

# Quackenbush Law Firm

July 22, 2016

**Hand Delivery**

Amarillo Police Department  
Chief of Police Ed Drain  
200 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Amarillo, Texas 79101

RE: Complaint of Police Abuse

Dear Chief Drain:

The purpose of this letter is to make a formal complaint about APD homicide detectives and/or officers involved in the recent investigation of the drowning death of 7-year-old California resident, Alexis Wartena. I am representing her parents and they have requested that I contact you regarding the conduct of APD officers.

Based on our preliminary investigation, it appears that APD detectives and officers suffered from tunnel vision and violated my clients Fourth Amendment right to be free from unconstitutional searches and seizures, as well as unlawful detention.

First, according to my clients, your officers and detectives ignored their request that they be allowed to continue their independent search efforts for their daughter. Instead, they were separated and interrogated for six hours. We now know that sometime during this six hours, their daughter struggled to survive in the pond just a few feet from the hotel room where their interrogations took place.

Secondly, during the police interrogations, the mother was repeatedly tortured emotionally by your officer's accusations of murdering her daughter. We now know, her daughter was not murdered and in fact died accidentally.

Third, your officers threatened and intimidated my clients with criminal prosecutions and loss of custody of their children unless they submitted hair, fingerprint and blood samples.

Fourth, all of their personal belongings were seized, probably without a warrant, and definitely without probable cause or consent. They were left with nothing. No toiletries. No phones. No clothes. NOTHING!

Fifth, your officers acted as catalyst for CPS to take my clients four other children from them by making false accusatory statements of neglect.

By the time your officers came back to continue their torturous interrogation of these grief stricken parents, I agreed to represent them. I instructed your officers that their ghoulis terror tactics were over and they were ordered to return all of my client's belongings immediately. They partially complied with my request and returned only some of their personal property.

It is my opinion that APD officers violated my clients' Constitutional rights by using unreasonable, excessive and unprecedented intimidation tactics and force and unlawfully detained them.

On behalf of the parents, please accept this as their formal complaint and request for an internal investigation of the referenced officers' and/or detectives' conduct.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Quackenbush', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jesse Quackenbush