

CORONERS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1959

Deposition of Witness taken on TUESDAY the 5th day of FEBRUARY 2003, at inquest touching the death of RAYCHEL FERGUSON, before me MR J L LECKEY Coroner for the District of GREATER BELFAST as follows to wit:-

The Deposition of DR PETER CREAN - CONSULTANT ANAESTHETIST - of C/O ^{PAEDIATRIC} ~~BICU~~, ROYAL ^{BELFAST} ~~VICTORIA~~ HOSPITAL, BELFAST who being sworn upon his oath, saith ^{FOR SICK CHILDREN}

In am a registered Medical Consultant in paediatric anaesthesia and intensive care. I qualified from Queen's University, Belfast in 1976 and my qualifications are MB BCH FFARCSI.

Raychel Ferguson was admitted to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children on 9th June 2001 at 13.50 hours. She was transferred from Altnagelvin Area Hospital because she developed seizures and lost consciousness some hours following an appendicectomy. At the time of these events in Altnagelvin, she was intubated and ventilated and transferred to the Intensive Care Unit. A CT scan of her brain revealed cerebral oedema (brain swelling). On arrival at the Children's Hospital she was intubated and fully ventilated. She had no purposeful spontaneous movement and her pupils were dilated and unreactive to light. She had evidence of diabetes insipidus, which was causing a high urine output and she was treated for this. Her serum sodium level on admission was 130mmol/l.

Brain stem death tests were performed on 9th June at 17.30 hours and 10th June at 09.45 hours by myself and Dr Hanrahan. Both tests confirming brain stem death. Ventilation support was discontinued at this time.

It was obvious that she had sustained a catastrophic insult to the brain. It was clear that she was suffering from severe hyponatraemia. In Belfast we would use a nasric gastric tube not routinely. It is used commonly following bowel surgery. It would not be used for every child having their appendix removed.

P. Coan

TAKEN before me this 5th day of FEBRUARY 2003

H. L. Coakley

Coroner for the District of Greater Belfast

UTV

069A-082-328