

Top injuries lawyer dies after minor operation

Top personal injuries lawyer was admitted to a leading hospital for non-urgent procedure

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GARDAI have begun inquiries into the sudden death of one of the country's top personal injuries lawyers while undergoing a routine operation in a leading Dublin hospital.

Alan Synnott, the principal of Lawline solicitors in Christchurch, Dublin, had been admitted to Bon Secours Hospital in Glasnevin to undergo a non-urgent medical procedure. However, when complications arose, he was transferred to the nearby Beaumont Hospital where he died on 30 March.

Gardaí confirmed to *The Sunday Tribune* that they had conducted a sudden-death inquiry into the incident. The Garda file will now be submitted to the coroner's office which will conduct a full hearing.

These investigations are routine inquiries when sudden deaths occur and are non-criminal in nature. They establish the time, location and nature of the death for the purposes of an



Alan Synnott, the principal of Lawline solicitors in Dublin inquest.

Alan Synnott, who was in his early 40s, was one of the country's best-known personal injuries solicitors. The firm which he founded was one of a small number which pioneered high-profile advertising and marketing of their services, including full-page advertisements in telephone directories.

The firm was incorporated in 1990 by him and dealt exclusively with personal injury claims. Its website states: "Every year, we secure several million pounds in damages for our clients in settlements. Our

customer satisfaction rate is exceptional and we are consistently told by clients that they did not expect to receive nearly as much as their case settled for. Our goal is to maximise damages."

An occasional contributor on legal issues for journals and national newspapers, Alan Synnott was said by colleagues to be a dynamic and experienced lawyer, with great ambitions for the firm he had founded. It was the first firm of solicitors in the country to be awarded the Quality Mark.

His death came as a great shock to the legal community. The son of a solicitor, Synnott, who lived in south Co Dublin, is survived by his wife and three children, his mother, four brothers and a sister.

Bon Secours Hospital was not available for comment this weekend. A spokesman for Beaumont Hospital said that the hospital did not comment on individual cases.