

John Plunkett, M.D.  
July 12, 1988  
Page -4-

Diabetes is not mentioned on the death certificate I have seen. This data has real legal significance. It necessitates investigation, inquest, whatever is real, honest and appropriate. If there is a clear cut alternative cause of death demonstrated, fine. As it stands now the clinical course can hardly be other than that of diabetic acidosis, ketosis, coma and death.

As it stands suspicion exists that Jane Duchene may have been murdered, i.e. a first degree homicide. I don't have specialist expertise in internal medicine, but it does not require specialization in metabolic disorders to recognize Mrs. Jane Duchene's abrupt deterioration as untreated or undertreated diabetes. It did not occur to me before that such could occur in a medically controlled setting.

It is not pleasant to write about this matter. Much of what has occurred over the two years I have studied aspects of this situation is decidedly unpleasant, evil and initially difficult to believe. Yet, the facts remain.

In particular the facts of this specific matter remain to be identified and clarified by sound and hopefully conclusive investigations.

It is the necessity of determining this matter that prompts me to take the unpleasant step of writing to you. It is not the cause of death of this specific patient alone that is at issue, although that death alone is reason enough to require investigation as I see it. Beyond this death, there are other issues of major significance for the safety and welfare of the population of the three counties you serve, as well as other counties in the State of Minnesota. These matters will not go away. They necessitate real scrutiny. The possibility of homicide in this case, a possibility long considered by professional investigators to be real, has made it imperative I communicate what I have to you. Substantial progress is being made in related matters.

Any information or opinion you are able to communicate to me would be valuable. As I see it there is no alternative to clarification and sorting fact from fiction in the complex and potentially explosive investigations developing. I

C-18

9C