



Family Resource, Information & Education Network
for Down Syndrome • Frederick County, Maryland



June 5, 2013

Public Statement

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. response to NDSS and NDSC joint statement, June 5, 2013

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is in 100% agreement with NDSS and NDSC and their statement, we encourage all members of the Down syndrome community to exercise your freedom of speech and contact Governor O'Malley's office and push for an independent investigate into the Ethan Saylor case.

It is extremely tragic that we as a community lost Ethan and even more tragic that it happened within the custody of law enforcement. There must be accountability, even if the officers were off duty and now it must take all of us to force that accountability, so please, do your civic duty and contact the Governors' office immediately.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. has been in contact with the Saylor family and as their local affiliate, we will support them every way possible. There has been so much talk and speculation about the details of Ethan's death and the legal system has yet to present any documents outside the autopsy report. We all know there must be additional paperwork and it needs to be brought to light in fairness to Ethan and his family.

What can you do? Take action now; email, fax, and/or call Governor Martin O'Malley of Maryland to demand an independent investigation into the death of Ethan Saylor.

Call Script Talking Points

Governor Martin O'Malley

Toll-Free 800-811-8336

Office: 410-974-3901

- Hello, I am (state name and where you live). I am a (parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt/uncle, teacher, friend) of a person with Down syndrome. I am calling about Ethan Saylor, a man with Down syndrome who died while at The Regal Westview Movie Theaters in Frederick, Maryland in January.
- I am requesting an independent investigation into Ethan's death, so the facts can come out and those responsible can be appropriately prosecuted.
- While waiting for his support staff to retrieve their car after the movie, Ethan decided he wanted to remain for another showing. He verbalized to the Officers his intent to remain and refused to leave his seat. The Officers attempted to physically remove him from the theater. He was restrained face-down by three plain-clothes officers moonlighting as mall security. Ethan died from asphyxiation from a crushed larynx while handcuffed. His senseless and avoidable death was ruled a homicide by the Maryland Medical Examiner. The Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) and The Office of the Frederick County State's Attorney neglected to conduct a thorough

investigation of the facts involving the case. A Grand Jury was convened but failed to hand down an indictment against the officers involved.

- Despite the Sheriff's own public comment that the internal investigation has been completed and the officers have returned to full duty, the FCSO refuses to release investigation results to the family's attorney, despite numerous written requests. Ethan's death was senseless and entirely avoidable.

Email/Fax Template

Governor Martin O'Malley

Email: governor@gov.state.md.us

Fax: 410-974-3275

Dear Governor O'Malley:

I am writing as a (*parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt/uncle, teacher, friend*) of a person with Down syndrome regarding Ethan Saylor, a man with Down syndrome who died while at The Regal Westview Movie Theater in Frederick, Maryland in January. I am requesting an independent investigation into Ethan's death, so the facts can come out and those responsible can be appropriately prosecuted. Despite the Sheriff's own public comment that the internal investigation has been completed and the officers have returned to full duty, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office refuses to release investigation results to the family's attorney, despite numerous written requests.

While waiting for his support staff to retrieve their car after the movie, Ethan refused to leave his seat. He was restrained face-down by three plain-clothes officers moonlighting as mall security. Ethan died from a crushed larynx while handcuffed. His senseless death was ruled a homicide, but the Frederick County Sheriff and Prosecutor neglected to conduct a thorough investigation of the facts and the grand jury refused to indict. The prosecuting attorney's office refuses to turn the results of the investigation over to the family's attorney. Ethan's death was senseless and entirely avoidable.

Sincerely,

[Insert contact information]

Finally, in a collaborative effort, F.R.I.E.N.D.S., NDSS, NDSC, Kennedy-Krieger Institute, and the Department of Justice are working toward a comprehensive training program that can be delivered to all law enforcement officials across the United States. This task will not happen overnight, but will happen sooner than later. We will keep everyone posted on any updates concerning this training on our website and Facebook.