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Police investigating drinking death of 19-year-old

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Maple Grove police are investigating the death this month of a 19-year-old man whose friends reported that he stopped breathing after drinking half a bottle of vodka, according to a document.

A search warrant affidavit filed in Hennepin County District Court said Robert J. Anderson died early Dec. 4 after drinking at a Maple Grove home with two friends, ages 19 and 20.

He was not breathing and didn't have a pulse when police arrived. Officers performed CPR and used a defibrillator on him before he was taken to North Memorial Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

According to the document: The 20-year-old told authorities that Anderson drank half a liter bottle of vodka, taking it in shots followed by Mountain Dew.

The 19-year-old who lived in the home provided the alcohol. The 20-year-old told police that Anderson passed out at 2:30 a.m. and about 30 or 45 minutes later began

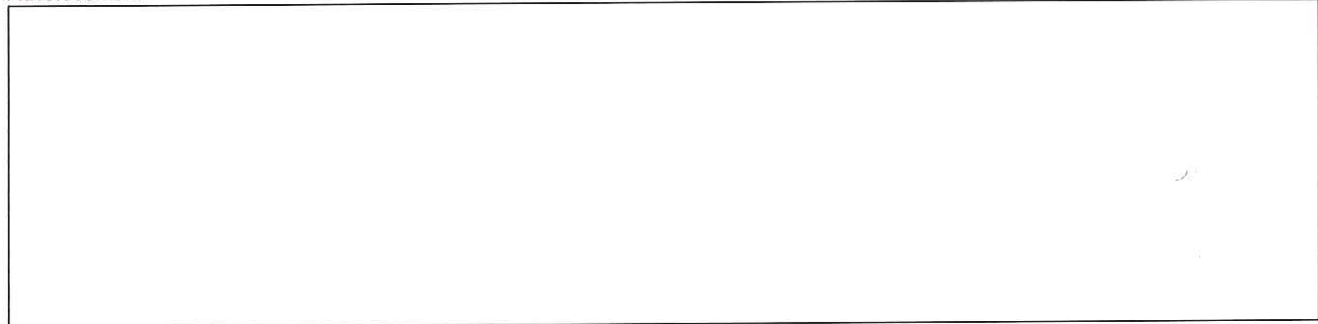
coughing and vomiting. Later, they noticed that his ears had turned purple and he wasn't breathing. They started CPR, and the 19-year-old called authorities.

Maple Grove police did not return calls seeking a comment.

In 2007, Amanda Jax died of alcohol poisoning after a night at a Mankato bar celebrating her 21st birthday. Jax's family initially sued the friends who bought the drinks, then dropped them from the case while pursuing litigation against the now-defunct bar.

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