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**WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUIT FILED BY LORNA MCMURREY’S FAMILY
AGAINST TRULIEVE AND HVAC CONTRACTORS**

SPRINGFIELD, MA – November 21, 2023 – The family of Lorna McMurrey has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Hampden County Superior Court as a result of 27-year-old Lorna McMurrey’s tragic and preventable death due to an occupational asthma attack caused by exposure to cannabis dust and mold while working in Trulieve Cannabis Corp.’s marijuana processing and production facility in Holyoke, Massachusetts. The lawsuit alleges negligence, gross negligence, recklessness and willful and wanton misconduct against Trulieve Cannabis Corp., and its subsidiaries (together “Trulieve”), a Trulieve Northeast Environmental Health and Safety Manager, and the contractors hired by Trulieve to design and install the HVAC system at the Holyoke Trulieve Facility. Specifically, it alleges that the Trulieve Defendants, as owners and/or operators of the Facility, as well as their employee, Northeast Environmental Health and Safety Manager, failed to create and/or implement policies, practices, and procedures to minimize the risks of exposure to airborne cannabis dust and/ mold inside the Facility. In addition, the Defendants negligently designed and installed the HVAC system, which failed to properly ventilate the Facility, and often leaked, causing mold to grow on the cannabis product.

At the time of her death, Lorna was employed by Life Essence, Inc., and worked in the “Pre-roll” production room as a technician. Part of Lorna’s job was to pick up the cannabis product and feed it into the grinding machines which took place in a small production room with

four other grinding machines in operation. While in the production room, the cannabis dust and mold from the cannabis covered workers from head to toe.

Less than two months before her death, on November 9, 2021, Lorna suffered an asthma attack while working in the “Pre-roll” production room precipitated by significant exposure to cannabis, especially airborne cannabis dust and/or mold particles, in large part due to the failures of the HVAC system at the Facility and lack of safety protocols. This first asthma attack required emergency transport by ambulance to the hospital for medical treatment.

Trulieve was aware of this incident, but took no steps to protect Lorna following her first collapse while inside the Facility. Trulieve did not provide or require Lorna’s employer, Life Essence, to comply with proper safety plans, policies or procedures for workers suffering from occupational asthma. Trulieve also failed to provide Life Essence with effective information and training to workers on hazardous materials they were exposed to such as ground cannabis and mold. Due to these failures, Lorna returned to work the next day to her same position as a technician in the “Pre-roll” production room.

Tragically, on January 4, 2022, Lorna was again working in the “Pre-roll” production room when she began experiencing serious difficulty breathing and collapsed for a second time. She was rushed to the hospital by ambulance. Despite extensive and exhaustive medical treatment over the course of three days, Lorna never regained consciousness, and passed away on January 7, 2022.

Lorna’s mother, Laura Bruneau, was by her daughter’s side throughout these final three days in the hospital, enduring numerous tests and procedures, and ultimately her daughter’s death. “Trulieve needs to be held accountable. It was their job to protect Lorna. Lorna was my life. This company took my whole life away from me. You can't have the big cannabis industry come into Massachusetts and not protect Lorna and other workers,” said Laura Bruneau. In one of Lorna’s final text messages to her mother on January 4, 2022, she said, “This place doesn’t care about people, just money.”

Trulieve is a publicly traded, multi-million-dollar cannabis company with headquarters in Florida and facilities across the country. Trulieve has been described as the “World’s Largest Legal Marijuana Seller,” according to Barron’s, with an estimated 2023 revenue of \$1.6 billion.

Lorna graduated from Westfield High School in 2013, and lived in West Springfield most of her life. She was very caring to her many friends, and loved spending time outdoors in nature. Lorna was an animal lover at heart, and took care of her of her cherished animals, her dog

“Evee” and her cat “Sophie.”

According to Jeremy M. Carroll, one of the attorneys working on behalf of Lorna McMurrey’s family, “The Defendants in this burgeoning industry failed to develop and implement appropriate safety polices across its facilities throughout the United States, including its Holyoke Facility. Had they done so, Lorna McMurrey would be alive today. Lorna’s family now seeks accountability from Trulieve and its contractors for their clear disregard for worker safety, in hopes of preventing such needless loss for other families.”

If anyone has information about this incident or about Trulieve, please contact Attorney Jeremy Carroll at Meehan, Boyle, Black & Bogdanow.

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