

Child Injury Laws *Blog*

Authorities Look For Answers Following Teen's Death From Infection Following Routine Dental Procedure

*Posted by **Jonathan Rosenfeld** on February 14, 2011*

Like most teens, Christopher Schutzius probably liked his fair share of candy. After eating a piece of caramel and losing a filling, he went to a dentist to have the filling replaced. On February 1st, Christopher went to a dental clinic, Dental Dreams in Blue Island, IL for treatment.

After evaluating the dental exam, a dentist at the clinic decided that the crack in the tooth required a root canal surgery as opposed to a mere filling replacement.

However, days after the routine dental procedure, Christopher felt progressively worse and was eventually admitted to MetroSouth Medical Center. Shortly after he was admitted to the hospital Christopher died.

An investigation by the Cook County medical examiner concluded that Christopher died from a systemic infection, known as sepsis.

Currently, a more thorough investigation is underway by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to determine if there is indeed a correlation between his death from sepsis and the root canal.

Jonathan Rosenfeld offers legal services relating to: birth injuries, medical malpractice, day care abuse, foster care abuse, swimming pool injuries, automobile accidents, school bus accidents, dog bites, food poisoning, product liability, amusement park accidents and clergy abuse. For more information please visit Child Injury Laws Blog (<http://www.childinjurylaws.com/>) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757. (www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com.)

Infection following dental procedures

Dental infections are a fairly common type complication following various procedures. However, the use of common anti-biotics can be particularly helpful both in preventing infections from developing initially as well as treating infections locally.

If dental infections are not identified and treated on a localized basis, the infection can spread from the gum tissue through the body via the blood stream. When the infection spreads through the body, a systematic infection may develop known as sepsis. Sepsis can be difficult to treat and is commonly a cause of death.

Related:

[Death of teen after root canal surgery shocks family, community](#), Chicago Tribune, February 11, 2011

[In vitro Infection and of Dentinal Tubules \(Pdf\)](#) J Dent Res 66(8):1375–1379, August, 1987

[Acute dental trauma; Disease/Disorder overview](#), Dental IQ, February 1, 2011

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