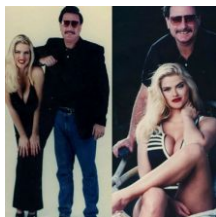


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By: Elena Gorgan, Entertainment News Editor



UPDATE: Anna Nicole Smith's Lawyer Talks about a History of Drug Abuse

Former attorney hints about the probable cause of Anna's death

Anna Nicole Smith's body is not even cold yet and more people are trying to get their share of the spotlight, by releasing press statements with personal details of the troubled and tragic life of the 'Playboy' model. That she lived isolated in the Bahamas, that she was involved not in one but in several lawsuits and that her definition of 'life' was in strong contrast with the rest of the world's is something that we already knew. What we didn't know, however, was the fact that Anna was having problems with alcohol and, apparently, drugs, problems with which she had been struggling almost her entire life. At least, that is what a person who has been close to her (it is yet unclear at what stage their relationship was at the time of her death), the attorney who defended her in the infamous trial over J. Howard Marshall's estate and who first got her \$800 million. Later, another judge took that money away from Smith and she was still fighting the family of her late (and very old) husband for her share of the inheritance. Speaking with gossip and news website TMZ, Lenard Leeds revealed a past history of drug abuse and alcohol-related problems, something that the tabloids have been speculating since her 21-year-old son, Daniel, died by her hospital bed (cause of death: overdose), a couple of months ago. Leeds speaks about Anna's fluctuating weight and about how she used to lose pounds by starving herself, drinking and possibly doing drugs. He says she had 'so many, so many problems' and such a 'very troubled life' that it would be hard even to attempt to describe it. Speaking in reference to Anna's recent television interviews, in which she came off to many as heavily sedated or drugged-up, Leeds claims that he has knowledge that it happened because she was self-medicating. This would confirm what the tabloids have been writing about for months now, meaning, that she was self-medicating with painkillers her depression stemming from her son's death. 'Undoubtedly, it will be found at the end of the day that drugs featured in her death as they did in the death of poor Daniel. She wanted to be like Marilyn Monroe her whole life and ironically died in a similar manner', Leeds told TMZ. A police investigation is now under way to establish the exact cause of death (there is also the possibility that she might have died of heart failure). Stay tuned her for more information.