

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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# **INQUEST INTO DEATH OF DANGEROUSLY ILL MAN FOLLOWING DETENTION AT WAKEFIELD POLICE STATION**

10am Monday 6 October 2008

Sitting before HM Coroner for West Yorkshire (Eastern District), David Hinchliff  
at The Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wood Street, Wakefield, WF1 2HQ

The inquest into the death of 43 year old Mark Camm, who died at Leeds General Infirmary on 29 June 2004 after collapsing in Wood Street Police station, Wakefield, opens on Monday 6 October. The inquest, which will examine the role of both the police and hospital in Mr Camm's treatment, is expected to last seven weeks.

Mark Camm was arrested on 17 June 2004 on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly and kept in a cell at Wood Street Police station for 25 hours. He was unable to speak, spent most of his time in custody motionless, began to show difficulty in walking and ultimately fell from his cell bed to the floor where he remained curled up in a ball. Mark was taken to Pinderfields hospital at 14.00 on 18 June. However, he was not transferred to a medical unit from A&E for 13 hours and it was not until the day after he was admitted that he was diagnosed with a sub-arachnoid haemorrhage. Mark died in Leeds General Infirmary on 29 June when active life support was withdrawn with the agreement of his family.

Mark's sisters Michelle and Melony will be represented at the hearing into his death by Ruth Bunday of Harrison Bunday, Leeds, a member of the INQUEST Lawyers Group. They will be seeking answers to a number of questions including:

- Why Mark was kept in a police cell for 25 hours purely on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly.
- Why Mark was not treated as a medical emergency despite physical symptoms and other worrying signs being present.
- Whether police had followed their own guidance for checking on the wellbeing of prisoners they believe to be intoxicated, and whether the custody record was accurately completed.
- Whether negative judgments by police about Mark, including a belief that he was refusing to speak as some sort of protest, may have affected the care they gave him.
- Whether the care given to Mark by the A&E department at Pinderfields hospital was adequate, and if not, whether it could have contributed to his death.

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Notes to editors:

INQUEST is the only non-governmental organisation in England and Wales that works directly with the families of those who die in custody. It provides an independent free legal and advice service to bereaved people on inquest procedures and their rights in the coroner's courts.

## **CONTACTS:**

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