



**DROWNING
PREVENTION WEEK**

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WITNESS STATEMENT

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WITNESS STATEMENT

The following statement is based on the facts of a real drowning. The names of the friends have been changed to protect their identities.

WITNESS NAME:

Zack Brown

INCIDENT:

Death of Sandeep Kumar (drowning suspected)

OTHER INFORMATION:

Zack Brown is a friend of Sandeep Kumar and was with him at the time of the incident

STATEMENT:

We all met up at Sandeep's house at about 11.00 or 11.30, and we didn't really have anything to do so we went into town to just waste a bit of time there for a while. We were in town till about 2.00, and after we had something to eat we decided to go and pick up our bikes so we could head out to the Old Mill Path to go on the mud ramps that are there. So we all split up to get our bikes and met back up at the start of the path, so it was probably around 3.00 by then.

It takes about 30 minutes to ride up the path as far as the ramps, and there were loads of people walking up there because it was a good day, so it took a while to get past them all on the path.

After we'd been on the ramps for a while it was so hot we were ready to head back into town for a drink, but Sandeep said we should go for a swim on the way back, in the pools that are at the top of the path where the stream is a bit deeper.

So we all jumped in and everyone was fine and having a laugh, and then one of the boys, Ben I think it was said, where's Sandeep? We all thought it was a joke, I thought he was holding his breath under the water, and when he didn't come up we even started looking behind trees for him. We didn't believe that he was in the water, because he was fine just a minute ago.

Then we saw that his t-shirt, phone, and trainers were still by his bike and thought he must still be in the water. I just felt sick, but we all jumped in and started feeling around for him. It's only just over your head in one area, and most of the pool is really shallow, like you touch the floor when you jump in so it's not deep, not deep enough to drown, or disappear.

When we couldn't find him everyone started shouting, "where is he", "what do we do" and stuff. Ben knows the passcode for Sandeep's phone, so he got out and used it to phone Sandeep's dad. He just said "he's gone, we can't find him, we were in the pool at the top of the Old Mill Path, and he's gone". The Ben said, "he just hung up", what do we do now?

Then his dad phoned back and said he had called an ambulance and he was coming too, but we had keep looking for him because it takes ages to get to the top of the path. So we all jumped in again but we knew that we had already checked everywhere because it's so small.

We were all sat on the ground when his dad arrived on Sandeep's brother's bike. He could hardly breathe, he smokes a lot and it's up hill all the way, and he was crazy, shouting "where is he?", and he jumped straight in and started coughing on the water himself because he was so out of breath.

We jumped back in again, because we couldn't leave him looking on his own, but we knew Sandeep wasn't there, we just felt horrible, like we had to do something, but we knew it was pointless.

WITNESS STATEMENT

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After ages the ambulance and police turned up on foot, they must have parked all the way at the top car park and walked down. They started looking after us, we were shivering by then but why weren't they looking for Sandeep? They said that the Fire Service and a Dive Team would have to look for him.

Sandeep's dad was like a total wreck, crying, shouting, shivering. I think he was sick too. They took him to the ambulance first, and then us, there were other ambulances for us, so I didn't see him again. Is he alright? Have you found Sandeep? I can't think of anything else to say, it's just the worst thing ever. It took ages for the ambulance to come, they couldn't get up the path.

END OF STATEMENT

WITNESS SIGNATURE:

Zack Brown

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Sandeep Kumar's body was recovered from an overflow pipe running from the pool to the stream by the Police Dive Team at 8.30pm. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Drowning is suspected pending the Coroner's report.