

SWORN AFFIDAVIT

Arnav Dhawan was born on March 22 2003

Mother: Pallavi Dhawan; Father: Sumeet Dhawan

Location: Madison WI 53719

Pregestational period was unremarkable, though the doctors carefully monitored my thyroid condition. At the time of discharge, we were told that Arnav had jaundice and appropriate recommendations were made for his care and followed up with his pediatrician. He was successfully breastfeeding. He got sick a few days later and was found to have Urinary Tract Infection. A prophalactic dose of antibiotic was prescribed and Arnav was released. At home, Arnav continued to breastfeed and was growing normally as was confirmed by his pediatrician at his week-to-10 days appointment. At Arnav's 3 month appointment, the pediatrician noticed unusual head circumference. On further research, it was told to be either craniosynostosis or microcephaly. His other overall health was considered to be unremarkable. He rolled over, sat at the regular time. We were asked to keep a watch on his developmental milestones and a referral was made to a UW Neurologist. MRI at UW revealed a cyst just over the area in the brain that affects speech and memory. We were advised that it doesn't affect his developmental delays and just keep a watch on it in case of any medical complications. No surgery or any other intervention was suggested at the time. However, there was a concern that his head sutures (soft spots or bands of tissue that connect the bones of skull), seemed to be closing in prematurely. We then decided to take him to Mayo for a 2nd opinion with another Neurologist. At his referral to Mayo Clinic, he was told to be Microcephalic and Hypotonic (low muscular tone for his 8 month age) and Craniosynostosis was ruled out by doing X ray, that showed sutures were still open, thus ruling out the need for a surgery. Microcephaly was told to have no cure with a shorter life span. Other tests were done to determine metabolic activities and all were normal. We were asked to continue with our consultations with the UW hospital.

Arnav was recommended for additional assessment for PT, speech and OT followed by therapy at home. Conscious decisions and activities were organized in day-to-day activities to promote development, both physical and brain developmental. Further assistance was sought from early childhood.

In parallel, Hindu customs and ceremonies were observed along with monthly birthdays that were visited by family and friends. An 'Anna-pravesh' ceremony/pooja was done when Arnav first received solids. Arnav continued to grow and was a constant joy and pride to everyone around him. Arnav always had unconditional support, love and affection, therapy, routine medication and other activities from friends, therapists and family.

Arnav's first birthday was well organized by friends, family and colleagues alike. Despite all Arnav's challenges, Arnav continued to amaze the family. Arnav's needs always came first for me.

As a follow up another visit was made to Mayo clinic in 2006, when the doctor advised it to be normal in accordance with his past findings. We were asked to continue with the then advised treatment and bring him in case of any symptoms of seizures or other medical complications. Arnav's reflux surgery was also done at UW Hospital for his reflux condition in Sep/Oct 2007 before his move to India.

When a move to India due to Sumeet's job relocation was first suggested, a smooth transition from medical and developmental perspective were discussed and observed as well. At 4 yr of age, Arnav's milestones were observed to be on track given his condition and he was said to be sensory. At home, changes to include play way method of providing therapy were kept in place. An international school was chosen in India, that catered to Arnav's special needs. Arnav continued to grow per his conditions and did show academic challenges, as expected. A move to Delhi was initiated for better consultation from Doctors and to alleviate local language and cultural barriers that were encountered in Hyderabad.

As a family we decided in early 2012 that for Arnav to get the best support structure and help that would benefit him long term throughout his life, we should move back to USA so that he has access to world class educational and medical facilities that were offered here. Arnav was growing and was beginning to understand National Pride. (4th of July was always observed no matter what part of the world with family adopting a personal tradition of red, white and blue kite flying and fireworks.)

Texas, and particularly Frisco was observed to be a fastest growing suburb with a promising reception to a child of special needs. He had structure in place to support his therapeutic needs. While in Frisco, he enjoyed the company of family, friends, his extra curricular activities and teachers. He loved to swim, sing and bike. His reading was improving and he was picking up on the local culture.

Arnav was put in Swimming, Gymnastics and Math/Reading classes to help him develop a well rounded personality.

Sumeet's job required travel both domestic and international at times. During those times Arnav was dropped to school, came back did household chores, picked him up from school and participate in his extra curricular activities. On any given day, Arnav enjoyed playing indoor games with me and we also liked playing with clay/dough, etc., listening to stories and reading and enjoyed vacations.

On the night he passed away, the day before that was just another normal day for Arnav. I picked him up and brought home from school, offered snack (he chose to eat grapes). He was offered to be taken out for a movie or get a toy (He had done well on a spelling test and needed to be rewarded). Arnav picked to go for the movie. En route to the movie, he slept. When awakened, Arnav chose to go to a restaurant for dinner, Papa Lopez, followed by a trip to Toys 'R' Us. We bought a game there, and on the way back we got Arnav a Taco Bell Mexican Pizza and we came home. He finished having the Mexican

Pizza we had picked up on the way back home, and we checked on his cartoons to see if they were recorded. It was getting late and we decided to sleep. It was a cold night and he was tired, so we skipped the routine of changing into bed time clothes. I was wearing a robe that he liked and Arnav asked if he could have that as well. I told him I couldn't give him mine, but instead he could have a sweater.

He wore the sweater, and I read to him, and put him to bed. I returned to watch some TV in the living room. He came out of the bed. I walked him back to bed, tucked him back in. When he awoke again, I decided to stay with him, and slept in the same room with him. I awoke the next day, expecting to take him to his regular classes and asked him to wake up. When I touched him, he felt cold and was not responding. I could not have imagined him to be dead, so I continued to try to wake him up. He was cold and stiff. He was completely unresponsive. I did not want to believe that my son was gone, and I desperately hoped that he was faking not getting up to avoid going to his class as he had done previously. So I picked him up and carried him to the bathtub. When I picked him up he remained completely unresponsive, and I found that he had relieved in his pants. When I put him in the bathtub he slumped in it, completely unresponsive. I had to face the fact that he was gone and that he had died in his sleep. Nevertheless, I checked his pulse, his heartbeat, and there was nothing. From the time that I tried to wake him up he was not breathing. No breath.

I still did not want to admit that he was gone, so I tried to press on his chest and blow into his mouth. I asked him to get up. He wouldn't bend his arms or open his eyes. He never opened his eyes from the moment I awoke. After realizing that he was gone, I went in a state of shock and only wanted to know who would perform his last rites. At some point in time I proceeded to give him his deceased bath according to Hindu customs, dressed him in his favorite clothes and kept his favorite toy (blue Doraemon) next to him and I later put his head on his favorite pillow along with his favorite blanket.

I knew there were a couple of important rituals that were to be awarded and to be dispensed by his father who at the time was away on his routine business trip and he was expected to return anytime. Being in the state of shock with such a sudden demise of Arnav, I continued to try and follow the Hindu customs to the best of my knowledge as exhibited by the father's family in the past, including preserving the body on ice. When Sumeet's father passed away, the family was in US and his body had to be preserved on ice at home for 4-5 days until the immediate family could reach India and perform the last rites (Antim Samskaar). Since there are no funeral homes in India, the body was preserved at home for friends and family to come and pay their last respects.

I informed the school, in person, that Arnav would not be attending class, but I did not reveal the real reason, that he had died in his sleep, as I believed that the declaration of demise had to come from his father after performing additional rituals, followed by notice to the rest of the family members, priest and a family doctor (or a medical examiner). I also placed tissue in his nostrils, which is consistent with

Hindu tradition. For next four days, I followed Hindu rituals with Arnav, preserving his body with ice cubes taken from home refrigerator (put in ziploc and grocery bags) and reading Hindu scriptures. I expected that my husband would arrive at any moment so I continued to wait, and wait for him.

When Sumeet walked in the door, I told him to come in and wait. He was there back after a long trip. He has a weak heart and I knew he would not be able to receive news of his son's demise well. I asked Sumeet to wait, have him settle in. If I had stayed with him, I was worried that he would make out from my state that something was wrong, so I left for a while. When I got back I found Police cars parked in front of the house. I walked in. I cannot recall whether it was the Police or Sumeet who asked me first where Arnav was. I told the Police that I needed to talk to Sumeet privately. The police walked out but still wanted to know where Arnav was located.

I told the police I needed them to stay and not go away but that I needed to first talk to Sumeet. I came in, and went to the hallway near the bedroom in the back with my husband.

As soon as I broke the news to Sumeet, Sumeet immediately called the Police in. Police asked me if Arnav was inside the locked bedroom door. I said yes. They asked if they could go ahead and break the door open. Sumeet responded to them with a yes. When the police broke in the door and found Arnav, I was immediately separated from my husband, arrested, handcuffed, taken out to the back seat of the police car and they read me my rights. I didn't know what to make of it all, so I kept quiet and when asked if I had something to say I said something to the effect that "you would not understand."

My son's Antim Samskaar, last rites, were most important and I was not sure if anyone outside the Hindu culture would understand the Hindu belief of reincarnation, and the release of soul from the body, and how absolutely important last rites rituals are to allow a soul's next life to be peaceful. This is especially important when dealing with the death of a child.

Hindus believe in 'Daah Sanskaar' (cremation), as opposed to burial, and keeping the body intact for the same is extremely important, that disturbing the body or having any cuts or organs removed is disturbing to the soul and inhibits the soul from moving forward. This was what I was thinking as I waited for my husband to return from his business trip.

At no point in time did I move or treat Arnav's body in any offensive manner whatsoever, and I only tried to preserve him until his father came home to provide 'jal arpan' give water and bless him, and to go ahead with the rest of the rituals.

Finally, I want to make it perfectly clear to the world that:

I did not hurt Arnav.

I did not kill Arnav.

I did not murder Arnav.

I did not drown or smother Arnav.

I did not poison Arnav.

I did not fail to render aid to Arnav at any time.

Arnav must have died in his sleep and he was completely unresponsive from the time that I woke up. He never moved, opened his eyes, spoke, or took a breath. There was no pulse or heartbeat.

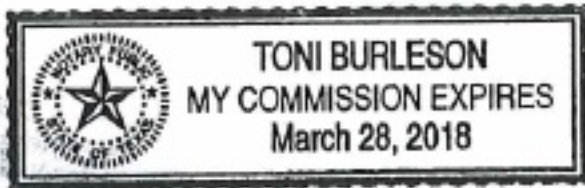
Most importantly, I loved Arnav with all of my heart and never would hurt him in any way, and I miss him very much.

Dhawan

PALLAVI DHAWAN

BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, ON THIS DAY PERSONALLY APPEARED KNOWN TO ME TO BE THE PERSON WHOSE NAME IS SUBSCRIBED TO THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT, AND AFTER BEING DULY SWORN BY ME, DID STATE UPON HER SWORN OATH THAT THE FACTS CONTAINED IN SAID INSTRUMENT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THERE ARE 6 PAGES TO SAID DOCUMENT INCLUDING THIS SIGNATURE PAGE.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, ON THIS THE 15TH DAY OF APRIL 2014 CERTIFY WHICH WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE.



Toni Burleson

NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE
STATE OF TEXAS