

**PATRICK K. O'NEIL, F-ABMDI**

**CORONER OF WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Death Investigation of Eric D. Lurry Jr.**

On January 29, 2020 the Will County Coroner's office was notified at 2:47am of the death of Eric D. Lurry Jr., a 37 year old male resident of Joliet, who was pronounced deceased on the above date at 2:37 a.m. at Amita St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet. Medical staff reported that Mr. Lurry was in police custody prior to being brought into the hospital on January 28, 2020 at 4:40 p.m.

Since Mr. Lurry was in police custody the Will County Coroner's office followed all applicable homicide protocols and contacted an independent board certified forensic pathologist to conduct an autopsy on January 29, 2020 at 9:15 a.m. At the conclusion of the autopsy Mr. Lurry's case was pended for toxicological testing. On February 19, 2020 the Will County Coroner's office received the toxicology report from the forensic lab that indicated Mr. Lurry had fatal levels of heroin, fentanyl and cocaine in his system. The levels or concentrations were over 10 times the fatal range.

Prior to issuing the final cause and manner of death, the Will County Coroner's office and the independent board certified forensic pathologist viewed the entire squad car video, read all the police reports from the Will Grundy Major Crimes Task Force, reviewed medical records from Amita St. Joseph Medical Center, reviewed the full body x-rays and EMS reports. On March 6, 2020 after all the aforementioned evidence was examined, the Will County Coroner's office classified Mr. Lurry's death as an accident due to heroin, fentanyl and cocaine intoxication due to Mr. Lurry ingesting large quantities of the narcotics as depicted in the squad car video.

It is the opinion of the Will County Coroner's Office and the independent board certified forensic pathologist, who conducted the autopsy, that the Joliet Police Department officers played no role and shared no responsibility in the unfortunate and untimely accidental drug overdose death of Eric D. Lurry Jr.

The multiple doses of narcan that were administered by the first responders failed to have any influence in reversing the overdose. The levels of narcotics in Mr. Lurry's system were too significant.

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Office: (815) 727-8455  
158 N. Scott Street

Fax: (815) 727-8816  
Joliet, Illinois 60432