

Man Drowns in a Hot Tub/Whirlpool at the Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort

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John Van Hoy, Jr., 33, of Missouri drowned in a hot tub/whirlpool at the Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort while on vacation with his fiancée Nicole Cleaveland. John became pinned to the suction drain of the hot tub/whirlpool shortly after 10:30 pm on December 28, 2010. Noticing that John did not come up for air, his fiancée yelled for help. Upon hearing her calls, several heroic guests jumped in the hot tub but collectively could not pull John from the bottom suction drain. Tragically, critical minutes transpired during which not a single Sandals employee either assisted in the whirlpool or timely turned off the suction pump. Complicating matters, no Sandals employees were either trained or willing to provide CPR for the 45 minutes, or more, that transpired before an ambulance arrived.

John is survived by the love of his life, Nicole Cleaveland, and his two sons, Tyler Van Hoy and Landon Cleaveland; his grandparents, Dean and Jackie Van Hoy, grandmother JoAnn Smith, and grandmother Clara Dunagan; his father, John A. Van Hoy; his mother, Myrna (Smith) and Eric Morris; his sister, Deana Van Hoy; his sister and brother-in-law, Arron and Brady Prestia; his brother, James Van Hoy; and his nephew, J.B. Prestia Jr.

The law offices of Brais & Brais have been retained by the victim's family. **We request any witnesses, in particular, the heroic guests who tried to save John's life contact the firm.**