

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Ministère du Solliciteur général

Office of the Chief Coroner  
Ontario Forensic Pathology Service

Bureau du coroner en chef  
Service de médecine légale de l'Ontario



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Coroners' Complex  
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November 30, 2022

Frank Bergen  
Chief of Police  
Hamilton Police Service  
155 King William St  
Hamilton, ON L8R 1A7

Dear Chief Bergen:

**Re: Inquest into the death of: Devon FREEMAN**  
**Date Death Pronounced: April 12, 2018**  
**OCC Inquest File No.: Q2022-22**  
**Date Inquest Jury Verdict &**  
**Recommendations Received: October 21, 2022**

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The jury in the inquest into the death of Devon Freeman has made recommendations which your organization may be in a position to implement. Please report back regarding your consideration to implement the recommendations relating to your organization by completing the attached chart, *Responses to Jury Recommendations*. Your response is requested by **May 30, 2023**.

A list of organizations requested to report back is provided.

We are pleased to provide you with a copy of the inquest jury verdict and recommendations. The presiding officer's verdict explanation will follow when it becomes available.

I would like to explain the significance of inquests and consequent recommendations under the *Coroners Act*. An inquest is a public hearing conducted by a presiding officer before a jury of five community members. Inquests are held for the purpose of informing the public about the circumstances of a death. An inquest does not find fault, blame or legal wrongdoing but rather examines the circumstances of one or more deaths and looks for lessons that can be learned from the death(s) that may contribute to a safer future for the living. Juries often make recommendations based on these learned lessons and, while they are not binding, it is hoped that implemented recommendations will prevent future deaths in similar circumstances.

Responses to inquest recommendations will be made public. Therefore, your response should not contain personal identifiers with the exception of identifying the decedent.

Please provide us with the name and contact information of the individual leading your organization's response by January 30, 2023. As well, if you feel any of the recommendations should be directed elsewhere, complete the attached *Contact Information and Recommendation Referrals* form and forward to [OCC.inquests@ontario.ca](mailto:OCC.inquests@ontario.ca).

As noted above, inquest jury recommendations are not legally binding; however, we trust they will be given careful consideration for implementation and, if not implemented, that your organization provides an explanation.

Thank you for participating in this important process. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Cameron".

David A. Cameron, MD, LLB, CCFP  
Regional Supervising Coroner – Inquests

/msp

Attachments:

Responses to Jury Recommendations

List of Organizations Requested to Respond to Jury Recommendations

Contact Information and Recommendation Referrals

**Responses to Jury Recommendations**  
Devon FREEMAN Inquest Q2022-22

**HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

**# 1, 2, 10-22 and 59**

<b>REC. #</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION'S RESPONSE</b>

**List of Organizations Requested to Respond to Jury Recommendations**

Devon FREEMAN Inquest Q2022-22

Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation

Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

Lynwood Charlton Centre

Hamilton Police Service

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Ministry of Health

Office of the Chief Coroner

Government of Canada

Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

**Contact Information and Recommendation Referrals**

Responses to Jury Recommendations

Devon FREEMAN Inquest Q2022-22

**HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE**

**Part I: Contact Information**

Name	Position Title
Email address	Telephone number

**Part II: Referral**

We believe the following recommendations may be best addressed by these organizations:

Recommendation Number	Organization Name & Address	Contact Name & Title

Forward to [occ.inquests@ontario.ca](mailto:occ.inquests@ontario.ca)