



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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To: Trooper Derek Weh, Zone 6 Investigations
From: Chad M. Loughrey, First Assistant State's Attorney
Re: SAO Review of ISP #20-39104800028
Date: March 11, 2021

I have officially reviewed the reports and exhibits you tendered to me regarding the February 24, 2020, in-custody death of Elissa A. Lindhorst that occurred in the Madison County Jail located at , Illinois. Specifically, I have reviewed police reports from the Illinois State Police, the Madison County Sheriff's Office, the Edwardsville Fire Department, recorded interviews of multiple witnesses and inmates, the Autopsy Report prepared by Forensic Pathologist Dr. Gershom Norfleet, toxicology reports for Elissa Lindhorst and the audio and video recordings taken from the cameras at the Madison County Jail.

Based on the above listed evidence, it is apparent that on February 24, 2020, Elissa Lindhorst died as a result of an [REDACTED] while she was in custody at the Madison County Jail for felony charges of Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (Fentanyl). Forensic Pathologist Dr. Gershom Norfleet found that the cause of death was methamphetamine intoxication and the accompanying toxicology reports support this finding.

The investigation revealed that Lindhorst was booked into the Madison County Jail on February 20, 2020. At the time of her arrest she was searched and she went through a body scanner device. No contraband was located. During the next several days Lindhorst was experiencing severe withdrawal symptoms and informed corrections officers she was detoxing from fentanyl and that it had been approximately a year since she last detoxed. Deputies observed Lindhorst to [REDACTED] and express feeling unwell due to fentanyl withdraw. This was documented in a medical log.

From the investigation and reports it appears that on February 24, 2020, Deputy Nodine was making rounds through the F4 cell block beginning at 0600 hours and repeating every 30 minutes. During each round Nodine observed Lindhorst to be laying on the floor near the toilet

of her cell. Nodine noted that during those rounds Lindhorst moved her body in some manner and appeared to [REDACTED]. During the 0700 round a fellow inmate, [REDACTED], asked and was allowed to take breakfast to Lindhorst. Inmate [REDACTED] informed Nodine that a sick call slip had been submitted on Lindhorst's behalf by Deputy Paulda. During Nodine's 0730 round a jail nurse was passing out medication and other inmates reported [REDACTED]. The cell block was placed on lockdown and jail nurses Bassett and Braun began performing CPR. EMS arrived and transported Lindhorst to the hospital.

Deputies from the Madison County Sheriff's Office searched Lindhorst's cell for any items of contraband and did not locate anything of evidentiary value. No controlled substances or items indicative of controlled substances were found.

My review of the case file shows that Elissa Lindhorst was going through [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for several days prior to her death. Staff at the Madison County Jail were consistently and routinely observing her. Steps were taken to get medical assistance or special housing for her during her withdrawal. The cause of death findings indicate that the withdrawal was not the basis for Lindhorst's death but it was in fact a [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. There is no evidence to determine where Lindhorst obtained the [REDACTED] or who would have [REDACTED]. Lindhorst was searched upon her booking to the jail and she went through a body scanner machine and no contraband was located.

Based on my review of this matter and applicable law, I find that no criminal offenses were committed by members of the Madison County Sheriff's Department or the Edwardsville Fire Department. Jail Deputies acted appropriately and consistently with their policies and procedures. Deputies would have had no way of knowing Lindhorst's medical situation on February 24th was any different than the [REDACTED] she had previously been experiencing. The only clear criminal violations would be for Bringing Contraband into a Penal Institution, Delivery of Methamphetamine, and Drug Induced Homicide. We are unable to identify the perpetrator of those offenses and therefore no charges can be issued at this time. Should information regarding the identity of the individual who brought methamphetamine into the Madison County Jail and delivered the substance to Elissa Lindhorst be obtained the Madison County State's Attorney's Office is willing to review for the possibly issuance of charges.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this further.



Chad M. Loughrey
First Assistant State's Attorney
Madison County State's Attorney's Office