6 weeks from my father's passing to discuss the circumstances surrounding his death. During our telephone call, I felt the Coroner was very dismissive towards my concerns. From that conversation, I got the impression that the Coroner felt that my call was unwarranted as my father was an elderly man and there was nothing unusual about his death.

12. I believe that the Coroner should have done more to investigate the circumstances surrounding my father's death given that it was sudden and unexpected.

SWORN BEFORE ME at the
City of Cambridge, on
July 22, 2018.



Commissioner for Taking Affidavits

A. VAN KRALINGEN



DIANNE CRAWFORD

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AFFIDAVIT OF DIANE CRAWFORD

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