

# Attorney Defends Michael Jackson's Doctor

By Anne Lang and Oliver Jones

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After days of speculation about his role in the final hours and death of Michael Jackson, the superstar's personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, has spoken out through his lawyer.

Ed Chernoff, the doctor's Houston-based attorney, tells PEOPLE his client valiantly tried to save the singer's life – and never injected him with Demerol or prescribed OxyContin.

"If it turns out that Michael had OxyContin in his stomach, it had nothing to do with Dr. Murray," says Chernoff.

## Frantic Efforts

On June 24, he says, his client was asked by Jackson to spend the night at the singer's house following Jackson's rehearsal for his new tour at the Staples Center. The next day, when Jackson did not emerge from his bedroom before noon, Murray entered the room and found the singer unconscious – but with a faint pulse.

"Dr. Murray began performing CPR for several minutes as he tried to revive him, unsuccessfully," Chernoff tells PEOPLE.

Chernoff says Murray – who met Jackson in 2006 when he treated one of his children in Las Vegas and did not become the singer's personal physician until May – tried to call 911, but because of security arrangements at the house, was unable to get a line out. Murray thought of using his cellphone, but realized he didn't know the address of Jackson's house, according to Chernoff. Instead, he screamed for help.

"With Michael still on the bed, he put one hand under Michael's back for support and compressing with his other hand. He continued to check the pulse, and the pulse remained," says Chernoff.

## A Shot to the Heart

When nobody replied to his urgent cries for help, Murray located a chef in the kitchen. A member of Jackson's security detail finally called for help.

After the ambulance arrived, says Chernoff, Murray spoke to doctors at UCLA, who instructed the paramedics to administer an epinephrine shot directly to Jackson's heart in an attempt to revive him.

"Michael continued to have a pulse," says Chernoff, even as he was taken out of the house and put in the ambulance for the trip to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 2:26 that afternoon.

Chernoff said that Murray consoled the family as they arrived in the hospital that afternoon, and

advised them to have an autopsy done before they signed a death certificate. Later that day, Murray, who at that point was "emotionally and physically exhausted," according to Chernoff, spoke to the police for more than three hours.

Then, on the advice of his lawyer, the doctor turned off his cellphone and avoided the press.

According to Chernoff, Murray gave up two cardiac practices, one in Las Vegas and the other in Houston, to attend to Jackson and accompany him to London for his series of summer concerts there.

# Michael Jackson's Doctor to Skip Memorial

By Anne Lang and Mike Fleeman

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Michael Jackson's private physician is in seclusion, not speaking even with family and friends, and won't attend the singer's memorial next week, the doctor's rep tells PEOPLE.

"He will be mourning in private because he feels his presence would remind people of Michael Jackson's death, and the doctor would prefer that people remember his friend as he was in life," says Miranda Sevcik, a spokeswoman for Dr. Conrad Murray.

Police have questioned Murray about his treatment of Jackson. The doctor, hired by the promoter of Jackson's planned London concert series this summer, was with the entertainer when he was stricken June 25 at his Los Angeles home.

Jackson was later pronounced dead at the hospital at age 50. Plans are being set for a memorial Tuesday at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Murray has declined to comment publicly on his care of Jackson, pending the outcome of toxicology tests, though his rep confirms that the doctor believes he is still owed \$300,000 from the concert promoter for work since May 1. The rep would not give the whereabouts of Murray, who has practiced in Texas, Nevada and California.

The physician is "completely off the radar until the toxicology results are revealed," says Sevcik. "He's not even talking to friends and family, and I haven't even spoken to him personally, either."

# Michael Jackson Investigation Focusing on Manslaughter

By Mike Fleeman

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Authorities are investigating whether Michael Jackson's death was a case of manslaughter, according to a search warrant served on the offices of the entertainer's doctor.

The search of Dr. Conrad Murray's clinic in Houston was conducted Wednesday morning by agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration, two detectives from the LAPD's Robbery Homicide division and officers from the Houston Police Department, according to Murray's attorney.

"We reviewed the warrant and remained on the premises while the search was being executed," says Murray's lawyer Ed Chernoff in a statement. "The search warrant authorized law enforcement to search for and seize items, including documents, they believed constituted evidence of the offense of manslaughter."

Among the items taken were a "forensic image of a business computer hard drive" and 21 documents. "None of the documents taken had previously been requested by law enforcement or the L.A. Coroner's office," says Chernoff.

Murray, who was with Jackson when he was stricken last month at home, has denied any wrongdoing and has said he's cooperating with authorities.

As part of the investigation, the L.A. coroner also has subpoenaed Jackson's medical records from his former nutritionist, Cherilyn Lee, who worked with him from January to April this year, according to Lee's rep, Belinda Foster. Authorities interviewed Lee on Wednesday about conversations she had with Jackson.

• Reporting by ANNE LANG

# Tense Waiting Game for Michael Jackson's Doctor

By Ken Lee and Anne Lang

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What drugs were in Michael Jackson's system at the time of his death?

The L.A. coroner's pending toxicology report – expected to answer that key question any day now – may hold the fate of Dr. Conrad Murray, the singer's personal physician. Murray was with Jackson on the day he died and is the apparent focus of a manslaughter investigation.

According to Los Angeles County Department of Coroner Chief Investigator Craig Harvey, the long-awaited autopsy report will be released within days. "We anticipate releasing it this week," Harvey said July 27. "We still have details to work out."

## 'In the Dark'

Miranda Sevcik, spokesperson for Murray's attorney Ed Chernoff, says they're "in the dark" as to whether an arrest of Murray is imminent, even as news reports increasingly point to potentially serious trouble for the Houston-based physician.

On Monday, CNN and the Associated Press reported investigators believe Murray was the person who injected Jackson with the powerful anesthesia Propofol the night before the entertainer died. Jackson regularly used the drug to help him sleep, according to media reports.

Murray's rep has declined to comment on whether he had administered Propofol to Jackson. The only two drugs Murray has denied prescribing for Jackson are Demerol and OxyContin. In response to media reports about Murray, his lawyer posted the following statement on his Web site Monday night:

"It's a waste of time responding to all these timed 'leaks' from 'anonymous' sources," Ed Chernoff wrote. "I feel like a horse swatting flies. Everyone needs to take a breath and wait for these long delayed toxicology results. I have no doubt they want to make a case for goodness sakes, its Michael Jackson! But things tend to shake out when all the facts are made known, and I'm sure that will happen here as well."

## Another Search?

Authorities have twice interviewed Murray and sought a third session with him, which has not yet been set. They also raided his Houston clinic on July 22, which Murray's camp said came as a surprise. His rep didn't know whether a similar search of the doctor's offices in Las Vegas would occur.

"Obviously investigators are not sharing details with us about their plans, as evidenced by what happened last week," Sevcik says. "Like everyone else, we're awaiting the results of the toxicology tests, and at that point, we'll assess what we need to do."