

CORONERS ACT (Northern Ireland), 1959

Deposition of Witness taken on _____ the _____ day
of _____ (month), _____ (year), at inquest touching the death of
CONOR EDWARD JOHN MITCHELL, before me Mr J LECKEY LL.M.
Coroner for the District of GREATER BELFAST

as follows to wit: -

The Deposition of DAMIEN MULLAN
of _____ (Address)
who being sworn upon his _____ oath, saith

I have been going out with Joanna Mitchell since late July 2002 and had got to know her son Conor quite well, to the point of being able to understand quite a bit of his communication. On Thursday the 8th May 2003, I returned from work at Charles Hurst Belfast to go straight away to see Joanna and Conor at Craigavon Area Hospital. Joanna had been in touch with me throughout the day by phone and unfortunately I was unable to get away from work any earlier and arrived at the Medical Admissions Unit around 6 pm. At that time, Joanna was very concerned and Conor was sleeping. A mutual friend of ours, Helen Paul was there on my arrival, but she left shortly afterwards. Joanna's mother, Judy arrived very soon after my arrival. Shortly after my arrival, Conor had what Joanna was sure was an epileptic seizure and I saw a rash on his stomach. I cannot remember the exact sequence of events which was to follow, but I saw at different times a rash appearing over Conor's body and even on his neck and face and head. I was present when a Doctor Murdock was with Conor and also later when a Doctor, who I later found out was Doctor Marian Williams, a paediatric registrar was examining Conor. I clearly remember this female Doctor stating 'This boy is in seizure' and I remember her tone and reaction as if to suggest why is nothing being done about this? Her reaction and Doctor Murdock's reaction in response to her statement has stuck in my mind and I remember thinking that she seemed very very concerned. I stayed with Joanna, Conor and her family until Conor was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, the following day.

P.T.O.

The rash appeared on the scalp and was a deep red colour. Dr. Murdoch's reaction was one of shock or panic. The seizure I witnessed occurred at approximately 7 p.m.

Mr. Millar: I arrived at 6 p.m. Mrs Mitchell came into the side-ward a short time later. I saw no seizure activity between 6 and 7 p.m. Here when Dr Murdoch examined Conor, I was not present for the chest X-Ray - I stood outside the door. I was aware of only one seizure until Dr. Williams arrived. Dr Murdoch's reaction was of shock to hear what Dr Williams said. I was present when Dr Williams examined Conor, she shone a light in to his eyes and then said Conor was in seizure. I can't remember if she took a history from the family. She was in the room for 10/15 minutes.

Mr. McKillop: I was there when Dr Murdoch arrived. Conor's mother and grandmother were very concerned. I don't think they know if Conor was improving. I was present when Dr Murdoch examined Conor. The seizure I witnessed was very violent and Conor seemed in a lot of discomfort. I cannot recall if he made a sound. The rash was present - sternal, upper body and on his scalp. It was very visible. The seizure lasted 2/3 minutes. After the seizure the rash seemed to disappear. This was the only seizure I witnessed occurring around 7 p.m. ~~was that~~ the medical staff were present. Judy Mitchell asked Conor's breathing difficulty. Dr Murdoch then attended to I think carried out an examination. *Diana Miller*

TAKEN before me this 25th day of May (month), 2004 (year).

H. L. Lintley

Coroner for the District of Greater Belfast

CORONERS ACT (Northern Ireland) 1959

CONTINUATION DEPOSITION OF DAMIEN MULLAN

The rash appeared in the scalp and was a deep red colour. Dr. Murdock's reaction was that of shock or panic. The seizure I witnessed occurred at approximately 7.00 p.m.

Mr. Millar: I arrived at 6.00 p.m. Mrs. Mitchell came into the sideward a short time later. I saw no seizure activity between 6.00 and 7.00 p.m. None when Dr. Murdock examined Conor. I was not present for the chest x-ray and I stood outside the door. I was aware of only one seizure until Dr. Williams arrived. Dr. Murdock's reaction was of shock to hear what Dr. Williams said. I was present when Dr. Williams arrived to examine Conor. She shone a light in to his eyes and then said Conor was in Seizure. I can't be sure if she took a history from the family. She was in the room for 10/15 minutes.

Mr. McKillop: I was there when Dr. Murdock arrived. Conor's mother and grandmother were very concerned. I don't think they knew if Conor was improving. I was present when Dr. Murdock examined Conor. The seizure I witnessed was very violent and Conor seemed in a lot of discomfort. I cannot recall if he made a sound. The rash was present - stomach, upper body and in his scalp. It was very visible. The seizure lasted 2/3 minutes. After the seizure the rash seemed to disappear. This was the only seizure I witnessed, occurring around 7.00 p.m. No medical staff were present. Judy Mitchell noted Conor's breathing difficulty. Dr. Murdock then attended and I think carried out an examination.