

PsychRights®

Law Project for
Psychiatric Rights, Inc.

August 14, 2008

Chief Medical Examiner
Charles S. Hirsch, M.D.
520 First Avenue
New York, NY 10016

via fax (212) 447-2716

Re: Esmin Green, Neuroleptics and Fatal Blood Clots: a Freedom of
Information Law Request and Demand for Further Investigation

Dear Dr. Hirsch:

I am with the Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights) whose mission is to mount a strategic litigation campaign against forced psychiatric drugging and electroshock around the country. In furtherance of this mission we have acquired a tremendous amount of the scientific research regarding psychiatric drugs and electroshock. Suffice it to say, the scientific evidence belies the story the marketing arms of the pharmaceutical companies and device makers have been able to inculcate in the public, and even psychiatry, about the effectiveness and safety of these drugs and electroshock devices.¹

Thus, in addition to the obviously horrific aspect of Ms. Green dying while none of the hospital staff who saw her cared,² PsychRights is interested in what role, if any, psychiatric drugs might have played in the tragedy. It is well established that neuroleptics, such as Haldol, Thorazine, Risperdal, Seroquel, Zyprexa and Abilify cause fatal blood clots and prescribers have been warned to look out for the problem so that quick action can be taken to avoid deaths.³ Like so many of the other serious negative health effects of these drugs, this risk is essentially never disclosed nor taken seriously by the prescriber.

In light of neuroleptics being known to cause fatal blood clots it seems highly probable Ms. Green was given one or more of the neuroleptics, either voluntarily or involuntarily, before she suffered her fatal blood clot. Therefore, PsychRights is requesting (demanding, technically) that you re-open your investigation of Ms. Green's death to include whether her fatal blood clot was likely caused by the administration of psychiatric drugs and report back on the results.

¹ See, [Scientific Research by Topic](#) on PsychRights' website.

² It should be noted here that what made Ms. Green's neglect noteworthy is it was captured on camera and became public.

³ *Fatal venous thromboembolism associated with antipsychotic therapy*, Farah RE, *et al.*, Ann Pharmacother. 2004 Sep;38(9):1435-8.; [Psychotropic drugs and fatal pulmonary embolism](#), by Parkin L, Skegg DC, *et al.* Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf. 2003 Dec;12(8):647-52; [Antipsychotic medication and venous thrombosis](#), by Thomassen R, *et al.* Br J Psychiatry. 2001 Jul;179:63-6; [Antipsychotic drug use and risk of first-time idiopathic venous thromboembolism: a case-control study](#), by Zornberg GL, Jick H, Lancet. 2000 Oct 7;356(9237); [Venous thromboembolism among elderly patients treated with atypical and conventional antipsychotic agents](#), by Liperoti R, *et al.*, Archives of Internal Medicine, 2005 Dec 12-26;165(22):2677-82; [Associations Between Venous Thromboembolism and Antipsychotics : A Study of the WHO Database of Adverse Drug Reactions](#), by Hägg S, *et al.*, Drug Saf. 2008;31(8):685-94; and [Hyperprolactinemia in patients on antipsychotic drugs causes ADP-stimulated platelet activation that might explain the increased risk for venous thromboembolism: pilot study](#), by Wallaschofski H, *et al.*, J Clin Psychopharmacol. 2003 Oct;23(5):479-83.

Charles Hirsch, MD

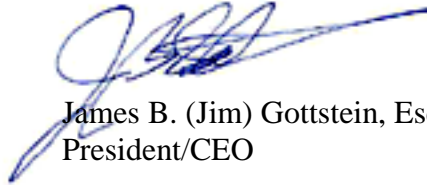
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I am also requesting under the Freedom of Information Law that you provide me with your investigation report(s) and the medication(s) Ms. Green was prescribed, if any, the time of administration, and doses.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Gottstein', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.
President/CEO

cc: David Oaks, Director of MindFreedom International
Daniel Hazen, PsychRights Northeast Coordinator
Sanford A. Rubenstein, Esq. attorney for Esmin Green family