

Coroner Rules In Missouri Police Chief's Death

News

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Posted on : 2014/1/27 4:41:28

(columbiatribune.com) - The Randolph County coroner issued the final ruling Thursday in the death in November of Huntsville Police Chief William "Buddy" Stuck.



Coroner Gerald Luntsford said he ruled Stuck's manner of death is "undetermined."

His final report will be finished sometime today.

Luntsford said he won't release further details on his findings.

The Randolph County Sheriff Department's ruling differs, calling Stuck's death an accident.

"I don't know what to do about that," Luntsford said. "I don't know how they came up with that report."

The coroner's decision becomes the official record on the cause of death, Luntsford said.

Randolph County Sheriff Mark Nichols said it comes down to "a difference in opinion."

"Our investigation indicated it was an accident, and with his investigation, he couldn't totally rule out that it was, but ultimately, it's his decision," Nichols said.

Nichols said he would not elaborate about why the department ruled Stuck's death an accident.

He said the department would need to consult with the county prosecutor first about whether to release those details.

Stuck died from a single gunshot wound to the abdomen suffered Nov. 27 at his home. The bullet entered through his lower abdomen and struck his aorta, and Stuck died within one to three minutes, Luntsford said in December.

Luntsford told the Tribune in November that Stuck's daughter was at home at the time of the shooting.

The police chief died before he could be taken to Moberly Regional Medical Center for treatment.