

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 27, 2022

Re: December 16, 2021 incident at Kayfield II Academy and subsequent death of 13 month old child, Shivani Jishnu

Recent media coverage identified a forced temporary shutdown of Kayfield II Academy following the death of a 13-month-old student. The student's name was Shivani Jishnu.

To be clear, the family of Shivani did not initiate any media contact and had no role in the initial reports regarding the academy or the loss of their daughter. They are tendering this release in response to the news stories and to clarify certain questions that have come up since the stories were published.

Shivani became unresponsive in her classroom at Kayfield II in the late afternoon of December 16, 2021. According to treating doctors, it appears she went without oxygen for more than 20 minutes before being rushed by EMS to Norton's Children's Hospital. Shivani remained admitted there on life support in the ICU for three weeks. Shivani's parents are so appreciative of all the heroic efforts of the first responders and those at Norton Children's Hospital, as all of them fought so hard to try and save their daughter's life. Shivani, however, ultimately passed away on January 7, 2021.

The family continues to mourn the loss of their daughter. They have patiently waited for information that will help them understand why she went without oxygen for over twenty minutes at the academy. Currently, however, there are more questions than answers on these matters. Shivani's family would appreciate anyone with information, regardless of whether it may appear important or not, coming forward.

It is our understanding that the individual who was responsible for Shivani's care and supervision in the school left the country in late December and has not returned. So information from others is even more critical than it would be if this witness were here.

It has been disappointing to see a substantial amount of misinformation presented by Kayfield II since Shivani was found unresponsive. This information includes the following:

- Records show that emergency responders were advised by Kayfield workers that Shivani was found unresponsive while napping. Doctors were also given this history. But in actuality, it was more than two hours after nap time had ended when EMS was called. It appears that perhaps this inaccurate information was then corrected when pressed by investigators. This does not cure the false statements made to medical professionals at a time when an accurate and complete history of information was critical.
- For weeks following Shivani's hospital admission, Kayfield II continuously advised parents and staff, as well as the public through posts on social media, that Shivani

was recovering nicely and was stable. The truth is that Shivani was never able to regain breathing ability on her own and was never removed from life support.

- Kayfield II has, for years, sold itself on a promise of transparency: administrators tout that cameras are present in all rooms of the school and are always recording, thereby allowing parents to have access to their child's classroom experience. Now, however, Kayfield II indicates that there is no video footage of Shivani's classroom for the date of the incident. Specifically, the academy claims that there is no storage or footage recorded by the camera in that room. The academy did, however, promptly produce footage of Shivani in a different room where CPR was attempted.
- Kayfield II was ultimately shut down for a short period of time. The academy has since repeatedly stated to parents and community members that the sole reason for the shutdown was a staff member showing up ten minutes late. We have questions regarding the legitimacy of this claim, especially given the school's documented history of identified infractions during state inspections and the timing of the shutdown.

Ultimately, Shivani's family wants to know what happened to cause their beautiful, happy and healthy one year old without to be deprived of oxygen for over twenty minutes. Shivani had no known pre-existing medical conditions that would have caused this. This sort of incident does not just happen without an underlying reason. There must be more to this situation than the very little information that was given by officials at Kayfield II.

The family is aware of the various agencies conducting their own investigations into the matter and is thankful for the continued efforts of the LMPD homicide division, the Office of Child Care Regulation, and CPS to get answers.

The family is also appreciative of the many heartfelt thoughts, words and prayers that have been extended by so many within our community.

No lawsuits have been filed on this matter. Attorneys have been retained to be points of contact during the family's continued mourning and to help facilitate an independent investigation into the circumstances causing Shivani's loss of oxygen at the academy. All information is appreciated.

Questions on this matter may be directed to attorney Terry Goodspeed at 502-552-3812.

Sincerely,

Terry Goodspeed and Sam Aguiar,
On Behalf of the family of Shivani Jishnu