

This letter was written to expose what we feel is the real truth concerning the final hours during and after the death of our 18 year old son, Jeremy Traylor. The Traylor family feels betrayed by the East Baton Rouge, Coroner's office in their handling of our son's case after our son died. We also feel that we must continue to work towards bringing out the truth (for a lifetime, if it takes) as to how and what our son died from. We have not once wavered from the cause of Jeremy's death as being due to an overdose of drugs on May 20, 2009. If the cause of his death had not been changed from after we buried Jeremy until days later to natural causes, we could have went after those who sold Jeremy drugs or who may have supplied prescription drugs to teenagers such as our son, Jeremy Traylor or his friends that suffer from such addiction. This letter is long, however it must be told in order for the public to see why and how we want the real truth to come out. We believe it will lead to unfolding more information that was not told before and it will bring justice for the truth in time.

The day Jeremy died, May 20, 2009

Lt. Morris with the Homicide Division (now Captain Morris), was the first to have told our family that Jeremy's death was what looked to be due to an overdose of drugs. Throughout our trying to get more answers, he was not in any way nice to us and was not cooperative in giving us answers after that first visit and till this day, we feel he has blocked us. In fact, every time we would want more information during 2009 and 2010, on how Jeremy died from an overdose, he seemed to get angry when we called him. When dealing with Lt. Morris at the time, we found ourselves being defensive (instead of productive) while trying to find out the truth. He got so angry with us for asking about Jeremy, that it got to the point where we gave up talking to him and we had instead turned to others for help. We had to find out more, so we turned to the Coroner's office to find out more information as to how Jeremy Died.

Raymond Levie, Chief Medical Investigator of the Coroner's office was the second person we talked to after Jeremy's death. He also (just like Lt. Morris), had initially believed and told us Jeremy's death was most likely from an overdose of drugs, maybe even Oxycontin. He had called Jeremy's mom, Melissa and myself the day before our son's funeral, stating that he just wanted to "prepare us because he more than likely is going to rule Jeremy's death as an Oxycontin overdose.

So the next day we buried our only son under this belief. This is what we talked about and gave speeches about at Jeremy's funeral. We wanted his friends to know just how dangerous these prescription drugs can be. By ruling Jeremy's death as an overdose, this would in time also help us to get more details from the EBRSO Homicide Division as to what happened while my son was pulled out of Hunter Lambert's truck as well as the last moments before his death. This also would have enabled us to go back to Jeremy's health insurance company charging them with negligence for not allowing him to go to inpatient treatment as he so desperately needed. Last it would have allowed us to go after the very people that sell and provide the drugs to teens in the city of Baton Rouge, LA.

However, we knew something was not right from the start of finding out about our son's death, because Hunter Lambert who was Jeremy's friend, his mother, and his grandfather would not talk

to us from the time our son died, until today. Later we found out that all three stood over our son perhaps when he took his last breath of air, and yet not one of them called us to tell us the news of what happened (to Jeremy) that morning or later that day. Even days later, not one of them said a single word to me or sent a single flower to my son's funeral, no phone call, no letter or card, nothing from them to me since the moment he died. We knew something was terribly wrong because Jeremy was very close to the Lambert family, and my son even worked for Louis Lambert to help with his campaign for District Attorney in the 23rd Judicial District back in 2008. Jeremy spent many days and nightly sleep over's with the Lambert family. He even traveled with them to New Orleans, and he stayed with their family one Mardi Gras season in a hotel room in New Orleans Jeremy told us. Yet all of a sudden, not one person from their family has spoken to us since his death and we found that to be very strange, and it forced us to seek and find answers on our own as to Jeremy's final moments of life without the EBRSO and Lambert family's help. We feel that we have been blocked every step of the way from day one. We kept asking ourselves, why do we feel like we are being blocked in trying to find out how our own son died, even from the Lamberts. We just could not understand why they cut us off after Jeremy's death, and this made us feel even more so that there was a cover up somehow or some way as to the real cause of our son's death.

The cause of Jeremy's death continues to seem suspicious to us, because just two days after we buried our child and had told everyone that Jeremy had died of drugs (from what we were told from both the EBRSO and also from Raymond Levie of the Coroner's office. Then a huge change came all of the sudden after we buried Jeremy and no way to get a second opinion on the cause of his death, Mr. Raymond Levie called us and said, "hey I've got great news! Jeremy did not die from a drug overdose, but from natural causes due to metabolic syndrome!" Melissa and I had no clue what metabolic syndrome meant at the time. And Melissa asked Raymond to explain his reasoning's. Well the very same reason that he first concluded was a drug overdose, was now the same reasoning for saying it was Metabolic Syndrome! An enlarged heart, brain, liver, etc. Melissa asked him if they thought we were stupid!/? That, this was the same reason he gave before for the overdose statement! Raymond Levie also said to me at the time, that these things happen. Then he stated to me, "Your son was overweight, right?" I said no he was fit. Then Raymond asked me if Jeremy played sports like football. I told him yes. Then Raymond said, "Well he must have played football hard because he had an enlarged heart and many times we find people who play sports have an enlarged heart." I said no again, because Jeremy had not played sports in two years, and that he had a recent checkup, and that his heart was fine. Than Raymond said, "Well, they ruled it metabolic syndrome, and that's all I can tell you." He then said, "Hey Keith, you seem like a nice guy. I know you're having a hard time with this, and you can call my cell phone and talk to me personally anytime." I felt that he cared, and I believed him at the time. So I did call him, and I also texted him over the months after that. I wanted closure, but I felt like I was not getting it and I had to learn more as to why my son died.

As we continue to investigate this new cause of death as Raymond had stated, Melissa had asked Jeremy's doctor if he considered Jeremy to be overweight. He categorically denied that Jeremy was overweight. So we wanted more info about this metabolic syndrome and the facts and truth to if this really was the reason and cause of Jeremy's death!

My ex-wife, Melissa, would not give up either and kept on asking questions from both the EBRSO Homicide Division and the coroner's office as well; however, we got road block after road block every step of the way. Even with these road blocks, over the months I constantly talked to Raymond Levie over the phone and texted him several times in 2009 and 2010 because I was sure he knew more than he was telling me. I can tell you many things about Raymond like how I knew that he has ADHD. I knew that he took meds for that. I also knew his son has ADHD too because he told me these very personal things. Raymond invited me to lunch several times; however, I would not go. Once again it seemed that Raymond acted like he really cared about me over the loss of Jeremy, and so I believed he did at the time, but in later conversations, we believe, he seemed to fear others in his department instead of helping us further.

Raymond Levie once asked me why we were continuing to pursue this. I told him that we wanted everything to be accurate about his death so that we could move on and have closure. We knew about Jeremy's struggle with Oxycontin in the past, and we saw the struggle Jeremy went through as he spiraled down and then worked so hard to try to beat these prescription drugs even to the point of graduating from high school. Yet a week after his graduating from high school, we were told he died from metabolic syndrome. What made things worse is that in our detailed research that was found, there was no evidence of anyone who died from what the Coroner's office was stating. So even after being told this, we never gave up in trying to find the truth as to the real cause of our son's death and we called all agencies that could help us find the real truth.

Finally we got help from the Inspector General's office as we got a phone call from Mr. Shane Evans (with the Inspector General's office) and he invited us to sit and talk with Mr. Raymond Levie, along with Dr. Shannon Cooper, to perhaps get closure on the real cause of Jeremy Traylor's death. This did raise our hopes before the meeting with the possibility of changing Jeremy's cause of death to reflect something other than Metabolic Syndrome. Once again, it seemed to us that Mr. Levie seemed to really want to help us and perhaps he did at that time. We were looking forward to meeting Raymond and Dr. Cooper that day.

When we arrived for this meeting and met Mr. Evans at the front parking lot, all three of us together (Melissa, Mr. Evans, and myself) walked in the front door. However, upon walking into the next door, Melissa and I, were shocked when we walked in Dr. Cooper's office to find that Mr. Levie was not present, but sitting there instead of Mr. Levie, was Lt. Morris, his Captain, Ben Odom, plus the coroner, Dr. Shannon Cooper, and Don Moreau. What seemed to us to be the real twist in the meeting was the person that seemed to take control of the whole meeting right from the start was not Dr. Cooper, but Mr. Don Moreau, Chief of Operations for the Coroner's office. Lastly, Mr. Shane Evans from the Inspector General's office we believe was also taken back by the number of people that were there at this meeting.

Both my ex-wife and I felt so overwhelmed and right out intimidated by all those present with the exception of Mr. Shane Evans. I looked at Lt. Morris and said hello, and he would not reply and in fact looked angry at me without speaking a word. We sat down and finally asked how did our son die? We felt, every time we asked a question to the Coroner, Dr. Cooper, he would start to speak, but Mr. Don Moreau would take over the answer and conversation. We went back and forth over how our son could not have died from metabolic Syndrome with Mr. Moreau himself, and the coroner Dr. Cooper most of the time kept silent. At one point, Dr. Cooper reading from

the papers in front of him, said that Jeremy was resuscitated at the scene. Well that was news to us! So Melissa jumped up and said, what did you say?! I want what you are reading! Give me a copy of what you've got! Our paper doesn't say that! Dr. Cooper hemmed and hawed, but Mr. Moreau quickly jumped in and got around that fact with some type of double speak. Also our family does indeed understand that Jeremy's blood test came back negative. However we want to know why his urine test came back positive. YES POSITIVE. Plus we have copies of text from Jeremy's friend that was with him stating that he warned Jeremy not to take that last dose because it could kill him. We even have eye witnesses that saw Jeremy take drugs that night. Well, that one last time to kill him. Here is what we believe happened. Jeremy was a strong kid. His body pushed those drugs through his body but did a lot of damage in the process. Jeremy was hunched over the truck steering wheel, restricting his breathing. This caused a lack of air which slowly killed him. The blood had several hours to pass through his blood and end up in his urine inside his body. For Dr. Cooper to say Jeremy died from Metabolic Syndrome is a catch all name. In other words, it's like saying he died of death or his organs shutting down. The problem for us is WHY did his organs shut down? What is the real reason for his death?

Concerning the Coroner, we still got no clear answers that day. Also, till this day we have no clue as to why would such a meeting at the coroner's office also involve the very two top men in the EBRSO Homicide Division? We left that meeting so discouraged and felt like this was an overwhelming effort with so many people involved to stop our efforts of finding out the truth. We asked ourselves why would anyone put all of this together, including the two leading men of Homicide Division, if our son died only from metabolic syndrome as stated on his death certificate. Was it Don or Dr. Cooper that managed to get the two most important men in the EBRSO Homicide to come down and sit in this meeting? if it was just Metabolic Syndrome, why would they be there?

I called Raymond Levie after much time had passed and to my surprise he said he was totally shocked when he was asked to stay out of it and not attend that day because he thought it should have been corrected. So I thought to myself was Raymond really that caring or was he playing two sides of the fence? In time I would find out!

Around the late part of December of 2009, Raymond told me that there might be still vials of Jeremy's blood (this is after we were told none existed anymore), and that he could get them to us so that we could take them to a private lab to have them tested ourselves. How excited we were! He seemed very nervous talking to me though at the time.

Several weeks had passed; however, and I would continue to text Raymond Levie. I would always text him on holidays because they were most painful due to the loss of my son. Most of the time he would text me back. After that meeting, several months had past and in January 22, 2010, the heat must have been turned up a bit because I got a phone call from Mr. Levie on my daughter's birthday. I remember feeling sad because it was Jeremy's sister's birthday; however, Jeremy would not be there this birthday. It was around 6:00-8:00 pm. Jan 22, 2010. After I had texted Mr. Levie about missing my son and I said I still believe he would be the one to come forward and tell the truth about why my son died, I got a call from Raymond Levie. At first he asked me if I knew who this was, and I said yes, but I asked him why was his phone call blocked, and then I told him that I almost did not answer it. He heard a sound or something because I was

working as I made noise while working and all of the sudden he hung up. He called back again on a blocked call again and said he was sorry, but that he thought maybe his call was being monitored. I had no clue what he was talking about, and I told him no way and that I was working. He acted scared at first but become calmer later in the phone call.

Mr. Levie then told me that things were about to change for me and Melissa, because there was a lot going on around his office and there would be some new information coming out that would help us. He asked me to not say a word to anyone, including Melissa, and to wait about three months and it would all come out. I waited and called him exactly three months later, and he acted like nothing happened. This was when I thought he either is scared to talk to me, or someone got to him. I so wish I would have asked him more questions three months before that last call as to what was going on around his office and what he knew, but I wanted to trust him. However in this new phone call he was very different and so I then became upset. I told him that he lifted my hopes and just stepped on them. We talked in detail about metabolic syndrome again and how he told me that he had no choice in the matter about what was on Jeremy's death certificate, and that it was out of his hands. He then went on to explain to me how stats show a certain amount of deaths in a city of Baton Rouge due to drugs, and how this would reflect badly on the city, and why it's best to leave this alone. I thought in my head this was BS, but I still listened to what he had to say over the phone. Raymond then said, "Besides you and I know how Jeremy died and what good would it do to change it anyway". I was growing with anger after this statement, but I kept calm. Raymond then asked me why is it so important that I want to change it, do I really want people to know your son died from drugs? I finally spoke and told him because the ball stopped rolling when his office changed the cause of death for my son in getting justice and for us to be able to find out the real truth of what happened that night and morning he died. I told him we still did not get the full police report that we were promised.

He told me if it were up to him, he would change the reason for Jeremy's death, but that if he got involved he could lose his job and his boss would put him out on the street and he would not be able to take care of his children. I thought to myself that the truth should still be told, so I went further and told him that he needed to tell the truth or I would. That's when he told me to leave this alone Keith or his boss and others in his office could make life very difficult for me and Melissa Traylor, my ex-wife. Then he also said people in his office are well-connected to others in the EBRSO, and he strongly recommended that I stop now and that there was nothing more that I could do about this. To let it go!

Because I was scared of the repercussions after that phone conversation, I thought he was right, so I stopped pursuing the cause of Jeremy's death or digging deeper into. This was enough to scare me because I believed Raymond Levie to be telling me the truth about the power and connections that a select few (Raymond's Boss) may have in his office with the EBRSO. I will state for the record, my wish is that if you or anyone states one word from this information that I have given you that you also state that I believe 95% of those who work at both the Coroner's office and the EBRSO are good and honest people. However, I also believe that there are a few that are not so honest and good, especially in the leadership of both the EBR Coroner's office and the Homicide Division of the EBRSO.

That was the last phone call we had back in 2010, and I have not talked to him since. I feel like I was “warned” of the consequence if I continued to dig deeper into what really happened to our son Jeremy, and to be honest I had given up until Raymond Levie was murdered and I read about what was going on with the Jones family and how the Coroner’s office may have been misused. You know, strange as it seems, I did tell Raymond over and over again that he would be the one that God would use to expose the truth one day. I just did not know it might be through his death. Each time I told him this, not even once did he defend his office or correct me for saying he would be the one to expose his office one day.

So there you have my opinion as to what I feel is the truth from what I know, heard, and had seen. I am also telling you this because I don't want to see the Jones family incriminated over what they may know or if they were threatened with the thought of no way out like I felt while dealing with Raymond Levie. I fear the law, as I fear for what may happen if I dare speak up about what I know today. In my opinion, I can sympathize with the Jones family (if they were in fear) of those in the Coroner's office in their efforts to try to protect their daughter and sister. I do feel that the murder of Raymond Levie was unjustified and should have never been committed; however, if Shane Jones was in fear of his life or his family’s and saw no way out, that this could be the reason for his wrong actions. I also believe in time that the EBRSO and the Coroner’s office will in time brush this new case and murder under the table with no clear answers just like they did with my son’s death. Years will pass for the Jones just like years have passed for us with no clear answers and no closure of the real truth.

The questions that went unanswered for us, and have yet to be answered are the following:

1. Why would Mr. Levie warn me not to keep digging and leave this alone concerning the real reason Jeremy died?
2. Who was Raymond’s Boss well-connected with over at the EBRSO, that Raymond warned me about and could make life very difficult if I continue to dig into the real reason Jeremy died?
3. Why have we yet to get a full completed or final police report as to what happened to Jeremy that we were promised to receive from Lt. Morris in 2009? It’s now 2011

Conclusion: We will never ever give up on bringing the truth out because we feel in our hearts that this was a cover up mainly by the Coroners office as to the real reason our son died so as to draw attention away from those who batched up the investigation from the time they found our son slowly dying while laying on the parking lot ground.

This letter was written as to what we, the Traylor Family, feels personally had happened after the death of Jeremy Traylor! Due to our concern about being sued by those who have power and financial resources, we will, and have too also state that this letter cannot and should not be taken as factual and this letter is written as our opinion as to what we heard, seen, and talked about with those stated in this letter. Our opinion can be copied, printed and used in any public manner; however it should also be stated as our opinion.

Keith Traylor