



Judge A N MacLean  
CHIEF CORONER

19 July 2010

Mrs & Mrs J & R Renata  
10 Maoribank Grove  
Upper Hutt

Email: [leeann.renata@xtra.co.nz](mailto:leeann.renata@xtra.co.nz)

Dear Mr & Mrs Renata

Your email to Coroner Smith of 13 July has been referred to me.

Dealing with the issue you have raised of the article in North & South magazine the Deputy Editor of that magazine has written to the Coroner's Coordinator including the following comment *"I didn't mean to imply that the decision to hold an inquest had already been made... please extend my apologies to the Coroner"* so the main point is what was stated in the magazine article was not correct.

More importantly I think it is important that you appreciate that the Coroner is anxious to progress matters and if at all possible determine the mechanism of your daughter's death.

The Forensic Pathologists' confidential Report to the Coroner has just been received and a copy of it can be made available to you on request to the Coroners Coordinator either by Email or post as you prefer, although we usually suggest that it is sent to your GP or other trusted Medical advisor to discuss it with you. The Pathologist amongst other things notes that a sample of tissue has been sent to the Cardiac Inherited Diseases Group in Auckland to investigate the possibility of molecular abnormality of the cardiac electrical conduction system that might have been the cause of death.

He further notes that this process requires the cooperation of family members.

However you mention in your email that you do not want to participate in genetic testing and see that as "just another avenue for unproven excuses".

Can I suggest that you reconsider your stance on this.

The best information available to the Coroner at this stage is that genetic testing and family investigation is the most appropriate and logical course of action to take. The chances of obtaining a meaningful result are greatly enhanced with your cooperation.

I remind you about the letter that Dr Neas wrote to you. While she is overseas and not due back in to the country for about a week the Cardiologist, Dr Andrew Aitken, has confirmed that he is still prepared to be involved if you agree. My recommendation therefore would be that you take up the offer of Dr Neas. If you contact her surgery then I am sure arrangements could be made for you to meet her at a mutually convenient time.



In the meantime can you please contact the Coroners Coordinator to facilitate arrangements for a copy of the Autopsy Report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A N MacLean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end.

**Judge A N MacLean**  
**Chief Coroner**