Acadia Parish man dies of AIDS

Acadiana bureau

RAYNE — A 23-year-old man who contracted Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome from a blood transfusion died here Saturday at his home, officials said.

His death was the first known AIDS-related fatality in Acadia Parish, according to Dr. Mark Dawson, Acadia Parish coroner.

The state now has a known total of 89 AIDS-related deaths, according to Janice Simms, spokeswoman for the state Department of Health and Human Resources. A total of 63 living individuals are known to have AIDS in Louisiana, she said.

She confirmed that the case is the only known AIDS-related death from Acadia Parish, but she would not release any further details.

Dawson said the victim contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion several years ago in New Orleans.

The victim, who was married, died at his residence Saturday night, the coroner said.

Dawson said the victim wasn’t treated at the Rayne-Branch Hospital until the weekend prior to his death. All precautions were taken to prevent transmission of the disease to anyone who treated or assisted the man while he was ill, the coroner said.

Previously, the man had received treatment for AIDS at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and the University Medical Center in Lafayette, Dawson said.

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