



Minty Inquest: What questions can be asked?



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The family of a man who was shot by police in Elmvale in 2009 is upset because they can't ask the police officer involved about guidance he received from his lawyer before making his notes.

On Friday, the inquest dealt with the key issue of whether the lawyer representing the Minty family will be allowed to ask certain questions of the officer who shot Douglas Minty. The family wants to know more about conversations that officer had with his lawyer the night Minty was shot and killed.

In 2009, OPP Const. Jeff Seguin was initially sent to the scene after a 911 call. The caller said Minty punched him in the face. Seguin testified on Thursday that when he got there, Minty came at him with a knife and Seguin had to use his gun.

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"I fired five shots because four wasn't enough," Seguin said. "Five was sufficient and six would have been too many."

Minty was developmentally delayed but Seguin said he was never told that. Seguin testified he made notes about the incident almost two days later and that at one point he spoke with a lawyer before making the notes on a computer.

The SIU has cleared Seguin of any wrong doing. But the family says it's their right to know what he talked about with the lawyer.

"We wanted answers. That's what the whole inquest is about. The family, after all of this period of time, are looking for answers. We want the truth, we've always wanted the truth," says Minty's sister Diane Pinder.

The family even took the issue to the Supreme Court of Canada last year.

"The Supreme Court of Canada in its decision in this case stated that solicitor-client communications are not permitted in the note taking stage in an SIU investigation," says Elizabeth Widner, Counsel for Minty family.

But even with that decision, the coroner said at the beginning of this inquest, questions along those lines would not be allowed. Lawyers representing the Minty family asked the coroner to reconsider, but Friday the coroner said his ruling hasn't changed.

“A full testing of the officer’s creditability and reliability is missing from this inquest,” added Widner.

Lawyers for the OPP and for the police officers did not comment about the ruling on Friday.

The inquest will break for the next 10 days. When it resumes Seguin will be back on the stand. The jury hearing all the evidence is expected to report back and make recommendations about cases like this – possibly by the end of June.

Read more: <http://barrie.ctvnews.ca/minty-inquest-what-questions-can-be-asked-1.1846286#ixzz33s4X33BR>