



# State Attorney

**MARK A. OBER**

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**May 5, 2006**

### **INVESTIGATION REGARDING THE DEATH OF MARTIN LEE ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE ORDER 06-36 AND AMENDED EXECUTIVE ORDER 06-37**

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Governor of the State of Florida, I requested that Dr. Vernard Adams, the Hillsborough County Medical Examiner, conduct a medical investigation to determine the cause and manner of death, and to include a second autopsy as part of that investigation. On May 1, 2006, Dr. Adams completed his medical investigation and provided my office with a report of his findings. Dr. Adams has concluded that the cause of the death of Martin Anderson is suffocation due to occlusion of the mouth and inhalation of ammonia fumes.

I commend Dr. Adams and the staff of the Hillsborough County Medical Examiner Department for thoroughly and professionally investigating the medical issues in this case. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is also providing a great service to my office by assisting in the investigation of the many remaining factual components of this case. I assure the family of Martin Anderson and the people of the State of Florida that my office is working diligently to aggressively investigate all aspects of this case.

Once again I extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Martin Anderson. The criminal investigation I have been charged to perform includes complex factual, medical and legal issues. Therefore, I do not have a timeline for completing my investigation, but I will continue to conduct this investigation in an expeditious yet thorough manner. Since this is an ongoing criminal investigation, I will not make any further comments at this time.

Attached is a press release from Dr. Vernard Adams.

MARK A. OBER  
STATE ATTORNEY



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## PRESS RELEASE

### INVESTIGATION REGARDING DEATH OF MARTIN LEE ANDERSON

At the request of State Attorney Mark Ober, I performed the second autopsy on Martin Lee Anderson. In the course of this investigation I enlisted the aid of pathologists with expertise in cardiac pathology, neuropathology, and forensic pathology, as well as a pediatric critical care specialist and a pediatric hematologist.

I have spoken personally with the emergency room physician who took care of Martin in Panama City, and with the two critical care physicians who treated him in Pensacola.

The State Attorney's Office had the boot camp video enhanced by NASA to improve the contrast, reduce glare, and insert a digital clock. At my request, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office created a detailed timeline of events from the enhanced video.

I have reviewed all investigative reports as well as all known medical records for Martin Anderson. My opinions are based on all available information, including the video, police reports, medical records, and autopsy findings.

I have formed the following opinions:

- 1) Martin Anderson had sickle cell trait.
- 2) The repeated blows to Martin Anderson's limbs and the gripping of his limbs left several bruises but did not contribute to his death. In other words, he was not beaten to death.
- 3) Martin Anderson's death was caused by suffocation due to actions of the guards at the boot camp. The suffocation was caused by manual occlusion of the mouth, in concert with forced inhalation of ammonia fumes that caused spasm of the vocal cords resulting in internal blockage of the upper airway.

Because I am a witness and this is an ongoing investigation, I will not be answering any questions or making any further comments at this time.

Vernard I. Adams, M.D.

Chief Medical Examiner