

Coroners Officer:



INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF  
**Helena Frances**  
**SERVICE**

Case Number: 1008/08

Opened: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Inquest Date: 18/03/2009.

## CORONER'S OFFICERS' INQUEST CHECKLIST

Case Name:	Helena Frances SERVICE
Case Ref:	1008/08

## DOCUMENTS REQUESTED:

DOCUMENT	REQUESTED FROM	DATE	RECEIVED
Post Mortem	N/A	-	-
Toxicology	N/A	-	-
Other Medical			
Police Report	Det Chief Supt Williams		
Other Reports & Statements			
CO1/Opening	To Caroline	14/5/08	

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

## FAMILY DETAILS

Mr A Tuffey (Nephew)

Code A

**Code A**

# Code A

Narrative VerdictHelena Frances SERVICE

The deceased was an inpatient at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and was receiving Opioid Medication at the time of death. The administration of medication did not contribute more than minimally or negligibly to the death of the deceased.

# The National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (np-SAD)

## NOTIFICATION OF DRUG RELATED DEATHS

### Section I Demographic Information

Deceased forename(s): Helena Frances Gender:  Male  Female

Family Name: SERVICE Other names known by: None

Date of birth: Code A Place of birth: Watford, Hertfordshire

Usual Address: Code A  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Ethnicity : (tick one only)

- White       Pakistani       Black African       Other, specify : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chinese       Bangladeshi       Black Carribean  
 Not Known       Indian       Black other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Occupational Status : (tick one only)

- Employed (Manual)       Unemployed       Retired       Not known  
 Employed (Non-Manual)       Childcare/Houseperson       Student/Pupil  
 Self employed       Invalidity/Sickness       Other, specify : \_\_\_\_\_

#### Living Arrangements : (tick one only)

- Alone       Self & children       No fixed abode  
 With partner       With parents       Not Known  
 With partner & children       With friends       Other, specify : \_\_\_\_\_

### Section II Background Information

#### Police Officer's report:

#### Recent history of drug use and other relevant information:

Was the deceased on prescribed psychoactive medication?       Yes       No       Not known

If yes, please list drugs:

1. See attached      4. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_      5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_      6. \_\_\_\_\_

Was the deceased a drug addict or known drug abuser?      Yes       No       Not known

## The National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (np-SAD)

### Section III Details of Death

Date of death : 5 \ 6 \ 1997

Place of death : (tick one only)

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential premises (e.g. hotel) | <input type="checkbox"/> In custody                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place of work              | <input type="checkbox"/> Street or highway                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Place of recreation/sport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment centre           | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational institution           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hospital       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other place, specify _____ |  |  |

Cause(s) of death (as given on the death certificate)

l(a) **Congestive Cardiac Failure**

(b)

(c)

2

### Toxicology

Please list drugs and alcohol present at post mortem (in order of importance, if known)

	Drug/alcohol	Level				Drug/alcohol	Level		
		B	T	U			B	T	U
1.					4.				
2.					5.				
3.					6.				

B = Blood; T = Tissues; U = Urine

### Section IV Coroner's Verdict

Narrative Verdict

### Section V Coroner's Details

Coroner's name: David Clark Horsley

Date inquest completed: 18/03/2009

Jurisdiction: Portsmouth & South East Hampshire

Office: Room T20

Signature: Code A

Date : 4th March 2010

Please send completed form to:

*National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (np-SAD)  
International Centre for Drug Policy  
St George's University of London  
FREEPOST LON 10141, London SW17 0BR*

For general enquiries: Tel 020 8725 2623 or Fax 020 8266 6494

# HELENA SERVICE

*Events at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, 3rd-5th June 1997*

*3rd June 1997*

The medical notes entry reads 'Transferred to Dryad Ward, recent admission 17th May 1997, confused, off legs, URTI (upper respiratory tract infection), NIDDM, CCF (congestive cardiac failure), gout, came from a rest home. On examination slightly breathless plethoric lady, heart sounds 1 and 2 + gallop, bases clear, ankles √√ (possibly indicates no swelling (oedema)), needs palliative care if necessary. I am happy for nursing staff to confirm death'.

The nursing summary notes recorded 'admitted today from F1 ward QA. Helena is a very pleasant lady. She has a normal diet but needs assistance at meal times. Code A

Code A Her skin is quite dry. She has 2 superficial grazes on her spine. Skin on lower arms is discoloured. Helena uses a Humphrey hearing aid which has a microphone. She is able to respond to questions. Helena is a non-insulin dependent diabetic, has congestive cardiac failure, suffers from confusion, has upper respiratory infection also gout. Helena has had bowels open and passed urine since admission. First swabs of MRSA screening sent (which were negative). Helena has not eaten supper this evening but has had a drink of water. Her Barthel score was 0.

The medication chart reveals she continued her bumetamide, lisinopril, allopurinol, digoxin and aspirin as before. However, Mrs Service was not written up for thioridazine 25mg p.r.n. that she had been taking most nights. She was also prescribed diamorphine 20-100mg SC/24h, hyoscine 200-800microgram SC/24h and midazolam 20-80mg SC/24h all p.r.n.. On the once only and pre-medication drugs section diamorphine 5-10mg IM was also prescribed, but not apparently given.

The nursing summary entry for the night of 3rd June 1997 records 'Spenco mattress in situ, nursed on alternate sides overnight. Zinc and castor oil to sore sacrum. Not passed urine. Oral fluids encouraged and taken fairly well. Tongue dry and coated - mouth care given.

*4th June 1997*

The nursing notes at 02.00h record 'failed to settle - very restless and agitated, midazolam 20mg given by a syringe driver (started at 02.15h) over 24 hours with some success'.

Nursing summary entry reads 'condition appears to have deteriorated overnight - remains restless. Seen by Dr Barton. Driver recharged with diamorphine 20mg, midazolam 40mg at 09.20h...Rang nephew to inform him of poorly. There was no medical notes entry but a blood test was undertaken. This revealed that Mrs Service was dehydrated with sodium 156mmol/L (normal range 135-146mmol/L), urea 13.2mmol/L (3-7.6mmol/L) and creatinine 126micromol/L (45-90micromol/L). There were low values of potassium 2.7mmol/L (3.5-5mmol/L), albumin 29g/L (37-50g/L) and calcium 1.97mmol/L (2.25-2.70mmol/L).

*5th June 1997*

Nursing summary entry at 04.00h reads 'condition continued to deteriorate and died very peacefully at 03.45h. Nephew informed.



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# Code A

## Helena Frances SERVICE

The Deceased was an Inpatient at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and was receiving opioid medication by syringe driver at the time of death

1. Did the administration of any medication contribute more than minimally or negligibly to the death of the deceased ?

~~Yes/No~~

If Yes :

2. Was that medication given for therapeutic purposes ?

Yes/No

If Yes :

3. Was that medication appropriate for the condition or symptoms from which the deceased was suffering ?

Yes/No

# Code A

## Helena Frances SERVICE

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~~Yes~~/No

If Yes :

2. Was that medication given for therapeutic purposes ?

Yes/No

If Yes :

3. Was that medication appropriate for the condition or symptoms from which the deceased was suffering ?

Yes/No

## Gosport WMH

### Narrative Verdicts

In all cases

The deceased was an inpatient at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and was receiving Opioid Medication at the time of death.

PITTOCK The administration of medication did not contribute more than minimally or negligibly to the death of the deceased.

LAVENDER The administration of medication did contribute more than minimally or negligibly to the death. The medication was given for therapeutic purposes. That medication was appropriate for the condition of symptoms from which the deceased was suffering.

SERVICE The administration of medication did not contribute more than minimally or negligibly to the death of the deceased.

LAKE Ditto – As SERVICE above.

CUNNINGHAM The administration of medication did contribute more than minimally or negligibly to the death. The medication was given for therapeutic purposes. That medication was appropriate for the condition or symptoms from which the deceased was suffering.

PACKMAN The administration of medication did contribute more than minimally or negligibly to the death of the deceased. The medication was given for therapeutic purposes the medication was not appropriate for the conditions or symptoms from which the deceased was suffering.

WILSON Ditto – As PACKMAN above.

DEVINE Ditto – As PACKMAN above.

SPURGIN The administration of medication did not contribute more than minimally or negligibly to the death of the deceased.

GREGORY Ditto – As SPURGIN above

# Code A

**INQUEST CHECKLIST**Name: **Helena Frances SERVICE**Ref: **1008/08**

Date Reported: 13.05.2008

DATE OPENED: **14.05.2008**

By: RMB

**INQUEST by RMB**

Time allocated: 6 weeks

**Wednesday, 18 March 2009 at 10.00am in the Coroner's Court in the  
Portsmouth Combined Courts Building, Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth, PO1 2EB**

Jury: **Yes**Listing Office notified Room Booked F99/INQ PREPARED **PRESS DETAILS:**HCC MEDIA UPDATED Born: **Code A** Lived at: Gosport

Died on: 05.06.1997

Died at: Gosport War Memorial Hospital

Type of Inquest: Medical

**ADJOURNED TO:**

Date: .....day, ..... Time: ..... to ..... By: .....

At: .....

**AFTER INQUEST****VERDICT**  
..... Database Death Entry  Register  Drugs Form  Other Form ..... Tape Recorded In File for .....

Other Inquests on Tape .....



## Coroners Initial Sudden Death Report

CO/1

Date Reported: 13/05/2008

Ref: Number 1008/08 Type of Case: Inquest

Name: Helena Frances SERVICE

Address: Code A

Date of Birth: Code A

Age: 99 Years.

Date of Death: 5<sup>th</sup> June 1997

Place of Death: Gosport War Memorial Ward:

Mortuary:

Removed By:

Funeral Directors:

General Practitioner: Hospital Consultant:

Reported By: Family

Reason for Referral: Family concerns Y/N

Brief History: Died in Gosport War Memorial. This has been subject of a lengthy police investigation.

Initials:

Date: 13/05/2008

## CAUSE OF DEATH:

- 1a)  
1b)  
1c)  
2)

Pathologist:

## INQUEST CASES:

Date Opened 14/5/08 Time: ...am... Inquest Date: ..... Time: .....

Adjournments: .....

Signed By: David Clark Horsley  
Coroner, Portsmouth South East Hampshire

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**Opening & Adjournment of an Inquest**

**Full Name of Deceased:** Helena Frances SERVICE  
**Sex:** Female **Age:** 99 years  
**Date of Death:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 1997  
**Place of Death:** Gosport War Memorial  
**Reported by:** Family  
     **from:**  
     **on:**  
**Pathologist:** N/A

**Address:** Code A  
**Date of Birth:** Code A  
**Place of Birth:** Watford, Hertfordshire  
**Deceased's Occupation:** Not Known  
**Marital Status:** Widowed  
**Maiden Name:** SMITH  
**Name of Surviving Husband:** Not known  
     **Date of Birth:**  
     **Occupation:**

**CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS**

**Fathers Name:** N/A  
     **Occupation:**  
**Mothers Name:** N/A  
     **Occupation:**

***Circumstances of Death:***

Died In Gosport War Memorial. This has been subject of a lengthy police investigation.

**Deceased Identified by:** Unknown

Evidence given by: Lisa-Jane JOHN Coroners Officer.

*Inquest into the above named deceased opened and adjourned to enable further enquiries to be made, upon the order of:*

**HM Coroner, Portsmouth & South East Hampshire**

**Dated:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**Code A**

Mr A Tuffey

**Code A**

15 May 2008

Dear Mr Tuffey

**Helena Frances Service Deceased:**

Please note that on 14 May 2008 I opened an Inquest into the death of Mrs Service.

I will continue to keep you informed of key stages of the Inquest process.

If you require a Coroner's Interim Death Certificate on Mrs Service for any purpose, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

David C Horsley  
Tel: 023 9268 8326

Email: **Code A**

**Opening & Adjournment of an Inquest**

**Full Name of Deceased:** Helena Frances SERVICE  
**Sex:** Female **Age:** 99 years  
**Date of Death:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 1997  
**Place of Death:** Gosport War Memorial  
**Reported by:** Family  
     **from:**  
     **on:**  
**Pathologist:** N/A

**Address:** Code A  
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**CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS**

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HM Coroner, Portsmouth & South East Hampshire

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<i>Address:</i>	Code A
<i>Date of Birth:</i>	Code A
<i>Age:</i>	99 Years.
<i>Date of Death:</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> June 1997
<i>Place of Death:</i>	Gosport War Memorial Ward:
<i>Mortuary:</i>	
<i>Removed By:</i>	
<i>Funeral Directors:</i>	
<i>General Practitioner:</i>	Hospital Consultant:
<i>Reported By:</i>	Family
<i>Reason for Referral:</i>	Family concerns Y/N

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Initials:

Date: 13/05/2008

**CAUSE OF DEATH:**

- 1a)  
1b)  
1c)  
2)

Pathologist:

**INQUEST CASES:**

Date Opened 14/5/08 Time: 09am Inquest Date: ..... Time: .....

Adjournments: .....

Signed By: David Clark Horsley  
Coroner, Portsmouth South East Hampshire

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008

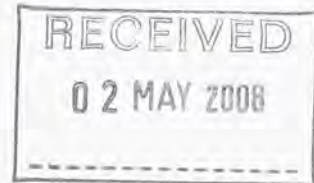
**HELENA FRANCES SERVICE DECEASED**

1. Full Name (if different from above):

1008/08

2. Maiden Name (if appropriate):

SMITH



3. Last Permanent Address:

**Code A**

4. Date of Birth:

**Code A**

5. Place of Birth:

WATFORD, HERTS

6. Last Occupation Before Retirement (if known):

7. Marital Status:

Widow

8. Name of Surviving Spouse (if applicable):

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