

County of

August 3, 2000

**FRESNO**

Mr. Warren R. Paboojian, Esq.  
Marderosian, Oren & Paboojian  
1250 Fulton Mall  
Fresno, CA 93721

Phillip S. Cron  
County Couns

VIA FACSIMILE

RE: Linda Adanalian

Dear Mr. Paboojian:

I write in response to your letter of July 31, 2000, addressed to Drs. Hadden and Gopal regarding the delay in releasing the Coroner's Office report regarding Ms. Adanalian. As you know, I understand the grief and concern that effects both your client and the Dalition family. I am also certain that the Coroner's Office joins you in your wish to have this matter finally resolved. To this end, the Coroner has been cautious but has not been unduly influenced by the Dalition family or their pathologist, Dr. Pfeiffer. We have been influenced by the concern coming from all aspects of this case and want to provide a comprehensive report.

Your letter has a few inaccuracies that I feel I must point out. First, Mr. Adanalian did not have to retain his own expert for the autopsy. The Coroner, as is the case with most doctors, is eager to have colleagues join his staff for autopsies. Dr. Pfeiffer was invited to the autopsy before the extent of the animosity between the parties was fully known. Had Mr. Adanalian not retained an expert, Dr. Pfeiffer would have been summarily uninvited. And, you were advised of this by me. This mirrored our stance as to the presence of the parties at the depositions: both sides or none. Second, you have intimated that the Coroner does not have control over the investigation. In truth, the Coroner has had to exert greater control over this matter because of the animosity between the parties and because of the efforts of both sides to try to wrest control from his office.

Proper scientific analysis can be time-consuming especially when dealing with tainted test results. As you pointed out, the mercury contamination was due to the methods used to preserve the samples for testing. The re-sampling and re-testing confirmed that mercury was not involved in Ms. Adanalian's passing. Therefore, in light of this conclusive result, the heart must once again be examined as the possible cause of death. You are correct in that Dr. Edwards has provided us a report on the cardiac tissue. Unfortunately, the report you quote uses language that does not inspire confidence. The Coroner is most concerned with the word choice in the sentence that says: "Perhaps the borderline myocarditis and the right ventricular adiposity renders the heart somewhat susceptible to develop arrhythmia." (Emphasis added.) I am sure

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FRESNO COUNTY COUNSEL

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that both you and your client would like the most definitive answer that the Coroner can provide. To that end, the Coroner is awaiting the return of the cardiac specimen and intends to send same for testing to Stanford to a pathologist of the Coroner's choosing.

This action is being taken independent of the interests or input of either your client, the Dalition family or their counsel. Indeed, the Coroner is not involving himself or his office with the Dalition family, their counsel or their expert pathologist. The Coroner's report is *not* being held up because we are waiting for Dr. Pfeiffer any more than the Coroner was interested in the conclusions drawn by your expert pathologist. In fact, it was Dr. Pfeiffer's colleague at the Mayo clinic, Dr. Edwards, that prepared the above-quoted report that the Coroner is not prepared to rely upon for his report.

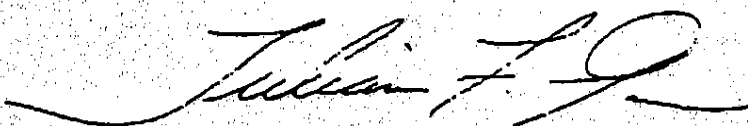
I realize that you and your client have had much to deal with especially in light of the recent media coverage but the Coroner jumping to conclusions and not issuing a fully and soundly investigated report will serve no purpose for anyone.

Finally, as you have no doubt ascertained, the report will not be issued within the 72 hours as you requested. Neither are we willing at this time to honor your request for a meeting. At this stage in the investigation, nothing further can be done without a reliable report on the cardiac sample. As I am sure you understand, the Coroner wishes to complete his thorough investigation without additional input from the families.

I appreciate your kind consideration in the handling of this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. Until then, I remain,

Very truly yours,

PHILLIP S. CRONIN  
County Counsel



By: JULIANA F. GMUR  
Deputy County Counsel

cc: Dr. David Hadden, Coroner

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