

## Ashley Smith lawyer glad 1st inquest scrapped

Oct 1, 2011



*An inquest into Ashley Smith's death that began in May, four years after she asphyxiated herself in a Kitchener, Ont., cell, has now been shut down. Courtesy of Smith family*

The lawyer representing the family of Ashley Smith says the Ontario Coroner's office decision to shut down the inquest into her death is an important step.

Smith was the Moncton, N.B., teenager who was transferred between correctional institutions 17 times before taking her own life in an Ontario prison in 2007.

The inquest into her death began in the spring, but encountered repeated delays.

Lawyer Julian Falconer had been [arguing for a mistrial since a new coroner, John Carlisle, took over in September](#).

"Rather than trying to bring back that which was limping along, it simply made more sense to turn a fresh page," Falconer said Saturday. "From the family's perspective, this is a fresh inquest, a fresh coroner, and hopefully a fresh perspective."

[On Friday the coroner ordered an entirely new inquest](#) because of the delays and extensive legal challenges.

Falconer said a new inquest would speed up the process.

"Ultimately, the foundation upon which the original inquest started and has been limping along is extremely defective. So the hope is that we can pick a jury within two weeks, and we can get this thing off the ground."

As of now, no date has been selected to begin the new inquest.