

Mother upset over finding of drug overdose

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By Lou Michel

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The mother of Amanda L. Wienckowski is upset and dissatisfied with an autopsy report that has determined her daughter died of an accidental drug overdose.

Leslie Brill Fink urged authorities who are continuing to investigate her 20-year-old daughter's death to reveal additional details.

She insists police have evidence that her daughter, whose naked and frozen body was found Jan. 9 stuffed inside a trash tote on Buffalo's East Side, was sexually assaulted.

"Isn't it funny, [police] did a rape kit on my daughter, and it tested positive?" Brill Fink said. "They need to come clean and tell us what . . . is going on."

Erie County District Attorney Frank Sedita III has said Wienckowski died of a fatal overdose caused by "acute opiate intoxication." He also said that there's no evidence of physical violence to Wienckowski and that she did not experience hypothermia from the cold.

He based that on findings from the Erie County medical examiner's report.

Matthew Clark, a close friend of the Wienckowski family who knew Amanda her whole life, questioned conclusions reached in the autopsy of the Lewiston woman.

"If no one had anything to hide, why would you put her in a trash can? Come on, why wouldn't you just call the police? There's no reason not to call emergency services if she overdosed," Clark said. "My question is: Who gave her the overdose?"

Sedita has said it is not known at this time if she or someone else gave her the injection.

The mother of Antoine Garner, the man Wienckowski went to visit on Dec. 5, expressed relief that the death was ruled accidental and not a homicide.

"Whoever did this crazy thing tried to set my son up," Sonya Garner said.

She says that the individual responsible for placing Wienckowski's body in the trash can intentionally used a tote from the house next door to the residence where her son was staying at 157 Spring St.

Police have said they believe Wienckowski was driven by her roommate in Lewiston for a sexual encounter at the Spring Street residence. She was not seen alive after that by friends and family. Her body was found inside the tote in a church alcove across the street from Garner's residence.

Sedita has said that if the investigation provides credible evidence about who placed the young woman's body in the trash bin, he will prosecute whoever is responsible.

"I am relieved but I feel bad for my son who has been tainted and my family and her family," Sonya Garner said. "They still need to find out who did this to her. She didn't put herself in the trash can."

Antoine Garner remains in Erie County Holding Center without bail in an unrelated Oct. 18 rape.

Adam Patterson, Wienckowski's 42-year-old roommate, declined to comment on what caused her death.

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