

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Alan W. Mortensen – (801) 556-6867 or
amort@mortmilnelaw.com

Autopsy of minor Taylor Goodridge Released. who died while Diamond Ranch Academy

On April 7, 2023, the Utah Medical Examiner released the autopsy report of 17-year-old Taylor Goodridge, who died on December 20, 2022 at the Diamond Ranch Academy (DRA). Taylor died of Peritonitis, an infection of the abdomen tissue. Sepsis ensued and the infection spread to all of Taylor's vital organs causing complete organ failure. The first symptoms of Peritonitis are vomiting and a swollen stomach, both of which Taylor experienced for several days before her death. It is easily treated with antibiotics.

While DRA continues to claim that it is being portrayed inaccurately, DRA's own internal records show that Taylor vomited several times for over a week before she died. DRA Staff was begging DRA Management to take her to the hospital for days before she died. Taylor begged for help multiple times, which pleas would draw punishment from DRA.

The Utah Department of Health and Human Services determined that as early as December 9, 2022, Taylor reported back pain, difficulty breathing and difficulty sleeping because of the pain. In the 12-day period prior to the Taylor's death, program documentation recorded that the Taylor vomited at least 14 times. Nine days prior to her death, documentations from DRA show that Taylor vomited at least 7 times in an 11-hour time frame.

Taylor's complaints and staffs' pleadings to help her were completely disregarded by DRA and her weekly phone calls to her parents were unilaterally cancelled by DRA during the weeks before she died. Taylor

died on site at the Diamond Ranch Academy without ever seeing a doctor or being taken to the Hospital.

Dean Goodridge has issued the following statement on behalf of Taylor's family:

“We are devastated to learn that Taylor’s death was entirely preventable had Diamond Ranch Academy cared. We are also dumbfounded that the State of Utah’s Department of Health and Human Services has not held Diamond Ranch Academy accountable for Taylor’s death, settling with Diamond Ranch Academy without any input from our family. Diamond Ranch Academy is now able to continue accepting unknowing students with naive parents, so that the owners of Diamond Ranch Academy can continue to earn profits from the misfortunes of its students and their parents. We intend to continue to pursue all avenues to hold Diamond Ranch Academy accountable for her death to make sure this does not happen to other innocent teens and their families.”

EXERPT FROM AUTOPSY REPORT

FINAL PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES

- I. Acute fibrinopurulent peritonitis of undetermined origin.
 - a. Acute fibrinopurulent inflammation of peritoneum and abdominal viscera.
 - b. 1350 mL purulent ascites.
 - c. Cultures of blood, lungs, and mesenteric abscess positive for coliform bacteria (see separate reports).
 - d. Multiple organs with foci of bacterial overgrowth with associated infarction, consistent with bacterial sepsis.
- II. Other microbiology results:
 - a. Adenovirus and Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus detected by Multi-Pathogen Respiratory Panel.
 - b. Cervical swab negative for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.
- III. See separate neuropathology report.

(April 20, 2023)