## **REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)**

NOTE: This form is to be used after an inquest.

#### **REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS**

#### THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

- 1. The Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Teresa May MP
- 2. The Minister of State for Crime Prevention, the Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone
- 3. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

### 1 CORONER

I am Simon David Allen Jones Assistant Coroner, for the Coroner Area of Manchester West

### 2 | CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

## 3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015 I commenced an investigation into the death of Catherine Mary Findlay (Formerly known as Catherine Mary Roberts), born on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1977

The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

The Medical Cause of Death was

1a Methoxyphenidine and Cocaine Toxicity

The conclusion of the inquest was that Catherine Mary Findlay died a drug related death.

### 4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

- 1. On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Catherine Mary Findlay a 37 year old with a history of drug abuse was found unresponsive and not breathing at her home address at 4 Park Street, Tyldesley Manchester by her Mother.
- 2. Paramedics attended and pronounced life extinct.
- 3. Greater Manchester Police attended the premises and found there in addition to prescribed medication a quantity of white powder with the label 'Methoxyphenidine' (MXP)
- 4. Evidence was heard at the Inquest that MXP is not a controlled

- substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and that this is a substance which is freely available over the internet where it is sold as, research chemicals, and can be found on websites listing "legal highs".
- 5. A post mortem examination carried out on Catherine Mary Findlay concluded, in the absence of any other findings that could have explained her sudden death, that she died of as a result of a combination of MXP and Cocaine Toxicity.
- 6. Evidence was further produced at the Inquest that Catherine Mary Findlay had a history of obtaining substances over the internet.

# 5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

#### The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows:

- 1. The toxicological evidence, supported by the evidence of the Consultant Pathologist who carried out the Post Mortem examination, concluded that the cause of death was a combination of cocaine (a controlled substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act) and MXP.
- 2. MXP is not a controlled substance but related to Ketamine (a disassociative anaesthetic) and is thought to be a replacement for another substance Methoxetomine which is now a controlled substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
- 3. I have concerns that such substances freely marketed as "research chemicals" are regularly available over the internet. They are sold with a warning that they are not for human consumption but are misused and consumed by people and are consequently dangerous and potentially life threatening.
- 4. I therefore request that the above concerns are considered and a review is undertaken regarding the status and control of MXP.

# 6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion urgent action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you and/or your organisation have the power to take such action.

### 7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, 8th December 2015. I, the coroner, may extend the period.

Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.

