

Civil Litigation Team

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October 5, 2023

BY E-MAIL

Shalee Kushnerick Associate General Counsel, Litigation Legal & Privacy, Alberta Health Services Seventh Street Plaza, North Tower, Floor 5 10030 107 Street Edmonton AB T5J 3E4

Dear Madam:

**Subject: Kaitlind Credgeur – Public Fatality Inquiry** 

**Response to Recommendations** 

Please find enclosed a copy of the Honourable Justice C.J. Sharpe's report to the Minister of Justice regarding the public fatality inquiry into the death of Kaitlind Credgeur. This report will be publicly released on October 26, 2023. Please do not share the contents of the report in any manner that would cause it to become available publicly prior to this time.

The following recommendations from Justice Sharpe's report may impact Alberta Health Services (AHS):

- 1. Although it is impossible to remove all items that are capable of assisting with self-harm, when a patient is admitted to Alberta Hospital Edmonton (AHE), whether voluntarily or involuntarily, if their belongings are contained in a plastic bag, that bag should be immediately and permanently removed from their possession.
- 2. Observations of patients should occur as directed, regardless of an emergency occurring elsewhere or a shift change occurring.
- 3. In order to facilitate observations occurring as scheduled without exception, more staff are required on the units at AHE, specifically at night. There should always be at least two nurses or psychiatric aides responsible for observations at any given time. The intended result is that observations would occur as directed, rather than at times 5-10 minutes beyond when they were ordered to occur. This

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would also encourage very careful, diligent observations, rather than having to rush through to meet the time requirements.

- 4. All nurses and psychiatric aides employed at AHE should have ongoing training as to how to conduct the scheduled observations of patients. This training should include specific training regarding the observation of respiration and should occur, at minimum, annually.
- 5. A thorough review of all available technology that may assist in completing observations should be conducted at least every six months. This frequency is necessary as the advances in technology are ever evolving.
- 6. All newly admitted patients should be placed in a single room.
- 7. All newly admitted patients should be placed in a room close to the nurses' station and with good sightlines from the nurses' station.

I ask that you please advise the following:

- 1. Whether AHS accepts in principle, does not accept, or has a different response to the recommendations;
- 2. A brief explanation of why that decision was made; and
- 3. If AHS intends to accept the recommendations, or to implement different measures, what steps will be taken in that regard.

A response to this enquiry is not mandatory. However, be advised that this letter and any response received will be publicly released and posted on the Open Government Portal:

https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/responses-to-public-fatality-inquiry-recommendations.

If a response has not been received by February 26, 2024 (four months from the public release date of Justice Sharpe's report), that information will also be made publicly available.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,

Abid Mavani

Abid Mavani
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator
Encl – Report of Justice C.J. Sharpe

Cc Ms. Chelsey Bailey – Field Law

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