

**IN THE MATTER OF  
THE FATALITY INVESTIGATIONS ACT  
S.N.S. 2001, c. 31**

**WHEREAS** Aaliyah, Shanna, Brenda and Lionel Desmond (the “Desmonds”) died on or about January 3, 2017.

**AND WHEREAS** the Chief Medical Examiner has investigated the Desmonds’ deaths pursuant to the *Fatality Investigations Act* (the “Act”);

**AND WHEREAS** the Chief Medical Examiner is of the view that the Desmonds’ deaths occurred under circumstances referred to in clause 9(a) of the Act and that it is necessary that a fatality inquiry be held regarding their deaths;

**AND WHEREAS** the Chief Medical Examiner has, pursuant to Section 26 of the Act, recommended to the Minister of Justice that a fatality inquiry be held regarding the Desmonds’ deaths;

**IT IS ORDERED**, pursuant to subsection 27(1) of the Act, that:

1. A fatality inquiry shall be held regarding the Desmonds’ deaths.
2. The Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia shall appoint a judge to conduct the inquiry in accordance with subsection 27(3) of the Act.

3. The judge appointed to conduct the inquiry shall make and file with the Provincial Court a written report containing any findings made by the judge as to:
- a. the date, time and place of death;
  - b. the cause of death;
  - c. the manner of death; and
  - d. the circumstances under which the death occurred including
    - (i) the circumstances of Lionel Desmond's release from St. Martha's Hospital on January 2, 2017;
    - (ii) whether Lionel Desmond had access to appropriate mental health services, including treatment for Occupational Stress Injuries;
    - (iii) whether Lionel Desmond and his family had access to appropriate domestic violence intervention services;
    - (iv) whether health care and social services providers who interacted with Lionel Desmond were trained to recognize the symptoms of Occupational Stress Injuries or domestic violence;
    - (v) given Nova Scotia administration of the Canadian Firearms Program, whether Lionel Desmond should have been able to retain, or obtain a licence, enabling him to obtain or purchase a firearm;
    - (vi) what restrictions, if any, applied to accessing federal health records of Lionel Desmond, by provincial health authorities or personnel; and
    - (vii) any recommendations of the judge about the foregoing matters.

**DATED** this 14th day of February 2018, at Halifax, in the Halifax Regional Municipality, Province of Nova Scotia.



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Honourable Mark Furey  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General