

Milwaukee County Medical Examiner  
933 W. Highland Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 223-1200

Case Number : 13-01335  
Investigator : Marissa Ordinans  
Date of Death : 03/17/2013  
Date Today : 5/30/2013

## INVESTIGATION REPORT

**Decedent: Michael B. Hardin**

**13-01335**

### SYNOPSIS

The decedent is a 19-year-old male with a history of heroin abuse who was found deceased in a hotel room by his girlfriend.

### DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

13-01335

On 03/17/13 at 1348 hours, the undersigned received a call from MPD District 6 Officer Whiteley. Officer Whiteley was calling to report the death of Michael B. Hardin, W/M, DOB: 05/30/1993 at the Quality Suites Hotel, 4488 S. 27th Street, room 553. Per Officer Whiteley, the decedent and his on-again, off-again girlfriend of 7-8 months, Kelly Gille (W/F, DOB: 08/26/1978) checked in to the hotel at 1909 hours on 03/16/13. He was observed to be unresponsive this afternoon and 911 was called at 1323 hours by Ms. Gille. Officer Whiteley had little details regarding circumstances or last seen alive time, but stated the decedent had a history of heroin abuse and that this was a suspected overdose. He could not confirm if there was evidence of drug use in the hotel room, as he was calling from the lobby. The decedent supposedly lived in Baraboo with his grandparents. His home address, next-of-kin and medical history was unknown at the time of the initial call.

The undersigned informed Officer Whiteley that an investigator would be responding to the scene and the decedent would be transported to MCMEO for autopsy. (Marissa Ordinans)

3/17/13 @ 1517 Hours

While on scene, Detective Steve Rowe reported the following information: In the afternoon of 3/16/13, Michael and his girlfriend, Kelly Gille, went to visit Michael's mother in Milwaukee. Michael lives in Baraboo with his grandparents and Kelly lives in Janesville. Reportedly, Michael has not seen his mother in approximately 2 years. Michael and Kelly also came to Milwaukee so Michael could buy heroin. Kelly informed Detective Rowe that while they were at Michael's mother's house, he met the dealer outside to get the heroin. Michael and Kelly later checked into the Quality Suites at 1909 hours. Kelly reported that she saw Michael "shoot up" one time while in the hotel room. Kelly went to bed at midnight and stated that Michael was on the couch. Kelly reported that she woke up around 1100 hours and called down to the front desk to ask for a late check out. Detective Rowe stated that the front desk clerk claimed Kelly never called to ask for a late check out. Detective Rowe reported that Kelly called down to the front desk at 1319 hours and stated that, "she needs help getting her boyfriend back in bed because he fell off the bed." The front desk clerk asked Kelly if he should call 911 and she said no. The front desk clerk then went to Michael and Kelly's room and when he saw Michael on the floor he stated that he knew Michael was dead and called 911. Detective Rowe reported that Kelly admitted to cleaning up the hotel room before the police arrived on scene. She reportedly threw away a used syringe in the bathroom trashcan. LCK

Detective Rowe reported that the Milwaukee Police Department is investigating the possibility that Kelly Gille injected heroin into Michael Hardin. Nothing has been confirmed at this time and the investigation is ongoing. LCK

**SCENE VISIT**

13-01335

3/17/13

I arrived on scene at 1517 hours and was greeted by Officer Whiteley with the Milwaukee Police Department District 6 and Detective Steve Rowe with the Milwaukee Police Department Criminal Investigation Bureau. I was directed into hotel room #553 where the decedent was found. The room was neat and clean. The decedent's personal belongings were noted on a table in the entryway. I noted a green plastic bag on the table that contained 4 syringes, capped and in sealed packages, a small, round and burnt metal container, multiple cotton swabs and alcohol prep wipes. A black plastic bag was noted in the trashcan in the bathroom that contained a "Nestle" drink and a used, capped syringe. I retained the syringe as evidence. The syringe was documented and inventoried and placed in the evidence room at the medical examiner's office.

The body was lying on his left side and partially prone on the floor next to the bed. The head was pointing east. The feet were pointing west. The body was cool to the touch. Rigor mortis was relenting. Lividity was consistent with body position, purple in color and fixed. No external trauma was noted. Purge was noted coming from the decedent's nose. A small area on the floor under the decedent's legs was covered in what appeared to be purge. The body was clad in a black t-shirt, white shorts, briefs, pair of socks and a pair of shoes. I removed 2- \$50 dollar bills, 6- \$20 dollar bills, 3- \$10 dollar bills, 1- \$5 dollar bill and 13- \$1 dollar bills (money total = \$268 dollars) from the decedent's front left pants pocket. The Milwaukee Police Department retained the money and the decedent's other personal belongings as evidence.

I pronounced Michael Hardin deceased at 1520 hours.

The bag was sealed with tag #0071034 at 1545 hours. The body was transported to the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy.

Lesley Kenney

**SOCIAL HISTORY**

13-01335

3/17/13

Michael has a history of abusing heroin, marijuana and prescription pain medications including Xanax. LCK

**FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION**

13-01335

3/17/13 @ 1600 Hours

Detective Steve Rowe, Milwaukee Police Department CIB, is attempting notification of Michael's mother, Tracy Dronso. He will notify our office when notification has been made. LCK

3/17/13 @ 1710 Hours

Detective Rowe reported that he notified Michael Hardin's mother, Tracy Dronso, in person at her residence located at 2219 W. Orchard Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204. Detective Rowe reported that Tracy confirmed Michael was at her residence yesterday afternoon. She stated that she has not seen Michael in 2-3 years and yesterday he showed up to her house at approximately 1300 hours with his girlfriend, Kelly Gille. Tracy reported that they left her residence between 1800 and 1900 hours. Tracy is aware the Michael had a history of abusing heroin. Detective Rowe stated that he gave Tracy my business card and that she is aware an autopsy is necessary. LCK

3/17/13 @ 1759 Hours

I spoke with Tracy Dronso, mother of Michael Hardin, on the phone. I offered her my condolences and explained the role of the medical examiner's office in the investigation of Michael's death. Tracy stated that she called Michael on Friday, 3/15/13, and spoke with Kelly Gille, who told her that she and Michael were coming to visit her on Saturday, 3/16/13. When Michael was at her residence, Tracy said that she could tell he was "messed up" even though Michael told her he quit using heroin. Tracy reported that Michael was talking about having back pain from a car accident and that Kelly, who is a licensed practical nurse, was going to get him pain medications. Tracy stated that Michael has a history of abusing Xanax and pain medications. LCK

I informed Tracy that Michael would need an autopsy and she stated that she understood. I provided her with my contact information and encouraged her to call our office with any questions or concerns. LCK

**DISPOSITION OF BODY**

13-01335

Transported to MCMEO, Autopsy

<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Comment</b>
13-01335	Other Items	syringe	Retained
13-01335	Jewelry	One white metal earring	--
13-01335	Jewelry	One white metal necklace with tooth shaped pendant	--
13-01335	Clothes	Pair of shoes	--
13-01335	Clothes	Pair of socks	--
13-01335	Clothes	Pair of shorts	--
13-01335	Clothes	Pair of boxer underwear	--
13-01335	Clothes	One t-shirt	--