

## **Circumstances of Michael Blankenship's Death Questions & Answers**

### **What was the dental procedure performed on Michael the afternoon before his death?**

Michael had his teeth cleaned and had four teeth extracted.

### **Where was the dental procedure performed?**

The dental clinic at Seattle Children's Hospital in Seattle.

### **Who performed Michael's surgery?**

Barbara Sheller, DDS assisted by dental resident Sultana Chatzpolous, DDS

### **What was the dose of the drug?**

Duragesic (Fentanyl Transdermal System) is available in different dosages, ranging from the lowest dose of 12.5 micrograms per hour (mc/hr) to the highest of 100mc/hr patch. There are also patches available in doses of 25mc/hr, 50mc/hr and 75 mc/hr. Michael was prescribed the highest dosage available – the 100mc/hr patch.

### **Who prescribed the Fentanyl patch?**

Dr. Sheller, DDS and Dr. Chatzpolous, DDS

### **Where was the prescription filled?**

The pharmacy at Seattle Children's Hospital.

### **When was Michael discharged from Seattle Children's Hospital?**

Michael was a bit groggy but alert and was discharged at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9.

### **At what time was the Fentanyl patch given to Michael?**

The night before Michael died as instructed by the hospital's pharmacist.

**When was Michael found and what was his condition?**

Michael was found unresponsive in his room the following morning.

**When did Michael die?**

On March 10, 2009 Michael was pronounced dead by emergency personnel at approximately 9:00 a.m.

**Where did Michael die?**

In his family's home in Kent, Washington.

**Was an autopsy performed?**

Yes, an autopsy as well as a toxicology study was performed by the King County medical Examiner.

**What were the findings of the autopsy and toxicology study?**

The autopsy revealed that Michael had no significant health problems. The toxicology report showed very high levels of Fentanyl in Michael's system. The death was ruled an accidental drug overdose.

**What was the official cause of death?**

Ketamine and Fentanyl intoxication. The death was classified as accidental.

**What is Ketamine?**

Ketamine hydrochloride is often used as a general anesthetic for children and in veterinary medicine. It is also commonly abused as a 'club' or 'rave' drug with the street name "Special K." The level of Ketamine in Michael's system was considered non-toxic.

**Media Contact:**

Mischelle Weedman-Davis

Davis Law Group, P.S.

Mischelle@DavisLawGroupSeattle.com

Office: 206-727-4000 x102

