

Man died from blood loss following open fracture

DEPUTY State Pathologist Dr Michael Curtis told the family of a man who died in highly unusual circumstances when he bled to death after a fall that it was “difficult to say” if he would have died were he not on a blood-thinning medication.

Patrick Ormond (67), of Connolly Place, Waterford, died on February 10th after he suffered a compound open fracture and dislocation of his left ankle in the fall, which subsequently caused his death from blood loss.

The deceased had been previously fitted with a pacemaker and was on Warfarin, a blood thinning medication, his inquest was told last week.

Sister of the deceased Anne Sheridan said that her brother was due to visit her on the date in question for dinner but she was unable to contact him to arrange to collect him.

However, she finally called to the house that evening; she discovered a letter and money on the ground. She approached the kitchen area but found her brother laying at the foot of the stairs.

The deceased was seen walking in the nearby Barrack Street area earlier that day, returning home at 3pm.

Deputy State Pathologist Dr Michael Curtis said that Mr Ormond had died from blood loss caused by the open fracture.

When questioned by Patty Power, another sister to the deceased, with regards to the effect of Warfarin on the blood loss, Dr Curtis said that it was “difficult to say” from the pathology, if he would have bled to death were he not on the medication.

The deceased was found to have no alcohol in his blood, the Coroner’s Court heard.

City Coroner John Goff said that the case was “a complete accident with unusually severe circumstances”.

Mr Goff and Garda Inspector John Mulligan sympathised with the family of Mr Ormond.

Garda evidence suggests that there was no evidence of forced entry or a struggle in the case.