

Raynard Johnson
Death Investigation
Update for Media

Talking Points

- Good morning. Thank you for joining us this morning.
- I am joined this morning by the Commissioner of Public Safety, David Huggins; the Chief of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, Colonel L. M. Claiborne and Dr. Michael Baden, a board certified Forensic Pathologist.
- We would like to extend our sympathies to the Johnson family in the death of their son Raynard, as we do to every family in the state that loses a loved one.
- Our thanks to each of the people standing with me today, and commend them for the hard work and attention to detail they have invested in the death investigation of Raynard Johnson.
- We would also like to extend our thanks to the Marion County Sheriff's Department, District Attorney Buddy McDonald, the United States District Attorney's office, the Federal Bureau of

Investigation and the officers of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety who have been intricately involved in this investigation.

- Throughout the investigation process I received daily briefings about findings in the case from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.
- I have said from the beginning of the investigation that it would be premature for us to make a statement regarding the death of Mr. Johnson until the state's part of the investigation was complete.
- We will continue to assist local and national officials and agencies in this case as they continue to explore every possible lead.
- I can assure you that, as with all investigations, if new information surfaces in this case, we will investigate it to the fullest extent.
- Colonel L. M. Claiborne will now make some comments about the findings of this case.
- (Claiborne)

- Thank you Colonel Claiborne.
- As you well know, two autopsies were performed on Mr. Johnson both concluding that his death was the result of a suicide.
- We have asked yet another expert to review the case.
- At my request, Dr. Michael Baden has come to the state to assist us in our investigation.
- Dr. Baden, we thank you for assisting the State of Mississippi in this case, and I would ask that you come forward to make any comments you would like to the media.
- (Dr. Baden)
- Thank you Dr. Baden.
- Law enforcement in Mississippi did it right.
- And state and local leaders in Mississippi did it right.

- We do not appreciate any national figure coming into our state and conducting a smear campaign without having the facts first.
- This smear campaign is an indictment of our people
- And our people are black and white.
- Our law enforcement is black and white.
- Our state leadership is black and white.
- The future of Mississippi is black and white.
- We have heard the facts and as I stated before, we will continue to assist local and national officials and agencies in this case if we are needed, and I can assure you that, as with all investigations, if new information surfaces in this case, we will investigate it to the fullest extent.
- The fact remains that we have a family in Kokomo who have endured a tragedy. Our hearts go out to this family as it does to every family in this state who has lost a child.

