

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release 26 June 2008

INQUEST TO OPEN INTO DEATH OF PRISONER STEPHEN BROWN

10:00 am Monday 30 June 2008

Sitting before HM Assistant Deputy Coroner for South Yorkshire (Eastern District) John Sleightholme

Doncaster Law Courts, College Rd, Doncaster DN1 3JH

The inquest into the death of Stephen Brown opens on 30 June 2008 and is expected to last for four weeks. Stephen Brown died from streptococcal septicaemia in Doncaster Royal Infirmary less than a week after arriving at HMP Doncaster in 2003. He had collapsed at the prison whilst waiting for a transfer to hospital but died later the same day.

Stephen's family is very concerned about the quality of treatment he received in prison and hopes that the inquest - for which they have waited five years - will fully explore the circumstances surrounding his death. In particular they are hoping the inquest will examine:

- Whether Stephen received appropriate levels of care whilst in HMP Doncaster.
- Whether the seriousness of Stephen's medical condition was recognised early enough.
- Why Stephen appeared not to have received medical treatment in prison prior to the day he died.

Both Stephen's family and INQUEST will give a statement at the conclusion of the inquest.

Stephen Brown's family is represented by INQUEST Lawyers Group members barrister Leslie Thomas of Garden Court Chambers instructed by Philippa Matthews of Howells Solicitors.

Notes to editors:

INQUEST is the only non-governmental organisation in England and Wales that works directly with the families of those who die in custody. It provides an independent free legal and advice service to bereaved people on inquest procedures and their rights in the coroner's courts and conducts policy work on the issues arising.

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