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September 21, 2022

David Hanson
Beltrami County Attorney
Beltrami County Attorney's Office
600 Minnesota Ave. NW, Suite 400
Bemidji, MN 56601

RE: Hardel Sherrell Death Investigation

Dear Mr. Hanson:

Thank you for speaking with me last week and providing an update on your progress in reviewing the case. I had an opportunity to speak with Ms. Perry and share with her the details of our discussion.

At this time, I would like to reiterate our prior request that the case be turned over to the Minnesota Attorney General's Office for review of criminal charges. Respectfully, we object to the case being reviewed by your office due to a conflict of interest. We furthermore object to the case being reviewed by any county that operates a county jail or has any connection or relationship with MEnD or any other entity operating as a correctional medical contractor. Finally, we object to the involvement of any private law firm or appointment of a special prosecutor in determination of criminal charges because we firmly believe that the *government* – and not a private law firm – owes a public duty to those who no longer have a voice.

The MN Attorney General's Office meets the qualifications outlined above and has the staff and resources to complete this investigation promptly, independently, and without the pressures of external influences. I will also note that our demand for a criminal investigation by the Attorney General's Office is neither a recent development nor a response to the case being sent for review to your office. We initially requested an investigation by the Attorney General's Office nearly 3.5 years ago in early May of 2019. We have maintained and renewed this request multiple times since 2019, and we remain firm in our conviction that the case must be turned over to the MN Attorney General's Office for a neutral and impartial determination on criminal charges.

We know that the BCA investigative file is massive and we appreciate your efforts and diligence in reviewing this case. At the same time, we believe that enough time has elapsed for your office to reach a determination as to the conflict of interest. Therefore, we respectfully request that the case be referred to the MN Attorney General's Office by October 1, 2022. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Zorislav R. Leyderman

Zorislav R. Leyderman
Attorney at Law