

# BUFFALO: Autopsy awaited in Wienckowski case

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By Rick Pfeifferrick.pfeiffer@niagara-gazette.com

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Buffalo Police say they are still “questioning” a man in the disappearance and death of a young Lewiston woman.

At the same time, investigators are awaiting the results of an autopsy to determine the cause of death of Amanda Wienckowski.

“There is nothing new to report at this time,” Buffalo Police spokesman Michael DeGeorge said over the weekend.

“The person of interest remains in custody and we are awaiting the results of the autopsy.”

Beyond that statement, Buffalo Police have been tight-lipped about the details of the case. Wienckowski’s body was discovered just before 8 a.m. Friday in a garbage tote in an alcove of a church at Clinton and Spring streets on the city’s East Side.

Her identity was confirmed by police late Friday night.

Wienckowski was last seen alive when her roommate dropped her off at a home in the 100 block of Spring Street on the night of Dec. 5. Her family said she had left a shift as a bartender at Cocktail Bob’s in the Falls earlier in the evening.

The roommate told police he had taken Wienckowski to the Spring Street home for a paid sexual encounter. Investigators said Wienckowski, who also had an addiction to heroin, had been working as a prostitute at the time of her disappearance.

The young woman reportedly sent a text message to her roommate telling him that she would be longer than she expected and he told investigators he couldn’t wait for Wienckowski and left to return to their apartment in Lewiston.

The 47-year-old man said when he failed to hear from Wienckowski after two days, he went to her family. Her mother reported her missing Dec. 7.

By Friday morning, Buffalo Police had asked for assistance in their search for Wienckowski from the State Police. A specially trained K-9 cadaver dog had been brought to the Spring Street area when detectives got the tip to check the garbage tote at the church.

Shortly after the discovery of Wienckowski's body, police took her Spring Street "client" into custody. The identify of the client has not been confirmed by police and is being withheld by the Gazette.

Wienckowski's family said they don't know how she came to have contact with the man. While denying that Wienckowski worked as a prostitute, her family did admit she had been involved "with a bad crowd."

"She made some mistakes," her sister, Danielle Wienckowski said. "But she had more than enough time (in her life) to turn things around. She was getting her life together," he sister said. "We don't know how this could have happened. We don't know how (someone) could have hurt her."