

IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE

Court Reference: 2012 / 3123

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Form 37 Rule 60(1)

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Inquest into the Death of: Mahalingham Sinnathamby

Delivered On: 12 June 2014

Delivered At: Melbourne

Hearing Dates: 26 February 2014

Findings of: Judge Ian L Gray, State Coroner

Police Coronial Support Unit Sergeant Sharon Wade

I, Judge Ian L Gray, State Coroner having investigated the death of Mahalingham Sinnathamby

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 26 February 2014

at Melbourne

find that the identity of the deceased was Mahalingham Sinnathamby

born on 7 August 1937

and the death occurred on or about 25 August 2005

at an unknown location

from:

1 (a) UNKNOWN

in the following circumstances:

1. Mahalingham Sinnathamby was formally reported missing and listed as a missing person on 24 November 2005, having last been seen alive just before 10.00am on 25 August 2005.
2. Mr Sinnathamby and his wife, Kanmany Mahalingham had six children together. Mr Sinnathamby and his wife were not living together at the time he disappeared, however they remained in contact by telephone and Mr Sinnathamby visited her at their son's house.
3. Mr Sinnathamby's youngest daughter Satheesna Sinnathamby died on 24 February 2005, from injuries related to attempted suicide by setting herself on fire on 3 September 2004. Ms Sinnathamby stated that she had attempted suicide after she and her husband lost over \$85,000.00 as a part of a business deal.
4. Mr Sinnathamby was deeply affected by his daughter's death. Family members reported that Mr Sinnathamby became focussed on the man who had allegedly defrauded Ms Sinnathamby and her husband of their money, Mr Ranjit Sahasranaman. Mr Sinnathamby blamed Mr Sahasranaman for his daughter's death. Mr Sinnathamby's family stated that during their last conversations with him, Mr Sinnathamby made it clear that he would confront Mr Sahasranaman over his daughter's death and the missing money.
5. On 25 August 2005, Mr Sinnathamby attended the Carrum Downs Medical Centre where he was prescribed medication for stomach ulcers. This was Mr Sinnathamby's last confirmed contact with another person.
6. In the following months, Mr Sinnathamby's wife unsuccessfully attempted to phone him a number of times. Mr Sinnathamby's granddaughter and her mother attended his home on two occasions. Mr Sinnathamby appeared not to be home on both occasions.

7. On 23 November 2005, Mr Sinnathamby's wife and daughter-in-law attended his home to take him groceries. They were concerned that they had not had contact with him in some time. They spoke to neighbours and discovered that he had not been seen for approximately three months. Later that day, Mr Sinnathamby's family reported him missing at the Springvale Police Station.
8. Police and the CFA attended Mr Sinnathamby's home and conducted a search. Mr Sinnathamby was not found at his home. The food in Mr Sinnathamby's home was old and rotten and the medications found at his home were a number of months old. Mr Sinnathamby's family stated that he purchased his medication monthly and he would never leave home without it. Mr Sinnathamby was officially listed as a missing person.
9. Police inquiries determined that Mr Sinnathamby's bank account was last accessed in late July 2005. Mr Sinnathamby had last purchased prescription medication on 25 August 2005. Initial police inquiries identified that Mr Sinnathamby's family suspected foul play, relating to Mr Sahasranaman.
10. Victoria Police conducted a thorough search for Mr Sinnathamby and pursued all avenues of enquiry and investigation, including criminal investigations. No person has been charged in relation to Mr Sinnathamby's disappearance and police investigators have been unable to establish any evidence to suggest that Mr Sinnathamby is still alive.
11. Mr Sinnathamby's Victoria Police file will remain open and be periodically reviewed and awaiting new evidence.
12. I am satisfied that the evidence supports a determination that Mr Sinnathamby is deceased. Accordingly, I find that:
 - a. the identity of the deceased is Mahalingham Sinnathamby, born on 7 August 1937;
 - b. the cause and date of death is unknown; and
 - c. Mr Sinnathamby died in unknown circumstances, having disappeared on or about 25 August 2005 in the circumstances described above.

COMMENTS

Pursuant to section 67(3) of the **Coroners Act 2008**, I make the following comments connected with the death:

13. The disappearance and suspected death of a person in circumstances such as these leaves their loved ones with many unanswered questions, in addition to their loss.
14. I convey my sincere sympathies to Mr Sinnathamby's family at their loss of Mr Sinnathamby in 2005.

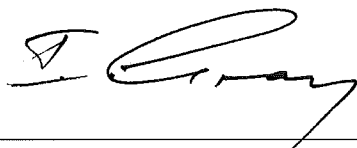
Pursuant to section 73(1) of the *Coroners Act 2008*, I order that this finding be published on the internet.

I direct that a copy of this finding be provided to the following:

Mrs Pamini Uthayakumar, Senior next of kin

DSC Kane Taylor, Coroner's Investigator, Victoria Police

Signature:



Judge Ian L. Gray

Date:

12/6/2014

