

EDGAR COUNTY CORONER

600 East Court Street
Paris, Illinois 61944

W. PETER TEMPLETON
CORONER

PHONE 217-466-9090

INFORMATION RELEASE EDGAR COUNTY CORONER

4:15 p.m. 30 September 2015

The cause of a 27 August 2015 death of an Edgar County Jail inmate has been ruled as morphine intoxication.

Michelle L. Hamilton, 46, of Paris, was reportedly "alert, coherent, and cooperative" at the time of her arrest at around 8:30 p.m. on 26 August, according to Paris Police. At 4:41 a.m. on the 27th, Hamilton was found to be unresponsive in the holding cell of the Edgar County Jail. Hamilton was transported via ambulance to the emergency room of Paris Community Hospital where death was pronounced at 5:17 a.m.

An autopsy performed 28 August 2015 by Terre Haute, Indiana forensic pathologist Roland Kohr, M.D., was inconclusive pending toxicology analysis. The toxicology report, completed 25 September, revealed a blood morphine concentration of 398 ng/ml. The therapeutic blood concentration range for morphine is 10-80 ng/ml.

Manner of death has yet to be determined pending the ongoing death investigation by the Coroner and the Illinois State Police.