

30 Scarlett Street
Greenville, SC 29607
June 13, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing with an appeal for help. My sister Pamela "Pam" Corwin Redding recently lost her husband of 21 years, William Ralph "Billy" Redding, in a tragic, one vehicle accident in Spartanburg County. She, and all those present when Billy died, dispute the Spartanburg County coroner office's finding regarding cause of death; however, a request to coroner Rusty Clevenger for review of findings and for him to review medical records substantiating a different cause of death have been met with a refusal.

In researching the office of coroner to learn what options exist for appeal, it appears that the coroner, as an elected official, operates without oversight or accountability to a governing body. I did note that coroners are commissioned to execute their duties on behalf of the citizenry by you as Governor of South Carolina. Therefore, I am writing in hopes that you can intervene on behalf of my sister and correct a needless injustice to her and her three children.

Some background:

Billy owned and operated Pro Fab of Easley, a machining corporation, and also drove tractor trailers as a professionally licensed driver. He was a life-long resident of Pickens County. It was while he was driving for his second job and traveling in Spartanburg County that he had the accident which resulted in his death.

Billy experienced a heart attack five years ago and following treatment encountered no additional issues, symptoms, or concerns. He suffered debilitating childhood-onset rheumatoid arthritis for which he was nearing the limits of medical intervention. He never let his condition slow him down and steadfastly refused to apply for disability, preferring instead to remain active and employed. During the winter of 2016, he had a full knee replacement and returned to work as soon as possible. He later developed DVT (deep vein thrombosis) and was under treatment to correct it. In accordance with the requirements for maintaining his CDL license, Billy underwent and passed a physical examination as late as February 2016.

Around 8:30 a.m. on May 10, 2016, Billy was observed slumped over the wheel of the tractor trailer he was operating before it straddled and came to a stop over a guard rail on I-26. He was resuscitated at the scene and transported to Spartanburg Regional Hospital. Initially Billy was assessed by a cardiologist as first responders suspected he suffered a heart attack, but following assessment, he was immediately transferred to the care of the trauma team. The cardiologist reported to Pam that there were no indications of a heart attack, that Billy should recover and be released within a few days, and that he did not recommend either a heart catheterization or cardiac follow up. He suspected a change in heart rhythm caused Billy's loss of consciousness leading to the accident. It is notable that medical records from Spartanburg Regional indicate his heart was in a normal, if elevated, sinus rhythm immediately after resuscitation and throughout the day until just before his death.

The trauma team physician reported to my sister late in the afternoon of May 10th that contusions on Billy's lungs were worsening and had done so throughout the day. He shared that they were not correctable with surgery and were not responding to any medical interventions employed. He asked Pam about the quality of life Billy would desire to which she replied he would be tormented to be incapacitated. The physician promised to continue every avenue of treatment and to tell her when there remained no further recourse. About 4 p.m. in the afternoon, the physician explained to her in my presence, in the presence of her three children, and in the presence of close family friends that the lung contusions continued to worsen and the reducing function of Billy's lungs was causing brain and cardiac death. He clearly assigned the cause of Billy's impending fatality to the lung contusions resulting from the accident.

The death certificate issued by the Spartanburg County coroner's office lists "natural causes, acute MI—myocardial infarction (heart attack)" as the cause of death. Sections available to record date, time, place, location, and details of injury have all been marked as non-applicable. This matters tremendously to the future wellbeing of my sister's family as she continues to raise her three children—a 19-year-old college student and 15-year-old twins—as well as assists her mother-in-law, herself a widow who struggles with health issues. Billy and Pam have been hard working and dedicated family members, often working two jobs each to provide for their family. At the time of Billy's death, he ran his business and drove professionally, and Pam was holding, and continues to hold, two jobs as a registered nurse. In addition, they carefully arranged their finances, insurance policies, and wills to protect each other and their three children should a tragedy like this one occur.

As with many insurance policies, those held by Billy and Pam assign different benefits and settlements between natural and accidental deaths. Even though Pam shared with Mr. Clevenger that an incorrect cause of death on her husband's vital record would result in financial harm to her family, and even though she offered the hospital's records for his review, he has refused to reconsider or to amend the death record. I am bewildered by this decision and extremely anxious to find her the help she needs to have this error overturned. Several have suggested litigation, with her peers in the medical community assuring her the medical records would necessitate overturning the coroner's ruling as to cause of death. After he learned that cause of death was declared as "natural," and without being solicited to do so, the embalmer who prepared Billy for burial offered to testify about the damage he noted, sharing with Pam it clearly indicated Billy's body had experienced extreme trauma. However, litigation is expensive emotionally and financially, and Pam has neither of those resources to commit to a battle that by all accounts should not be necessary.

Suspected source of erroneous conclusion:

Pam has a depth and breadth of medical knowledge as a registered nurse with over 20 years' experience. Within an hour of Billy's death, the Spartanburg County coroner's Investigator Kip Teal discussed Billy's case with Pam. She was her usual forthcoming and honest self in discussing Billy's medical history as well as events of the day with Mr. Teal. My personal opinion is that he looked no further than Billy's medical history, shared willingly and openly by Pam, and discounted clear medical evidence that Billy succumbed to trauma incurred in the accident. I believe the coroner's office has taken the easy way out and labeled the cause of death as a heart attack; however, this finding directly contradicts the attending physicians' diagnoses, statements, and hospital medical records. I would hate to see Pam suffer the injustice of having to struggle with financial security because she was open and honest, especially since it should not have colored or influenced the cause of fatality clearly documented and substantiated in Spartanburg Regional's medical records of May 10, 2016—death due to physical trauma resulting from the traffic accident, i.e., lung contusions that worsened to the point medical intervention was unsuccessful and lung function shut down thereby causing the failure of life sustaining vital organs.

Governor Haley, do you have the authority to intervene on behalf of Pam and her family and to require that the coroner of Spartanburg County correct records regarding my brother-in-law's demise? It would help Pam tremendously as she tries to restore her family's sense of well being following this tragedy; Billy would want nothing less for those he unexpectedly leaves behind.

Thank you for taking the time to read my appeal for assistance on Pam's behalf.

Kindest regards,



Kathy Corwin

864.313.8925; corlykat@gmail.com

(Pam's contact information: 864.444.3405; pamredding@bellsouth.net)

Attachments: Copy of Death Certificate, News accounts of May 10, 2016, accident

Cc Senator Larry A. Martin, Pickens District 2
Representative Neal A. Collins, Pickens District 5
Senator Glenn G. Reese, Spartanburg District 11
Representative Harold Mitchell, Jr., Spartanburg District 31

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

DEATH CERTIFICATION

STATE FILE NUMBER: 139-16-017560

DECEDENT'S NAME: *WILLIAM RALPH REDDING*

AKA's: NA

ARMED FORCES: NO

DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]

TYPE OF PLACE OF DEATH: HOSPITAL- INPATIENT

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PLACE OF DEATH: SPARTANBURG REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, SPARTANBURG, SC 29303

PLACE OF DISPOSITION: MT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

DISPOSITION LOCATION: EASLEY, SOUTH CAROLINA

METHOD OF DISPOSITION: BURIAL

DECEDENT'S RESIDENCE: 109 GEORGEWOOD COURT, EASLEY, PICKENS COUNTY, SC, 29640

PLACE OF BIRTH: SOUTH CAROLINA

SURVIVING SPOUSE'S NAME: PAMELA CORWIN

FATHER'S NAME: RALPH VESTAL REDDING

MOTHER'S NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE: DOROTHY EVELYN THORNTON

INFORMANT'S NAME: PAM REDDING

MAILING ADDRESS: 109 GEORGEWOOD COURT, EASLEY, SC, 29640

FUNERAL HOME: ROBINSON FUNERAL HOME, PR, 1425 POWDERSVILLE RD, PO BOX 387, EASLEY, SC, 29641

FUNERAL DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER M CORDELL

EMBALMER'S NAME: CHRISTOPHER M CORDELL

ACTUAL OR PRESUMED DATE OF DEATH: MAY 10, 2016

ACTUAL OR PRESUMED TIME OF DEATH: 1820

CAUSE OF DEATH - PART I

ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION

CORONARY ARTERY ATHEROSCLEROSIS

SEX: MALE

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: [REDACTED]

AGE: 55 YEARS

COUNTY OF DEATH: SPARTANBURG

MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED

RELATIONSHIP: WIFE

LICENSE NUMBER: 3879

LICENSE NUMBER: 3879

MANNER OF DEATH: NATURAL

OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS - PART II:

PRIOR STENTS, PRIOR MI

CORONER CONTACTED? YES

DATE OF INJURY: NA

PLACE OF INJURY: NA

LOCATION OF INJURY: NA

HOW THE INJURY OCCURRED?

NA

AUTOPSY PERFORMED? NO

TIME OF INJURY: NA

AUTOPSY AVAILABLE? NA

INJURY AT WORK? NA

CERTIFIER NAME AND TITLE: MEDICAL EXAMINE KIP D. TEAL

LICENSE NUMBER: NA

CERTIFIER'S ADDRESS: 366 N CHURCH ST SUITE 1700, SPARTANBURG, SC, 29303

DATE FILED: MAY 13, 2016

DATE OF ISSUANCE: MAY 13, 2016

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

NA

SC05144652

This is a true certification of the facts on file in the Division of Vital Records, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Catherine E. Helgel
Catherine E. Helgel
Director and State Registrar

Shae R. Sutton
Shae R. Sutton
Assistant State Registrar

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Revision Date: 07/31/2015



I-26 W reopens after Spartanburg Co. wreck



By Ron Norman Published: May 10, 2016, 8:40 am Updated: May 10, 2016, 1:28 pm



SPARTANBURG, SC (WSPA)- Interstate 26 Westbound has been reopened after a wreck, involving a tractor trailer, Tuesday.

The SC Highway Patrol says the incident happened just before 8:30 AM near exit 19.

The wreck also caused backup on Business 85.

Highway Patrol says the driver ran off the road and hit a cable barrier and a guardrail.

He was taken to the hospital and is in critical condition.

There are no charges right now.



Citation: <http://wspa.com/2016/05/10/i-26-wb-lanes-blocked-after-spartanburg-co-wreck/>

Tractor trailer driver dies after crash on I-26 in Spartanburg

Published: Tuesday, May 10th 2016, 10:24 am EDT

Updated: Wednesday, June 8th 2016, 10:16 am EDT

By Dai Kalsi

SPARTANBURG, SC (FOX Carolina) -

Troopers said an Easley man died after crashing his Freightliner truck on I-26 near mile marker 19 in Spartanburg Tuesday.

The crash happened around 8:30 a.m.

Troopers said the truck ran off the road, struck the cable barrier and a guard rail. The driver was transported to the hospital where he later died, troopers said.

The coroner identified the driver as 55-year-old William Redding of Easley. Coroner Rusty Clevenger said preliminary indications are that the wreck was caused by a medical event.

Redding's cause and manner of death remain under investigation.

Inside lanes were shut down on both sides of the interstate as crews worked to clear the wreckage

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Lanes were blocked following the crash (May 10, 2016/ FOX Carolina)

Citation: <http://raycomgroup.worldnow.com/story/31935352/tractor-trailer-driver-died-after-crash-on-i-26-in-spartanburg>

Spartanburg, SC : William Redding, 55, dies after tractor-trailer crash on Interstate 26 Tuesday morning, May 10, 2016



10 May 2016

The driver of a tractor-trailer died in Spartanburg County after a crash on Interstate 26 Tuesday morning.

William Redding, 55, of Easley was traveling west on I-26 near mile marker 19 when he veered off the left side of the road and struck the guardrail, said Lance Cpl. Tony Keller with the S.C. Highway Patrol.

The crash occurred at 8:25 a.m., and the tractor-trailer was the only vehicle involved. Redding was wearing a seat belt and was not ejected, Keller said.

He was taken to Spartanburg Medical Center, where he died, Keller said.

Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger said Redding died of a heart attack.

Source : Easley man dies after I-26 tractor-trailer crash
(<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160511/ARTICLES/160519930/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Easley-man-dies-after-I-26-tractor-trailer-crash>)

Citation: <http://accidentsinus.com/Accidents/Detail.aspx?Accident=24f37fab-99e8-4770-94ec-50577fe8a142>