

BLESSINGTON JUDD
SOLICITORS & NOTARIES



29 August, 1995

The Commissioner of Police
14-24 College Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir,

**RE: OUR CLIENTS: WENDY ELIZABETH GRIFFIN & KAREN LOLINE
FRANKS
DEATH OF JAMES WILLIAM MEEK ON ABOUT 8 MARCH 1995 BY
AN ACT OF VIOLENCE**

Our Reference: SSM1950344 - Mrs McInnes

We act for Wendy Elizabeth Griffin and Karen Loline Franks who are the daughters of James William Meek who sustained death as a direct result of an act of violence on about 8 March 1995.

Mrs Griffin and Mrs Franks have instructed us to request that you review the conduct of the Police Officers who were initially called to the scene where the body was discovered and the conduct of their investigation immediately following this.

Without limiting the scope of the enquires you may undertake we have been instructed to draw your attention to the following matters:

1. FAILURE TO PROPERLY INVESTIGATE

The general conduct of the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Meek would appear to have fallen short of a reasonable standard.

Based on our clients' instructions the death in this matter appears not to have been treated as suspicious until Saturday 11 March 1995 following an autopsy, despite the following:

- (a) The injuries suffered by Mr Meek.

Mrs Griffin has instructed us that when she saw her father's body at the Glebe Morgue on 10 March 1995 she was immediately aware of injuries which were extensive and which she believed were inconsistent with a cause of death attributed by the Police Officers who initially attended the scene as a heart attack.

We attach a copy of the post mortem report dated 6 June 1995.¹

¹ Post mortem Report dated 6 June 1995

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- (b) The Police Officers who attended the scene advised our clients that there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of their father, despite the absence of personal belongings.

Further our clients attended at their father's home which was the scene of the murder on 9 March 1995 (with consent of the Police) and discovered the home in disarray and found blood under the front doormat of the home.

- (c) The Police Officers initially investigating the death advised our clients that Mr Meek had died as a result of a heart attack although there was no history of heart disease in the family, and no indication given as to why they had drawn this conclusion.
- (d) The Police Officers initially attending the scene appear to have conducted an inadequate or in proper investigation of the scene and the circumstances surrounding the death.

2. THE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE POLICE ATTENDING

Both daughters were extremely distressed by comments made to them by Constable [REDACTED] of the Surry Hills Police Station at the time they were advised of their father's death by that Constable.

In this regard both daughters had separate conversations with the Constable who made a similar disparaging remark to each of them about their father which was hurtful and uncalled for.

Further, the Constable was unhelpful to the daughters when they enquired as to the whereabouts of their father's personal belongings. The Constable also made a cynical remark in this regard.

As a consequence of the matters outlined above our clients are concerned at the standard of the initial investigations by the Police into their father's death and of the standard of their professional conduct.

Both daughters are married women with young children and have asked that this matter be treated with the strictest confidentiality. All contact with our clients should be made through this office.

Both daughters have completed statutory declarations setting out the details of the circumstances surrounding their discovery of their father's death and the events subsequent to this for the purposes of a victims compensation claim.

We look forward to hearing from you in relation to the matters raised in this letter as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

BLESSINGTON JUDD

