

“...for they know not what they did”

DEATH AT BARBADOS' MAIN HOSPITAL

The shocking truth about Mel Harding's sudden death at Queen Elisabeth Hospital Barbados

Barbados and the world lost a great man and outstanding citizen: Mel A. Harding, only 58 years old. Top manager of the Crane Resort, Pioneer of Recycling in the Caribbean, father of internationally known musicians/filmmaker Jermaine and Jamar Harding and husband of Denise Harding, originally from Switzerland and married to Mel for 35 years.



He was admitted to the Emergency Department of Queen Elisabeth Hospital by Ambulance and diagnosed with a bleeding in the brain. He was put in a coma and after 2 days in intensive care he passed away. Had the family not requested an autopsy and engaged 3 medical specialists to study all medical records, the real reason of death would not be known. It would be recorded as just another case of: “death due to complications of a stroke”.

But the truth is very disturbing:

It turned out that Mel had very little blood in the brain and the chance of survival was indeed very high.

He died of “Pulmonary Thromboembolism” - a blood clot in the lungs and not the tiny amount of bleeding in the brain. He was put in a coma and a basic, standard practice was forgotten: no “circulation stockings” were applied to his legs and hence the blood clot was able to travel into the lungs, blocking the flow of blood to his heart and causing his heart to stop.

This neglect was overlooked by at least 10 different doctors and countless nurses.

The hospital has informed the family of Mel Harding, that they are not responsible for his death and according to their quite unprofessional letter, they do not appear to have done any further investigation and are still not aware of their deadly mistake.

So one has to wonder:

How many patients died like this before?

And: How many more will have to die before they care?

A hospital, which refuses to take responsibility for it's mistakes, cannot and will not improve.



Family Harding in happier days

"We have lost our Mel and nothing can bring him back, but we owe it to all who yet have to be admitted to this hospital. And to the ones who also died, because something was forgotten and no one noticed or cared. We now know and can prove that Mel's death could and should have been avoided. We, the family and friends of Mel are sad and angry and we will not just let this go!" says the widow Denise Harding.