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### Weekender

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## Family opts to end care

By Jenni Vincent, Journal staff writer

POSTED: September 5, 2009

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MARTINSBURG - A decision has been made to discontinue life support for Christian Lanciano, 22, who has been in City Hospital's intensive care unit since it was discovered that he had overdosed on heroin last week.

Local attorney Paul Taylor, who has been representing the family, said Friday afternoon that Lanciano's mother, Angela Lanciano Moreno, is now satisfied that all of the appropriate medical tests have been done to determine his true physical condition.

"Unfortunately, at this time there is no good news," Taylor said.

Moreno initially disagreed with doctors, who had "prematurely determined that her son was brain dead and had no hope of recovery," she said in an earlier interview.

At that point, Moreno said the family was encouraged because Lanciano had moved his eye lids and squeezed her hand.

Hoping to gain some additional time, Moreno successfully went to court Monday to obtain a temporary restraining order.

At that time, Berkeley County Circuit Judge Gina Groh granted a 10-day restraining order.

But on Friday, Moreno asked Taylor to file paperwork at the courthouse to officially dissolve that order, Taylor said.

"These most recent tests have shown there is no brain activity," Taylor said.

Lanciano also was unable to breath on his on after the ventilator was turned off, he said.

"The hospital is now free to do what it has to do," Taylor said.

Taylor believes that will be coordinated with Moreno, so that "she can be present when the machines are disconnected. She obviously wants to be there when that happens," he said.

He did not know when that step might be taken.

After watching this drama unfold, Taylor said it has been heartbreaking even though he is not a family member.

It should also send a message to others, who should learn from this family's pain, Taylor said.

"Young people, don't get involved in drugs. Don't ruin your lives. Don't break your parent's hearts," he said.

- Staff writer Jenni Vincent can be reached at (304) 263-8931, ext. 138, or [jvincent@journal-news.net](mailto:jvincent@journal-news.net)

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karolsue91

09-09-09 3:25 AM [»Report Abuse](#)  
 And Angie, I know all too well what you mean when you say "it'll never be okay." We'll start that organization you want to ASAP. We all love you and we are here for you.



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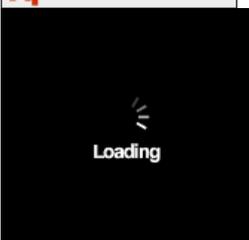
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**karolsue91**

**09-09-09 3:20 AM** [»Report Abuse](#) For everyone that has known Christian, we need to stay strong. For him and for his whole family. They need every one of us. Chris was an awesome guy, and we should do something super special in his honor. We all love and miss him. Please stay strong Angie and Ray! We are all here for you. We'll keep his spirit alive forever.

**inwoodlady05**

**09-06-09 6:36 PM** [»Report Abuse](#) This is so heartbreaking =[ R.I.P Chris Lanciano!! I will miss you!! I told my brothers who knew Chris as well and they are heartbroken as well!! To the family- My prayers are with you. Such a tragic story =[

**koolnana**

**09-05-09 10:41 PM** [»Report Abuse](#) my prayers to the family, may chistian be forgiven and enter heaven! and please police officers get the sellers off the streets so parents do not have to go through this pain, if they can't get it so easy they won't be apted to do it! god bless all involved....

**koolnana**

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### Family opts to end care - journal-new...

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**momof1**

**09-05-09 4:20 PM** Being the mother of a drug abuser this weighs deeply on my heart. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Rest in peace sweet boy.  
[»Report Abuse](#)

**treid81**

**09-05-09 3:34 PM** My thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this terrible time...May the Lord be with them and Christian, give them peace.  
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**annamarie**

**09-05-09 3:29 PM** This family is in my thoughts and prayers!  
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**JoeKidd**

**09-05-09 1:45 PM** That's right. The families decision. Had he been married it'd've been his wives decision. If you don't tell those nearest to you what your wishes are in this case you make it harder on them. Probably would be a good idea to sit down with a Doctor and discuss what these end of life issues are and what life-sustaining means. It would be nice if Medicare had to pay for it. Christian your suffering is at an end.  
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O nobly-born, let not thy mind be distracted.

Christian Lanciano, O nobly-born, that which is called death being come to thee now, resolve thus: 'O this now is the hour of death. By taking advantage of this death, I will so act, for the good of all sentient beings, peopling the illimitable expanse of the heavens, as to obtain the Perfect Buddhahood, by resolving on love and compassion towards them, and by directing my entire effort to the Sole Perfection.'

**house82**

**09-05-09 10:56 AM** May God be with the family.  
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**panhandler62**

**09-05-09 10:37 AM** I'm glad they were able to get the support to have the time to be sure but saddened that the original assesment was accurate.  
[»Report Abuse](#)

We have to do better to end this plague

**WildandWonderful**

**09-05-09 8:49 AM** May God hold this family in the palm of his hands and ease their pain a little each day.  
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**Optimistic1**

**09-05-09 7:34 AM** Very sorry to hear this news. My thoughts and prayers go out to his mother and family and friends.  
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