

From: [S Eppard](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: My son died from Kratom/mitragynone, not 7-oh.
Date: Monday, December 8, 2025 4:55:22 PM
Attachments: [Matthew's autopsy.pdf](#)

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I support banning all forms of kratom.

My 22 year old son Matthew Eller died from whole leaf Kratom Powder (the least potent form of Kratom available in the United States). Kratom caused him to have a seizure, go into cardiac arrest and die. His toxicology showed he died from the “TOXIC effects of Mitragynine” an alkaloid found only in Kratom. He had no prescription drugs, no street drugs nor alcohol in his system when he died, and his autopsy showed he had no underlying health conditions. It’s important to note my son didn’t die from 7-OH/7-hydroxymitragynine.

Kratom is NOT routinely tested for post Mortem as many users hide their usage, and even when family knows about it they don’t likely think to ask it be tested for because it’s advertised as a safe herb.

*News Channel 9 ABC News: WALKER COUNTY, Ga. - “Several middle school students in Walker County were hospitalized after eating gummies that authorities first described as containing an “unknown substance.” School officials now say the substance has been identified as kratom.” <https://newschannel9.com/news/local/walker-county-students-hospitalized-after-ingesting-kratom-at-school-officials-say> (The Kratom Consumer Protection Act is in full effect in Georgia with age restrictions in place, but didn’t stop children from getting it and overdosing).

*Bonneville County Coroner’s Office Public Warning of Kratom Use. **Kratom-Related Deaths Skyrocket in Bonneville County**

In the last 18 months, the Bonneville County Coroner’s Office has investigated six Kratom-related deaths. A staggering four of these fatalities were determined to be solely due to acute drug toxicity of mitragynine – the primary active compound in Kratom, not 7-OH.

<https://bonnevillesheriff.com/bonneville-county-coroners-office-public-warning-of-kratom-use/>

Tampa Bay Times; Deadly Dose: “A Tampa Bay Times investigation found that more than 580 people in Florida have died from kratom-related overdoses during the past decade — even as the industry has touted the safety of its products. Most of the deaths were caused by a fatal mixture of kratom and at least one other substance, but 46 people overdosed solely on the herb.” <https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-overdose-deaths-florida-mitragynine-testing/>

The FDA has conducted studies and found “disturbingly” high levels of heavy metals, including lead and nickel, in many kratom products. These levels were determined to exceed safe exposure limits for oral daily intake, especially with chronic use. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/laboratory-analysis-kratom-products-heavy-metals>

*You likely received many emails and phone calls of people saying “Kratom is a wonder drug”, but keep in mind there are 1000’s of Kratom dealers in the United States, and the American Kratom Association/AKA shoots out emails to them for every Kratom legislation they become aware of. I have watched nearly every government meeting on Kratom since my son died in 2021, and nearly all pro Kratom people profit from the sale of Kratom.

*Those profiting from the sale of kratom are using the clever age old tactic of pointing the finger at something else such as 7-hydroxymitragynine (also known as 7-OH) to distract from the fact that people have been dying from whole leaf Kratom long before 2023 when 7-OH hit the market. My son died in 2021 from kratom powder (ground up leaves from a kratom tree).

Mitragynine is the major active alkaloid of *Mitragyna speciosa* (kratom). In mice, this compound is converted to an active metabolite, 7-hydroxymitragynine, which mediates its analgesic effect via the mu-opioid receptor. My Son Matthew died from Mitragynine, he did NOT die from 7-OH.

*Banning 7-OH and keeping kratom leaves legal, the main ingredient make it is like putting a bandaid over a bullet hole. It’s only a matter of time before Kratom dealers go on YouTube and find the process to make 7-OH. The only way to get rid of 7-OH or other spin off Kratom products is to ban all kratom.

People have been using Kratom in countries of origin/Southeast Asia for many years, however toxicologies and autopsies

are not done in these countries because of religious beliefs, availability in resources and the fact that these countries depend on Kratom sales for their very survival. If they had the means or the families approval it isn't in their best interest to do toxicologies.

*While it's true that most people who die from Kratom have other substances in their system; toxicologists label it a kratom death if the other substances are within a therapeutic range. I've seen toxicology reports with people dying from a combination of anti-depressants & kratom, benadryl & Kratom, and alcohol & Kratom, etc. It's important to know that the Kratom industry targets the most vulnerable people such as those with substance abuse disorder, chronic pain patients, and the mentally ill. Therefore most of these people will just add Kratom to the drugs they already take.

The FDA funded a Kratom ascending dose study, with the largest dose being much lower than the average user purports to ingest. They chose 40 healthy individuals, and it was a short term study, not giving them adequate to become addicted, suffer withdrawals, heavy metals to build up in their bodies, nor suffer any of the consequences user develop over time. Such as liver failure, seizures, cardiac arrest, renal failure, etc.

*Kratom comes from the black market with no assurance of quality, purity or potency. Over 95% of kratom in the United States was smuggled in from Indonesia as it's illegal to import into the United States per the FDA import alert 54-15. It's snuck through customs by labeling it as fertilizer, incense, etc. and stamped "NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION".

*Testimonies from over 53 thousand Kratom users on Reddit's "Quittingkratom" show its withdrawals are horrible with many comparing them to Heroin and other opioids.

*The American Kratom Association profits from the sale of Kratom, they are only looking after their best interests, and have complete disregard for public health and safety. These are disclaimers from two of the leading GMP qualified Kratom Dealers listed on their website. These are Mitragynine, not 7-OH. These come in packaging that can be easily opened by a child.

1. Happy Hippo: "Kratom use may be associated with one or more of the following adverse reactions: nervousness, agitation, confusion, aggression, hallucinations, delusions, tremors, sleeplessness, drowsiness, lethargy, sedation, skin hyperpigmentation, loss of libido, constipation, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, liver toxicity, tachycardia, hypertension, respiratory depression, respiratory arrest, cardiac arrest, renal failure, seizures, coma, and death." (this is not on their packaging, but hidden deep in their website). <https://happyhippo.com/policies/terms-of-service>

1. GoldenMonk: "This product is NOT used to treat, cure, or mitigate any disease, illness, ailment, and/or condition. Please see FDA import alert 54-15. We make no representations as to intended use or suitability for use. This product contains chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. Specifically, nickel, arsenic, and lead. For more information please visit p65warnings.ca.gov". <https://goldenmonk.com/terms-of-purchase/>

Super Specioca, a Kratom dealer from the AKA's website sent me free Kratom to Florida, a state where age restrictions were in place. No proof of age was required, no credit card, and they shipped me my free Kratom. I gave Senator Morris of Louisiana this information, they sent him free kratom, he mentioned it in a hearing, and Mac Haddow of the AKA's response was, "we don't control the marketing practices". They have 40 plus Kratom dealers listed on their website, and at least 6 of these are in Kratom wrongful death lawsuits, yet the AKA is unable or unwilling to monitor them. The Louisiana kratom ban hearing: https://youtu.be/aT4fuOEwng8?si=2q4bNeJMQ5_CdmNU
4:35 minute mark

Dr. Christopher McCurdy the leading scientist in the world studying kratom testified that Kratom is a dirty drug and should not be sold out of gas stations. Studies are being conducted for Kratom to be used as a pharmaceutical not to be sold to our children out of convenience stores and gas stations.

I'm a member of the Facebook Group "Kr8tom Danger Awareness" created by a mom who lost her son/only child to Kratom, and hundreds of our members have lost loved ones to kratom, many of them died prior to 7-OH hitting the market in late 2023.

*Kratom is being advertised as a cureall, if it does the things people say like cure or mitigate alcohol or opioid addiction, and relieve pain that can only be alleviated by opioids; that by itself indicates it should be prescribed by a doctor, not a gas station attendant with unlimited supply to the consumer.

Attached is my son's toxicology results and his photo.

Sincerely,

Susan Eppard (Matthew's Mom)



Sent from my iPad