

Form 20

CORONERS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1959

*Deposition of Witness* taken on TUESDAY the 17<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY 2004, at inquest touching the death of LUCY CRAWFORD, before me MR. J L LECKEY Coroner for the District of GREATER BELFAST as follows to wit:-

*The Deposition of* NEVILLE CRAWFORD of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who being sworn upon her oath, saith

Our daughter Lucy Crawford was born on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1998 at the Erne Hospital, Enniskillen. She was our third child and was a good deal younger than our other two children.

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2000 I was working the late shift from 5-10pm. Lucy went to our baby minders as normal. At 10.15pm I returned from work and everything seemed ok.

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2000 I went to work at about 11.30am. At 1.00pm Mae rang me to work to say that Lucy had been sick. I arranged to meet Mae and Lucy in the car park at the Erne Health Centre at 2.30pm. I carried Lucy into Dr. Graham's waiting room. The Doctor examined Lucy and said he could not see anything wrong and that there was nothing to worry about. I returned home with Mae and Lucy and later returned to work at about 3.30pm. I finished work at 10.00pm and Lucy was in bed when I returned home.

At 8.00am the next morning Lucy was not great. She was just sitting about. We decided that Mae would go on to work and I would stay at home with Lucy. During the morning Lucy took small drinks of water on a couple of occasions and also ate 2 Ritz biscuits. At 1.00 pm Mae returned from work and I left to bring the car to the garage.

I went to work at 5.00pm. At about 6.30pm Mae rang to say she was bringing Lucy to the out-of hours doctor. I met Mae & Lucy at Westdoc on the Tempo Road just after 7.00pm. Dr. Kirby was already checking Lucy, she said Lucy was dehydrated and would need to go to hospital to have a drip. She also said there was nothing to be alarmed about.

I brought Mae & Lucy to the Children's Ward at the Erne Hospital. Dr Malik checked Lucy. He tried unsuccessfully to set up a drip between 6 and 10 times. There was no reaction from Lucy. The Nurse then also tried to set up the drip.

At 9.25pm we were still waiting for the drip to be set up. I was carrying Lucy in my arms. One of the nurses answered a phone call and I overheard her saying "Not another one I've had enough of this. I'll make sure I'm not here tomorrow night". The tone of her conversation made me think there was another child being admitted and that she wasn't too pleased. This was the same nurse who had been working with Lucy a short time earlier.

By 10.30pm the drip had been set up and Lucy was put in bed back in the ward. I left to go home to our other children. At 11.00pm I returned to the Hospital with our older girl. At about 11.30pm I remarked to a nurse and to Mae that Lucy's eyes were very strange. She seemed to be looking at you but not making any reaction. The Nurse seemed unconcerned when we told her. At about 11.50pm I went home. I had arranged that I would return to Hospital at about 4am.

At 2.50am on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2000 the phone rang. I was sound asleep. A Nurse told me that Lucy had taken a slight turn but not to be alarmed. I knew in my heart that they wouldn't have rung unless it was serious. My elder daughter came into my room as the phone had wakened her and said, "What's wrong Daddy?" I told her we had to go to the hospital.

I drove as quickly as possible to Hospital and I passed Dr. O'Donohoe driving his own car on the way to Hospital.

I arrived at the ward at about 3.20am. I saw Lucy and to me she seemed to be dead. The Doctors and Nurses were panicking. Nobody seemed to know what to do. It was chaos. A Doctor would ask a nurse to get a piece of equipment and the nurse would return but with the wrong piece of equipment. Nothing seemed to be working. We were ordered out of the room. Dr. O'Donohoe arrived. There seemed to be a lot of doctors and nurses working with Lucy. Lucy was transferred to Intensive Care. There was no child's ventilator available so Lucy had to be put on adult ventilator.

At 6.30am Lucy was transferred by ambulance to Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. At 8.00am Mae and I arrived at the Royal with our other two children.

At about 10.00am we spoke to the Doctors at the Royal. They explained that Lucy's situation was very serious. There seemed to be problems obtaining Lucy's notes from the Erne Hospital in Enniskillen.

Nothing Changed in Lucy's condition during day and at about 6.00pm Dr. Hanrahan explained they would be doing Brain Stem tests the next morning. Those tests proved negative and as a result Lucy was removed from the ventilator and died a short time later.

W - N. Rhd

h. Hanrahan

17/2/04