



Hennepin County
Medical Examiner

530 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55415



Press Release

This press release contains information on the five (5) confirmed carfentanil-related deaths in Hennepin, Dakota and Rice Counties.

BACKGROUND

Dr. Andrew Baker is the Chief Medical Examiner for Hennepin, Dakota and Scott Counties. The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office provides forensic autopsy services for other counties on a referral basis.

Dr. Jim Evans is the Coroner for Rice County.

DECEDENT INFORMATION

Hennepin County

Case No:	2017-0694
Decedent:	Taft, Erick R
Age:	31
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Address:	3611 Girard Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412
Date & Time of Injury:	01/30/2017
Location of Injury:	3611 Girard Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412
Date of Death:	01/30/2017
Time of Death:	10:48 PM
Location of Death:	3611 Girard Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412
Manner of Death:	Accident
Cause of Death:	Mixed carfentanil and ethanol toxicity
How the Injury Occurred:	Deceased self-administered carfentanil and ethanol

Case No:	2017-0816
Decedent:	Bergstrom, Siri Ann
Age:	33
Race:	White
Sex:	Female
Address:	5133 Irondale Rd, Mounds View, MN 55112
Date & Time of Injury:	Unknown
Location of Injury:	2716 21st Ave No, Minneapolis, MN 55411
Date of Death:	02/04/2017
Time of Death:	05:00 AM
Location of Death:	2716 21st Ave No, Minneapolis, MN 55411
Manner of Death:	Accident
Cause of Death:	Acute carfentanil and ethanol toxicity
How the Injury Occurred:	Deceased used carfentanil and ethanol

Case No:	2017-1076
Decedent:	English, Robin Renee
Age:	34
Race:	Native American
Sex:	Female
Address:	No Permanent Address
Date & Time of Injury:	Unknown
Location of Injury:	Unknown
Date of Death:	02/16/2017
Time of Death:	02:57 AM
Location of Death:	Alley behind 2812 15th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55407
Manner of Death:	Accident
Cause of Death:	Mixed drug toxicity (carfentanil, opiate, methamphetamine)
Other significant conditions:	Recent cocaine and clonazepam use; history of polysubstance abuse
How the Injury Occurred:	Decedent used the above listed substances and was found in a cold environment

Dakota County

Case No: 2017-1111
Decedent: Lee, Elliott Todd
Age: 23
Race: White
Sex: Male
Address: 13675 Henna Ct, Apple Valley, MN 55124
Date & Time of Injury: Unknown
Location of Injury: 13675 Henna Ct, Apple Valley, MN 55124
Date of Death: 02/17/2017
Time of Death: 10:22 PM
Location of Death: 13675 Henna Ct, Apple Valley, MN 55124
Manner of Death: Accident
Cause of Death: Acute carfentanil toxicity
Other significant conditions: Recent heroin use
How the Injury Occurred: Deceased self-administered carfentanil

Rice County

Case No: 2017-1051
Decedent: Beck, Melanie Beth
Age: 43
Race: White
Sex: Female
Address: 301 6th Ave NE, Faribault, MN 55021
Date & Time of Injury: Unknown
Location of Injury: Unknown
Date of Death: 02/14/2017
Time of Death: 04:47 PM

Comment: This case awaits final death certification pending additional testing; however, the presence of carfentanil has been confirmed and the death will be classified as carfentanil-related.