

July 20, 1999

FROM:

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"JUST FOR JOSH"

My name is Myrna Parks. I am not here in any professional capacity. I'm here to tell you about my son Josh Parks. He was 23 years old when he passed away July 4th of this year. His death is under investigation and we don't know the cause of death at this time.

Josh came to live with us April of this year and he was very sick, his saliva glands had quit working, he was suffering from diarrhea and vomiting. He had lost 10 lbs. in four days. His resting pulse was 120, normal is 71. Josh continued to suffer from insomnia and bouts of sleep apnea. He had had four emergency care visits prior to coming home ill.

I saw how my son suffered not realizing at first how the supplements he took to bodybuild, what he said were growth hormone supplements were actually making him so sick. He said to me, "Mom, how can they be bad for me? I buy them at the nutrition stores."

On April 26th I witnessed a severe poisoning from a new growth hormone product NRG-3, which later we read on the label as containing 5 mg. tetra-methelene glycol purchased at the supplement store. These stores were advised by the FDA not to carry these products as of January 1999, but they continued to stock and sell them.

I had gone with Josh to his Doctor's office where he was to have blood taken to try to determine his illness. His Doctor at that time suspicioned he had a thyroid problem. He was released to go back to work, light duty and he was going to go workout after he dropped me off. What occurred next is a hideous nightmare.

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Josh was driving and he said to me, "I'm hungry as a hippo" and he pulled into MacDonal'd's. I waited in the car. I watched him eat his fries and thought something is not right, I said,"Josh, you're not acting right I'm going to drive." I didn't get two blocks and he started to sweat, his body began to jerk and spasm and he began to wave his arm out the window. His eyes looked wild and dialated, he couldn't speak. Had he been alone he would have had a serious car accident and other innocent people would have pssibly been hurt. As it was I drove him back to his Doctor's office and they called 911. Josh was taken to the hospital where he became progressively worse. There was no mental response, he couldn't be layed down because he would gag on his own saliva. They kept him partially sitting up so that he would drool down his chest. His eyes would roll back in his head and it seemed to me my son was dying and if not that I might have a vegetable to take home and care for. But, let me say this, I would have taken a shell home, whatever God would let me keep. Josh continued to lapse in and out of a coma like sleep. The Doctors kept asking me, "What did he take?" All I could tell them, whatever it was he purchased it at the health food store. He had purchased Renutrient and Firewater for his bodybuilding. The toxiology reports showed no drugs in his system. As he slowly began to regain consciousness he showed infantile responses. He would giggle and reach out for his I.V. I couldn't leave him alone for fear he would harm himself. This entire nightmare lasted 4to 5 hours. On the way home Josh began to remember what had occurred prior to his poisoning. He remembered going to the supplement store and told the sales clerk he was going to go workout and the clerk advised his that NRG-3 was new and great stuff, just take 1 oz. with 8 ounces of water or juice. He said it tasted terrible and made him sick. On the warning label it read, "Do not injest this is a cleaning solution".

You would think this is the end of my story but its not. Josh was convinced he had gotten a bad batch. On Memorial weekend we came home Saturday night to find my son difficult to wake. His eyes again were dialated and he began to lapse in and out of a coma like condition. We again called 911. This time I could tell the Doctors and Nurses what I thought it was, a "GHB" precursor. Blood tests and urine tests showed no drugs in his system. We waited for Josh to wake up..I remember the Nurse saying to Josh, "Next time you won't wake up". She was right. Josh was upset and embarassed that I had over-reacted and called 911. I now know why, the products say to just sleep it off and not to call 911 emergency help could be dangerous. Just let the people around you know you will be hard to awaken.

When we had Josh's wake many of his friends told me how they had fallen asleep while driving, some had be resusitated by emergency help, they told me it took them two weeks to get off of it, how they had spent thousands or dollars to purch~~ase~~ it, how ~~th~~ey wanted to crawl out ~~their~~ skin with withdrawl symptoms. They know this is a drug. They asked me "How can this be sold at a nutrition store" aren't there laws against this?

All of them said "we didn't know how bad it was" its not what the advertising says.

Josh fell asleep and he never woke up. How many more of our babies will fall ~~asleep~~ and never wake up?

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