



**IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO AN IN-CUSTODY DEATH OF AN
ADULT FEMALE FOLLOWING RCMP ARREST**

FINAL REPORT OF THE CIVILIAN DIRECTOR
OF THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT

Acting Civilian Director:	Bruce M. Sychuk
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Introduction

On Jan. 17, 2025, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) notified the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) of an incident.

The written notification disclosed the following information:

Excerpt from Part 7 Notification received on Jan. 17, 2025:

On January 15, 2025, West Interlake RCMP were dispatched to a 911 hang-up call in Vogar, MB. Members attended and learned that AP was under the influence of drugs and had attempted to use a knife on another female in the residence. AP was placed under arrest and was assisted by members to the back of a police car. While commuting to Lakeshore Hospital to have AP medically assessed, the member noted that AP became unresponsive. Police immediately pulled over, requested EMS and provided emergency care with the assistance of an EMS supervisor giving direction over the phone. AP was transported via ambulance to Lakeshore Hospital and then transported to St. Boniface hospital.

Police later learned that AP died at St. Boniface Hospital on January 16, 2025.

As this matter concerned an in-custody death, the IIU assumed responsibility for this investigation in accordance with Sec. 65(4) of The Police Services Act. IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation.

IIU investigators obtained the following information from the RCMP, among other items:

- notes, narratives and reports of officers
- audio transmissions
- watch guard video
- medical reports

The civilian director declined to designate a subject officer. The civilian director designated two witness officers (WO1 to WO2). IIU investigators also received information from two civilian witnesses (CW1 to CW2).

Facts and Circumstances

Scene Examination

Scene examination was provided to IIU by the Forensic Identification Services of the RCMP. IIU did not canvass the area as the incident occurred at a residence. All video footage from the police vehicle was retrieved and viewed.

Interviews

Civilian Witnesses

Civilian Witness 1 (CW1)

CW1 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Jan. 22, 2025, and provided the following information:

CW1 advised that AP arrived at the house that evening and was acting like she was under the influence of something. CW1 observed AP to be shaky, sweating and delusional. CW1 stated that AP attempted to barricade the house with chairs in response to seeing people who were not actually present.

CW1 attempted to calm AP down, but he was not successful. AP started slowing down and was now sitting in a storage bin on the porch while holding two phones. CW1 believed that AP must have called for the police because they arrived shortly after AP attended the residence.

CW1 was advised by the officers that they intended to take AP to the hospital. CW1 saw the officers handcuff AP and pick her up to place her in the police vehicle. CW1 did not have any concerns about the way AP was arrested.

CW1 confirmed that he located what he believed was cocaine in AP's wallet. CW1 did not see AP with a knife.

Civilian Witness 2 (CW2)

CW2 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Jan. 22, 2025, and provided the following information:

CW2 confirmed that AP attended the residence in the evening and noted that AP was not herself. AP confirmed to CW2 that she had done some lines of cocaine. CW2 observed that AP was agitated and fighting with other members of the household.

CW2 left the house for a period of time and when she returned, she observed AP on the phone with police. AP was asking for police to come get her because people were trying to stab her. CW2 noted that AP was holding a screwdriver in her hand and waving it around while on the phone with police. AP kept saying "They're going to come and kill me."

CW2 confirmed that two officers arrived, at which point AP was leaning over a storage bin. The officers told AP to put her hands behind her back and handcuffed AP in a rough manner. CW2 confirmed that the officers told her they would take AP to the hospital because she may have overdosed.

Witness Officers

Witness Officer 1 (WO1)

WO1 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Mar. 13, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO1 was dispatched along with WO2 to address a 911 hangup call involving AP. Background information was that AP had a knife and was threatening people. WO1 and WO2 each arrived on scene in separate vehicles.

WO1 observed CW1 to be sweating profusely after having some kind of struggle with AP. WO1 observed AP partially inside a plastic storage bin. WO1 and WO2 went over to AP, handcuffed her and lifted her up by putting their hands under her arms. WO1 noted that AP was unable to support herself, so they carried her to the back seat of WO2's vehicle. AP was kicking and screaming once they placed her in the back of the police vehicle.

WO1 and WO2 went to talk to CW1 and CW2. CW2 informed the officers that AP had ingested cocaine. WO2 informed CW1 and CW2 that they would take AP to the hospital to be assessed before lodging her in the cells. WO1 estimated that they were talking to CW1 and CW2 for a couple of minutes. WO1 confirmed that when they went back to the police vehicle, AP was still yelling and kicking.

WO1 noted that roughly five minutes after leaving the residence, WO2 called out on the radio that AP had stopped making noise. WO2 stated that he was going to pull over and check on AP. WO1 observed that AP was unresponsive and Narcan was administered to her. AP was taken out of the back seat and uncuffed, so CPR could be administered. WO1 performed chest compressions on AP until medical services arrived. WO1 confirmed that emergency services were assisting WO1 and WO2 over the radio with AP until the ambulance could arrive. WO1 confirmed that AP had a pulse when she was taken in the ambulance.

Witness Officer 2 (WO2)

WO2 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Feb. 14, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO2 confirmed that he was dispatched along with WO1 to a 911 hangup call. Background information was that AP was attempting to stab people in the residence. WO2 confirmed that he and WO1 attended in separate vehicles.

WO2 noted that CW1 greeted the officers at the door. WO2 observed CW1 to be sweating after struggling with AP. WO2 observed AP on all fours on the ground with half her body inside a storage bin. WO2 confirmed that he cautiously approached AP because he could not see her hands and he did not know if she still had a weapon.

WO2 and WO1 each grabbed one of AP's arms and pulled them back so they could be handcuffed. AP was making noises at this point and was assisted to the back seat of the police vehicle. WO2 confirmed that AP was either unwilling or unable to walk on her own to the back seat of the vehicle.

WO2 confirmed that he spoke with CW1 and CW2 and they were informed that AP had ingested an unknown quantity of cocaine. WO2 confirmed that they were going to take AP to the hospital for observation before lodging her in the cells. WO2 believed that discussion took less than five minutes before they went to check on AP.

WO2 confirmed that AP was still making noises when they returned to the vehicle, but as he drove, AP became unresponsive. WO2 called out to AP, but she did not respond, so WO2 pulled over. WO2 saw that AP was not breathing and did not have a pulse. WO1 came to assist WO2 in removing AP from the back seat and uncuffing her. WO2 confirmed that they gave AP medical assistance while waiting for the ambulance. WO2 confirmed that an emergency supervisor guided them over the phone to treat AP.

WO2 confirmed that AP had a pulse when she was placed in the ambulance.

Other evidence

Watch guard footage

The footage confirms the statements from WO1 and WO2. AP is moving in the back seat of the vehicle, making incoherent comments at the start of the drive to the hospital. Within minutes, AP becomes unresponsive and WO2 is pulling over to check on her well-being. WO2 can be heard asking AP before stopping if she is alright.

Medical Reports

The preliminary cause of death was complications of transient cardiorespiratory due to acute cocaine toxicity. The toxicology report confirmed AP had consumed cocaine before being taken into custody.

IIU has not received the final autopsy report at the time of writing this report. Because of the nature of the event, the Civilian Director has decided to move forward with completing the report to be accountable to the public in a timely manner. An addendum will be prepared if the cause of death varies from the above.

Applicable Law

All relevant sections of the Criminal Code of Canada were considered with respect to this incident. Sec. 25(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada has been emphasized here for consideration:

25 (1) Every one who is required or authorized by law to do anything in the administration or enforcement of the law

- (a) as a private person,*
- (b) as a peace officer or public officer,*
- (c) in aid of a peace officer or public officer, or*
- (d) by virtue of his office,*

is, if he acts on reasonable grounds, justified in doing what he is required or authorized to do and in using as much force as is necessary for that purpose.

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Conclusion

After a complete review of the evidence available in this heartbreaking incident, in connection with the lack of a subject officer designation, the civilian director is declining to lay charges in this matter. Subject to further evidence arising from the final autopsy, IIU has completed its investigation and this matter is now closed.