

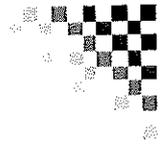


QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

11 October, 2011

TO: Officer in Charge Sunshine Coast District Criminal Investigation Branch

FROM: Detective Senior Constable J.N. ALLAN, 11939

SUBJECT: Supplementary coronial report into death of Karen Lee MAHLO (dob 5/9/1955) on 28/5/2008.

QP0800336785

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1. In January 2011 police executed a search warrant on both the business and residential premises belonging to John HEHIR. As a result police seized an IBM lap top computer and a USB stick that were believed to be of interest in this investigation.
2. At the time of MAHLO's death, HEHIR was her ex-boyfriend and financial advisor. There have been concerns raised by MAHLO's family regarding HEHIR's involvement in MAHLO's estate and the possibility of some fraudulent behaviour.
3. All computer equipment that was seized by police as a result of this investigation was delivered to the Electronic Evidence Examination Unit for them to conduct an analysis of same. As a result a detailed statement and report have been compiled by the Investigative Computer Analyst, James Charles MORRIS and is attached for the information of the State Coroner. (*Refer to Attachments Statement 27 James Charles MORRIS, Investigative Computer Analyst*).
4. Points of interest that have been located from this analysis is that at 03:29hrs on 28th May 2008 (the date of MAHLO's death) the control panel of MAHLO's computer was opened and the power configuration settings was changed to 'always on' (refer to paragraph 10 of MORRIS statement). This was done immediately after the suicide notes and the Will and Testament documents were opened on MAHLO's computer. This is also immediately after activity from a USB stick called "Johns USB" was used in the computer.
5. Also established was that "Johns USB" stick which was put into MAHLO's computer on the morning of 28 May 2008 has also been used in the IBM lap top computer seized from HEHIR on the 24th, 31st July 2008 and 13th February 2009 (paragraph 21 and 22

MORRIS statement). This activity is all after MAHLO's death and in the lap top computer that HEHIR admits to owning (this USB stick has not been located by police to date).

6. These new results have been added to the time line involving MAHLO's death and a copy of same is attached for the Coroner's information.
7. HEHIR has been extensively interviewed by police in relation to this USB stick and any involvement he may have had with the documents mentioned that were located on MAHLO's computer. HEHIR has stated that the last time he saw the USB stick was at MAHLO's residence some time prior to her death.
8. When questioned as to this USB sticks location HEHIR stated that it could possibly be held within a storage facility along with all other chattels from MAHLO's residence however he couldn't be certain on this as he doesn't have access to the storage facility due to civil proceedings regarding MAHLO's estate.
9. HEHIR has denied that this USB stick was his personal USB stick, rather he and MAHLO shared this item to store documents.
10. MAHLO's daughter, Anastasia SASONOW states that she remembers seeing HEHIR carry a USB stick with him at all times and that he used this USB stick in her mother's computer. SASONOW knows from when she worked with HEHIR that this USB stick was titled 'Johns USB' as when he plugged the USB into the work computer system staff could see the USB stick's title. At no time did SASONOW see her mother using a USB stick and doesn't believe that her mother had the knowledge to use such a device.
11. Police can confirm that on the morning of 28th May 2008 when they attended 23a William Street, Moffat Beach in relation to MAHLO's death no USB stick was located in her computer and has not been located to date.
12. A statement was provided by HEHIR on this day and there was no mention by HEHIR of a USB stick or any activities that he may have conducted on MAHLO's computer that morning.
13. It has been further noted by the computer analysis that the IMB lap top computer has a software package called 'CCleaner' installed which is used for the sole purpose to wipe any storage media devices (such as USB sticks) from the computers hard drive (refer to paragraph 24 of MORRIS's statement). Again this information was not known when HEHIR was interviewed by police in January 2011. It is quite suspicious that someone would install such a program on their computer.
14. Also located on the IBM lap top computer was a document called 'Needs Analysis' (refer to paragraph 19 of MORRIS's statement). This document is an analysis document that HEHIR has compiled himself comparing his financial situation if he was to leave his wife for Karen MAHLO at the time they met in November 2006. This style of document indicates how early in HEHIR's relationship with MAHLO he was thinking of financial gain. A copy of this document is contained on the examination report disc (Appendix Y).
15. A further search of MAHLO's hard drive for 'JOHNS USB' stick has

indicated that the suicide notes and a Will document were downloaded from this USB stick onto her computer at 2:47am on the 28th May 2008. The fact that the USB stick was not located or sighted when Police attended the residence in relation to Karen MAHLO's, raised the suspicion that someone had removed this prior to police attending.

16. It can be noted from the examinations that HEHIR has met his current wife, Jill HAYES in either June or July 2008 (approximately a month after MAHLO's death). In August 2008 he has begun to provide her with financial advice regarding her marriage separation. In November 2008 a Will for Jill HAYES has been located through the computer analysis (Electronic Evidence Examination Report Appendix X) naming HEHIR as her executor and trustee. The way in which HEHIR has become financial entwined in HAYES life is almost exactly the same way in which he became so quickly involved in MAHLO's life and her financial affairs.
17. A full copy of the Electronic Evidence Examination Report can be found in *Attachment Appendix X* and the CD containing all material referred to in both this report and MORRIS's statement can be found in *Attachment Appendix Y*.
18. The civil matter involving MAHLO's estate was heard before Supreme Court Justice P. McMURDO from the 8th – 10th August 2011 in Brisbane. During this hearing HEHIR gave evidence and it was eventually decided by Justice McMURDO that he ruled in favour of HEHIR. Justice McMURDO also indicated that if the MAHLO family pursued a different avenue through an appeal process then the matter would be wholly awarded to the MAHLO family. The MAHLO family is currently appealing.
19. During HEHIR's evidence he was asked what answers had he provided to police when they questioned about re-entering MAHLO's house at lunch time on the 28th May 2008. HEHIR states in his evidence that he remembers standing at the front door and opening it and that he took one step inside. This is in contradiction to what HEHIR has provided to police.
20. It can be further noted that during HEHIR's evidence in the civil matter other discrepancies were identified in the versions that HEHIR had previously provided to police, and also in his civil affidavits. All of these discrepancies contribute to the theory of possible fraudulent activities of HEHIR in order to benefit from MAHLO's death and her estate.
21. It has also been established during the civil matter that when police executed their search warrant on HEHIR's business premises in January 2011 they repeatedly asked HEHIR for all 'hard' documents regarding MAHLO and any interaction she had with Financial Advisors Australia. Basically police asked HEHIR time and time again for MAHLO's personal file that should have been held at this business.
22. HEHIR provided police with a file on this day, however it now appears that this file only relates to the civil proceedings involving her estate and doesn't contain any other documents that MAHLO would have had stored at this location as mentioned by ex-employee Veronica WENT (WENT addendum statement 14(a)).

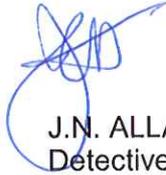
23. A copy of the civil court transcripts has been provided for the information of the State Coroner. The civil matter is currently being appealed by the MAHLO family and I am duly informed that HEHIR has now offered to no longer contest the estate as long as the MAHLO family pay for his legal costs. The civil matter is not finalised as yet. A CD with the transcript of the civil proceedings referred to are in *Attachment, Appendix Z*.
24. An addendum statement has been obtained from Veronica Margaret WENT (*Attachment statement 14(1)*) whereby WENT explains that all the paperwork relating to Karen MAHLO was neatly filed within her office at Financial Advisors Australia prior to her terminating her employment. The documents mentioned in WENT's statement were not provided to police by HEHIR at the time they executed the search warrant in January 2011. WENT can also confirm that when HEHIR has said that documents are stored 'off site' she has no knowledge of any such facility being used or existing within this company. It would appear that HEHIR is deliberately obstructing police by not providing all documentation required as stated in the Coroner's Search Warrant in relation to MAHLO and lying that things could be stored 'off site'.
25. Again this information has not been put to HEHIR in any formal interview as it was not known at the time when he was spoken to by police in January 2011.

RECOMMENDATION

1. During each interaction that police have had with HEHIR he has been evasive when questioned and going off on tangents in an effort to confuse and distort the actual facts. It can now be seen that HEHIR has lied to police on numerous occasions and continued to tell mis-truths during the civil court proceedings.
2. I strongly recommend that the discrepancies identified and outlined above need to be put to Mr HEHIR and the best avenue for doing so is through a coronial inquest.
3. This investigating officer still believes that HEHIR played no direct part in MAHLO's death, rather there is a possibility that he has pushed the very unstable MAHLO to commit suicide with any conversation he has had with her on the 27th May 2008. This investigating officer also believes that HEHIR has been at MAHLO's residence around 2:45am on 28th May 2008 where he has placed the USB stick called 'JOHNS USB' into MAHLO's computer and downloaded the 2 suicide notes and the Will (which left part of the estate to him) on the computer.
4. This investigating officer also believes that this is when HEHIR has rung his own mobile phone from MAHLO's land line (at 3:06am) and then returned to his Cotton Tree unit, where he has gathered his thoughts. Prior to leaving MAHLO's house HEHIR has changed the configurations on her computer so that it was 'always on' (3:29am). Once at Cotton Tree HEHIR has then travelled back to Moffat Beach ringing MAHLO's mobile and land lines from 4:33am. Then at 4:49am HEHIR rings Queensland Ambulance and meets them at MAHLO's residence.
5. It was noted by investigating police that HEHIR's behaviour during the entire morning police were present was very strange and over exaggerated. At the time of MAHLO's death their relationship had

ended but HEHIR continued to deny this as the financial benefits for him were much greater than the truth.

6. Perhaps this supplementary report and attachments could be forwarded to the State Coroner Brisbane for their information.



J.N. ALLAN
Detective Senior Constable 11939