

Vermont Protection & Advocacy, Inc.

141 Main Street, Suite 7
Montpelier, VT 05602

(800) 834-7890 (Toll-Free)
(802) 229-1355 (Voice)
(802) 229-2603 (TTY)
(802) 229-1359 (Fax)
Email: info@vtpa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Ed Paquin, Executive Director
802-229-1355

Vermont Protection and Advocacy, Inc., will release its death investigation report concerning the death of Michael Estabrook while in the custody of the Vermont Department of Corrections at a 9:30 am press conference July 13, 2007 in Room 10 at the Vermont Statehouse

Vermont Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (VP&A), in furtherance of our federal mandate to protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities, will release a report concerning the outcome of its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Michael Estabrook on March 7, 2006. VP&A's investigative report provides specific recommendations for positive change within the Department of Corrections to prevent future deaths of Vermont inmates.

VP&A's report on Mr. Estabrook's death describes the failure of the Department to assure that Mr. Estabrook received adequate medical care while incarcerated. Although Mr. Estabrook died outside the correctional facility, the report makes clear that lack of adequate medical care within the facility was an important contributing factor to his untimely death.

In 2005 VP&A also investigated two other inmate deaths and released reports to the Commissioner which outlined concerns about the medical and mental health care provided in these cases. VP&A intends that the release of this investigative report will assist the public, professionals and policy makers to maintain a focus on these issues.

VP&A has worked closely with Mr. Estabrook's family to bring the facts of Mr. Estabrook's death into the public arena. Kelly Estabrook, Mr. Estabrook's sister, believes that VP&A's report identifies the numerous shortcomings in the medical treatment provided to her brother by the Department of Corrections. She and her siblings hope the release of this report and the attendant publicity will result in improvements to the medical services provided to Vermont's inmate population. Ms. Estabrook along with her attorneys, Sleigh and Williams, will attend the press conference and be available to answer any questions.

The investigative report can be viewed and downloaded from the VP&A website, vtpa.org, in the investigations folder on Thursday, July 12, 2007 after 3 pm. Any questions or comments regarding this report may be directed to Ed Paquin, Executive Director of VP&A at the telephone number and address listed above.