



F15-09-MS

Daughter seeking closure on mother's death asks for ambulance report

An elderly woman who was taken to hospital by ambulance died there a few days later. To better understand what had happened, her daughter requested a copy of the ambulance crew report. The BC Ambulance Service withheld the report as an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy under s. 22 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA). The daughter asked us to review that decision.

The right to privacy does not end with a person's death. In fact, past OIPC orders have found that the right of privacy continues for up to 20 years after death. Moreover, the daughter would only have had the right of access to her deceased mother's personal information if she could demonstrate she was an "appropriate person" within the meaning of s. 5 of the FIPPA Regulation. This turned out to be unnecessary. During mediation, she told us that all she really wanted to know was whether her mother or someone else had dialled 911 for assistance. Once the Ambulance Service let her know that someone else had called 911 on her mother's behalf, the daughter considered the matter resolved.