B. WILLIAM MURPHY, M.D., P.A.
1105 SPRING STREET
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910
588-3664

July 12, 1988

John Plunkett, M.D.
Regina Medical Complex
Hastings, Minnesota

Re: Jane Duchene (deceased)

Dear Dr. Plunkett:

On May 27, 1988 I wrote to you concerning Mrs. Duchene. I have received no response thus far to my letter. Acting on the assumption you may not have received the letter, I am writing again and shall send this by certified mail. Uncertainty as to your being aware of the contents of the May 27th letter troubles me, as they concern matters of major medical and legal significance. They are issues that I think involve the functions and responsibilities of a coroner.

I have been told you are the coroner for Dakota, Ramsey and Scott counties near Minneapolis/St. Paul. Events related to the death of Jane Duchene occurred in one or more of these counties I believe. The autopsy you performed on Saturday, November 22, 1986 on the embalmed body of the deceased was at the Southern Funeral Home and I am uncertain as to the specific county. While it is clear Mary Jane Duchene requested the autopsy, it is unknown who ordered embalming or why. That is a serious matter isn't it? Body fluids cannot be examined after the body is embalmed. There must be written authorization to proceed with embalming surely. Where is the documentation?

I believe the post-mortem examination was carried out by you in a private practice context at the daughter's request. I have been over the report dated 11/22/86 of your examination a number of times. Your findings have been important to me in that they support conclusions I had reached in the protracted course of a study of Jane Duchene's terminal illnesses, primarily in their psychiatric aspects.

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EXHIBIT 9