

MEDICAL EXAMINER

District SIX

Joan E. Wood, M.D.

10850 Ulmerton Road  
Largo, Florida 34648  
813-585-5671 (FAX 585-5385)



Edward R. Corcoran, M.D. Larry R. Bedore, M.S.  
Associate Medical Examiner Director of Operations  
Marie H. Hansen, M.D. Ronald EL Bell, B.S.  
Associate Medical Examiner Chief Toxicologist  
Robert D. Davis, M.D. Joel Scot Cary, AS.  
Associate Medical Examiner Chief Investigator

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

Name: MCPHERSON, Lisa Case# 1951474 Age; 36yrs Race: White Sex: Female  
Date of "Death: Dec. 5, 1995 Body Identified by: Jeff Schaffner & David Slaughter  
Date of Autopsy: D«C 6, 19% at: 11:00 hrs Authorized by: Joan E. Wood M.D., D.M.E-  
investigative Agency: Clearwater Police Department Agency Case # 95-29158

Manner of Death: Undetermined

immediate Cause of Death: Thrombo-embolism left pulmonary artery  
due to: Thrombosis of left popliteal vein  
due to: Bed rest and severe dchydration

FINAL ANATOMIC PANOSSES

Thromboembolus-left main pulmonary artery  
Thrombosis of left popliteal vein  
Severe dehydration  
Multiple old and recent hematomas-extremities  
Abrasion of nose  
JW:md

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Joan E. Wood, M.D." in black ink.

Joan E. Wood, M.D.

District Medical Examiner

for

Robert D. Davis, M.D.

Associate Medical Examiner

CITY OF CLEARWATER

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE 644 PIERCE STREET  
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 34616-5495 (813) 462-6262

January 29, 1996

Mr. Brian Anderson  
Office of Special Affairs  
Church of Scientology  
210 S. Ft. Harrison Av.  
Clearwater, Fl 34616

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Since our meeting on December 6, 1995, I have not received a response from your office concerning the whereabouts of the personal effects of Lisa McPherson that had been removed from room number 174 prior to my examination of the scene.

Furthermore, I have not received a description of Lisa McPherson's activities during her stay at 210 S. Ft. Harrison Av., especially any physical activities she may have been involved in.

At this point in the investigation, it is imperative that I ascertain as much information as possible about Lisa McPherson's activities during the last few weeks of her life. In the near future, I will be meeting with the Medical Examiner to evaluate the circumstances of Lisa McPherson's lifestyle which may have been a factor in the physiological processes leading up to her death.

Due to the fact that Dr. Janice Johnson, Medical Liaison Officer, and her assistant, Dr. Laura Arrunada, were instrumental in the evaluation of Lisa McPherson's medical condition and her subsequent referral to Dr. Minkoff at HCA Hospital in New Port Richey, would you provide me with a job description detailing their duties, responsibilities, and medical credentials.



Mr. Brian Anderson  
January 29, 1996  
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Your timely consideration in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Ronald J. Sudler*

Ronald J. Sudler, Detective  
Criminal Investigations Division

cc: Robert E. Johnson  
Attorney at Law



CITY OF CLEARWATER

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE 644 PIERCE STREET

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 34616-S49S

(813)462-6330

April 10, 1996

Mr. Robert Johnson  
First Union Bank Building  
Suite 1450  
100 South Ashley Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As previously discussed during our meeting on April 9, 1996, I would appreciate your assistance in locating and scheduling interviews with the following individuals associated with the Lisa McPherson investigation for Wednesday, April 17, 1996:

9:00 a.m. - Judy Goldsberry-Weber  
9:30 a.m. - Dr. Jeannie DeKuyper --  
10:00 a.m. - Andrea Jane Sprecher  
10:30 a.m. - Benetta Slaughter  
11:00 a.m. - Gloria Cruz  
11:30 a.m. - Alain Kartuzinski

Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. - Laura Arrunada  
1:30 p.m. - Lisa McPherson's Case Supervisor  
2:00 p.m. - Lisa McPherson's Caretakers  
between November 18, 1995  
and December 5, 1995

Please contact my office to confirm the date and times of the interviews.

Sincerely,

*Ronald J. Sudler*

Ronald J. Sudler, Detective  
Criminal Investigations Division

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<b>Category</b>	<b>Government Document</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Clearwater Police Department Report No. 95-29158</b>
<b>Source</b>	<b>Internet, "alt.religion.scientology"</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Detective Sergeant Wayne Andrews</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b><u>December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1996</u></b>

**Contents:**

FL0520300/ Clearwater Police Department Report No. 95-29158

Offense	Death Investigation
Date of Report	12/30/96
Location	644 Pierce Street
Orig. Incident Date	12/6/95
Victim	Lisa McPherson
Investigator	Det. Sgt. Wayne Andrews
Previous Status	Active
Subject	None

Impound Inventory None

NARRATIVE: On 12/30/96, I received information over the Internet from Martin Ottmann of Germany that it was possible the person I was looking for by the name of Ildiko Cannovas was actually Ildiko Szabo. Mr. Ottmann indicated that he had obtained this information from a female that had once stayed here and worked with Ildiko.

I contacted the Immigration & Naturalization Service in Tampa and spoke with Inv. Jeff Wolder. I requested that he check their computers for the name of Ildiko Szabo. A short time later, he called me and advised that he had found the name of Ildiko Szabo, DOB 2/6/71, passport #PE504536, who entered the U.S. in Atlanta, Georgia on 11/9/93 from Budapest, Hungary, and was bound for 210 S. Ft. Harrison Avenue. He stated that Ildiko was supposed to leave the U.S. on 11/8/95 but had not yet shown up in the computer as leaving.

Investigation continues. Case status remains Active.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Government Document</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Clearwater Police Department Report No. 95-29158</b>
<b>Source</b>	<b>Internet Newsgroup "alt.religion.scientology"</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Detective Sergeant Wayne Andrews</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b><u>December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1996</u></b>

**Contents:**

SUPPLEMENT/CONTINUATION

FL0520300/Clearwater Police Department Report No. 95-29158

Offense	Death Investigation
Date of Report	12/31/96
Location	644 Pierce Street
Orig. Incident Date	12/6/95
Victim	Lisa McPherson
Investigator	Det. Sgt. Wayne Andrews
Previous Status	Active
Subject	None

Impound Inventory None

NARRATIVE: On 12/31/96, I received information that Martin Ottmann, W/M, DOB 12/14/65, address of Ameisenbergstr .32, 70188 Stuttgart, Germany, home phone number 49-711-26-26047, wished to meet with me and discuss information he felt would be helpful in this investigation. He had previously sent me information over the Internet from Germany regarding Scientology that he felt was useful.

Present during the interview was myself, Det. T. F. Miller, Det. Sgt. Paul Reese, Deputy Chief Paul Maser, and Mona Boutros, who was representing the German government.. Mr. Ottmann advised that he was once a Scientologist but now works in Germany for different churches in what would be called an "anti-cult position". He was very familiar with what the Scientologist profess as their religion. He stated that he has previously testified as an expert in Scientology, and that he wanted to assist us by providing us information on their beliefs. I briefed Mr. Ottmann on the public facts of the Lisa McPherson investigation and asked if he could tell me what would happen to Lisa, according to Scientology beliefs, once she left Morton Plant Hospital with Mr. Kartuzinski. He stated that he was familiar with Mr. Kartuzinski and remembered him being a Senior Case Supervisor in the Church of Scientology. He stated that the following things would take place according to the beliefs of the Church of Scientology:

She would be taken back to the Church and immediately be put on an "E Meter" for an interview to Find out if she was still psychotic.

She would then be locked in a room and would not be allowed outside.

Isolation Watch - someone would be assigned to watch her all of the time around the clock. This person would normally have the experience of a Class 4 auditor and would be there to do what Mr. Ottmann said would be a “cooling down”. This was explained to me that Lisa would finally settle down and possibly just be quiet until they felt she would be on the road to recovery.

Mr. Kartuzinski, the Senior Case Supervisor, would assign a case supervisor to Lisa McPherson. This person would then begin to write reports on a day to day basis about what was occurring with Lisa.

During the isolation watch, the staff would not be allowed to speak with Lisa as there would be a gag order in effect. They would also not be allowed to speak in her presence. Any communication between staff members in the presence of Lisa would be done with hand signals or outside of the room.

The isolation watch would continue until a cool down was noticed by the Auditor. This would mean that Lisa was being more responsive to questions.

An “introspection rundown” would be started and reports from the people watching her would be forwarded to the case supervisor. Mr. Ottmann supplied me with approximately twenty pages of paperwork indicating what an “introspection rundown” is.

She would be placed on an “E meter” again and the “introspection rundown” would be continued.

During her stay there, she would probably be getting vitamins, water, and some type of vita-mixes supplied for her nourishment. If she became irrational, the “introspection rundown” would cease and she would go back into an isolation watch. Mr. Ottmann advised that he had been told of several people who had been restricted with handcuffs or leather restraints in bed until they could cool down again.

Security guards would be placed outside the door of Lisa’s room and would have keys to let people enter and exit.’

The staff would take any action necessary to restrain Lisa as it is part of their belief regarding the isolation watch.

I asked Mr. Ottmann who would be responsible for taking care of Lisa at the Church of Scientology according to his understanding. He stated that the Senior Case Supervisor, Mr. Kartuzinski, would be responsible but would answer to the Senior Case Supervisor of Flag Land Base, Richard Reiss. He stated that, as far as Lisa McPherson’s physical health, no one would make a decision whether or not to move her to a doctor until the Office Of Special Affairs was contacted. The Office Of Special Affairs would then advise where Lisa McPherson would go for medical help she needed during her isolation watch or introspection rundown.

I asked Mr. Ottmann if there would be any type of investigation because the person who took care of Lisa McPherson at the time was Janis Johnson, who was listed as the Medical Liaison Officer and had been an M.D. in Arizona, was listed after Lisa

McPherson's death as a Word Clearer. He stated that there would be a BOI, which was a Board Of Investigation regarding the death of Lisa McPherson, and that there was a good chance that Janis Johnson would be demoted to a Word Clearwater if the Board felt she was responsible or neglectful in Lisa McPherson's death. He defined a Word Clearer as someone who helped church members while they were taking the courses to define words in their course material.

I asked Mr. Ottmann what his expertise had been when he was a member of the Church of Scientology. He stated that he was on the clerical staff and became quite adept at Scientology paperwork. I asked if he would explain what the records would be called and where they would be located if I were to subpoena the records regarding Lisa McPherson.

Pre-clear folders on Lisa McPherson. These folders would be about her technical progress at the Church of Scientology during her courses. Knowing the courses that Lisa McPherson has taken, there should be approximately twenty or thirty folders under the title of pre-clear. These are probably located at the book warehouse at East Street & Chestnut Street. The folders are normally beige in color.

Central file folders on Lisa McPherson. These folders should contain letters to the Church of Scientology from Lisa and letters to Lisa from the Church. They would normally contain invoices and statements, etc. Due to Lisa's death, these should be in the dead files at HCO Comm Office. Mr. Ottmann indicated that when he was at the Church of Scientology, the HCO Comm Office was located on the third floor of the Coachman Building. These folders are usually blue.

Account folders on Lisa McPherson. These folders should be regarding all the money exchanged between Lisa and the Church and would be kept at the Treasury Department in the main Church of Scientology on Ft. Harrison Avenue.

Ethics folders on Lisa McPherson. These folders would contain information on all the sins she had committed. These should be stored at the public MAA Section located on the third floor of the main Church of Scientology building on Ft. Harrison Avenue.

OSA (Office Of Special Affairs) folders on Lisa McPherson. These folders would contain information on all the dealings the Office Of Special Affairs had with Lisa during her eighteen years with the Church. Mr. Ottmann stated that, when he was at the Church, these folders were located on the second floor of the West Coast Building.

Personnel folders on Lisa McPherson. These folders would contain an of the personal information on her.

Since Mr. Ottmann had previously been involved with the Church of Scientology, I asked if he would speculate on what may have caused Lisa to act the way she did at the time of her auto accident. He stated that a lot of the Church courses tend to be very long and hard and a lot of people have minor breakdowns. Depending on what level Lisa McPherson was at, and if she actually did want to leave the Church, she may have just previously undergone what he called a Sec Check (Security Check). This means that they would put her on an E meter and continually ask her what the problem was and why did she want to leave the Church even if she continued to answer that she did not want to leave the



Church. He stated that this may have been one of the reasons Lisa was acting so strange at the accident scene.

CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
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CONCLUSION:

This case has been active since the suspicious death of Lisa McPherson on December 5, 1995. The ensuing investigation has revealed that Lisa McPherson, who was a member of the Church of Scientology, died while in the care and custody of church personnel. At the request of the Clearwater Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement assisted in the investigation into the death of Lisa McPherson.

Since December 6, 1995, investigators have gathered information from approximately 90 individuals. In addition there have been approximately 80 subpoenas issued for evidentiary documents as well as various individual's testimony. There are 82 exhibits tagged as evidence and secured at the Clearwater Police Department.

Documents that are known to have existed and would shed light on the last days of Lisa McPherson's life have not been available or produced by the Scientology Organization. Certain documents turned over by church attorneys to the state attorney as a result of subpoena have been altered and are not true copies as testified under oath.

The sequence of events began when Lisa was involved in a minor traffic accident in the City of Clearwater on Nov. 18, 1995. As a result of this accident and Lisa's request for help, paramedics transported her to Morton Plant Hospital. Lisa was examined at the hospital's emergency room and found to have no physical injuries as a result of her accident. She did, however, exhibit a behavioral dysfunction that led to an evaluation by a psychiatric nurse. In spite of this nurse's opinion and that of the attending physician, members of the Church of Scientology encouraged Lisa to sign out of the hospital against medical advice. These church members assured hospital staff that they would give Lisa the care she needed. Lisa was subsequently transported to the Ft. Harrison Hotel by her Senior Case Supervisor Alain Kartuzinski.

Sworn testimony has shown that Lisa entered the Church of Scientology's Fort Harrison Hotel on Nov. 18, 1995, and was committed to an isolation watch. At that time she was healthy and physically fit. Testimony further supports that Lisa's physical and mental well-being deteriorated drastically until her death on Dec. 5, 1995.

Evidence, both in the form of caretaker records and testimony, indicates that in the first 8-10 days of her watch she repeatedly requested to leave her isolation room and was denied by church members. Further evidence indicates that on several occasions Lisa attempted to leave but was physically restrained and kept in the room by church personnel. Testimony reveals that Lisa was not capable of making decisions for herself during the watch, and that her mental condition made it imperative that the necessary decisions be made for her concerning medical needs.

The investigation has revealed that Lisa McPherson was discharged from Morton Plant Hospital against medical advice. She was then placed in a motel room at the Church of Scientology Headquarters and held against her wishes by various Scientology Organization personnel and security officers. She entered the FL Harrison

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Hotel a vibrant, healthy, well nourished young female. She weighed in the vicinity of 150 pounds and was 5'8" tall. She was 36 years old and was known to keep herself in good physical condition. Lisa became totally dependent on her caretakers as they were the only individuals allowed to have contact with her. No relatives were contacted, she could not leave and had no access to a telephone. Church policy prohibited verbal communication with Lisa. She depended on Scientology staff for food and water since she was completely isolated. Caretakers' notes that have been provided to the investigators as a result of a State Attorney's subpoena indicate that guards were posted outside of Lisa's room. These guards were used on several occasions to "guide" Lisa back into her room. Testimony by security personnel indicate that Lisa was not allowed to leave her room without the permission of Alain Kartuzinski. It appears the witnesses were coached in their responses to investigators. The term "guided" was used by all personnel when they were asked regarding Lisa attempts to leave the room.

Her physical and mental well being became the responsibility of three Scientology Staff members. The investigation reveals that as result of their positions of authority and, in two cases medical training, certain members of the Scientology Organization appear to have been grossly negligent in their care of Lisa McPherson. That lack of caring, coupled with a lack of appropriate medical care, resulted in her premature death at the age of 36.

Alain Kartuzinski had the final authority on all decisions made regarding Lisa's watch. Correspondence that was prepared dally concerning Lisa was ordered to be routed directly to him and was delivered by a staff communications runner. Questions written by Mr. Kartuzinski were sent to the security chief when Mr. Kartuzinski was not receiving reports on Lisa's condition. Those questionnaires Were completed and returned to Mr. Kartuzinski. His permission was needed to administer a prescription drug. Janis Johnson requested permission from Mr. Kartuzinski prior to obtaining medications for Lisa. Sworn testimony supports the fact that in order for Lisa to be released Alain Kartuzinski had to give his permission.

Janis Johnson is a medical doctor specializing in anesthesiology who surrendered her license in Arizona to practice medicine as a result of a drug problem. She held the position of Medical Liaison Officer within the Church and was assigned by Alain Kartuzinski to care for Lisa, Records and testimony indicate that Dr. Johnson was attending to Lisa daily. She wrote instructions to other women who were attending to Lisa and made daily reports to Alain Kartuzinski. Dr. Johnson made medical evaluations of Lisa and then requested prescription drugs from Dr. David Minkoff.

Laura Arrunada is a Mexican citizen and Scientology staff member. She graduated from medical school in Mexico City but never completed her board certification. During Lisa's isolation watch Arrunada was the deputy medical liaison officer and was assigned to the watch. She cared for Lisa the last several days before her death. Arrunada indicated that Lisa was not eating, drinking or sleeping the last several days of the watch and became very weak.

Dr. Johnson and Arrunada have medical training. Both have extensive medical knowledge that should have alerted them to act on Lisa's condition and request medical

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treatment. It is apparent that both doctors did little more than merely observe as Lisa's health deteriorated during her watch. Caretakers' notes as well as sworn testimony paint a vivid picture as to the level of health care that Lisa received while in the care and custody of these Individuals. Dr. Johnson and Arrunada issued orders to staff members to administer an assortment of vitamins, potions, minerals and prescription drugs. Evidence exists that indicates that at least two prescriptions were obtained with the help of Doctor David Minkoff. Dr. Minkoff is a Scientologist and a physician who works in the emergency room at Columbia HCA Hospital in New Port Richey. One prescription was for liquid Valium and the other for Chloral Hydrate. These drugs were obtained in an attempt to sedate Lisa.

Sworn testimony demonstrates that as early as 3:45pm to 4:00pm on December 5, 1995, Dr. Johnson related to another member of the organization that she was extremely alarmed at Lisa's physical condition. She told this member that Lisa needed to go to the hospital immediately because she was very sick. At 6:00pm Arrunada notified Dr. Johnson that Lisa needed medical treatment. In spite of Dr. Johnson's own medically educated concerns, and the alarm given by her deputy medical liaison officer, it was not until 8:00pm that Johnson finally made the decision to seek appropriate medical attention for Lisa. Dr. Johnson enlisted the assistance of Arrunada and Greenwood to transport Lisa to HCA Columbia Hospital. Columbia is located approximately 45 minutes to an hour's drive from the Ft Harrison Hotel and was staffed by Dr. David Minkoff. Lisa was not taken to Morton Plant Hospital which is only three (3) minutes' drive away. No ambulance or emergency team were called. Dr. Johnson ordered the staff members to carry Lisa from the room and place her in Dr. Johnson's personal vehicle.-Laura Arrunada and Paul Greenwood held Lisa upright for the long ride to New Port Richey. Lisa McPherson arrived at HCA Hospital on December 5, 1995, at 9:25pm, 17 days after the accident weighing only 108 pounds. Lisa was dead on arrival.

Sworn testimony indicates that several caretakers were alarmed at the condition of Lisa McPherson. Lisa's steadily deteriorating medical condition caused caretaker Alice VanGrondelle to remark that she felt that Lisa was obviously dehydrated ten days into the watch. The investigation revealed that Dr. Johnson and Arrunada should have recognized, as did Alice VanGrondelle, that Lisa was in trouble. In the opinion of medical experts interviewed in this case, Lisa would be alive today had Janis Johnson, Laura Arrunada, or Alain Kartuzinski sought proper medical attention in a hospital setting.

In conclusion, the investigation demonstrates through written documents and sworn testimony that the Church of Scientology became the sole caregiver to Lisa. The three responsible staff members, Alain Kartuzinski, Dr. Johnson, and Arrunada, through their actions and their failure to act, are culpable and responsible for her death.

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Recommondations:

As a result of this in-depth investigation, it is the conclusion of the assigned investigators that the death of Lisa McPherson could and should have been prevented. Representatives of the Church of Scientology guaranteed hospital officials that twenty-four hour care would be provided to Lisa. Documented testimony and observations have confirmed that during her subsequent stay at the Ft Harrison Hotel. Lisa McPherson exhibited mental incapacitation that restricted her ability to perform the normal activities of daily living. The Church of Scientology and the assigned staff assumed responsibility for the care of Usa as a" disabled adult.

Sworn testimony and documents indicate that the Church of Scientology assigned Mr. Alain Kartuzinski as the senior case supervisor, Doctor Janis Johnson the medical liaison officer, and Laura Arrunada the deputy medical liaison officer as primary caregivers. These three caregivers caused the death of Lisa McPherson by culpable negligence in a manner proscribed by FSS 825.102(3)(a)1. They caused this death by their failure to provide the victim with care, proper supervision, and sen/ices necessary to maintain her physical and mental health, Lisa's needs included but were not limited to, food, nutrition, medicine, and medical sen/ices, which are items a prudent person would consider essential for the well-being of a disabled adult.

This failure to care was so pronounced as to constitute culpable negligence. Further, the actions of Johnson and Arrunada also appear to have been the practice of medicine, neither Johnson or Arrunada are licensed to practice medicine in Florida. As a result, probable cause exists to support the following charges being filed.

Alain Kartuzinski: Aggravated Manslaughter FSS 782.07(2)

Janis Johnson: Aggravated Manslaughter FSS 782.07(2)  
Practice of Medicine w/o FSS 458.327(a)  
License

Laura Arrunada: Aggravated Manslaughter FSS 782,07(2)  
Practice of Medicine w/o FSS 458.327(a)  
License