

Witness Statement Ref. No. 181/1

NAME OF CHILD: Adam Strain

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Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:

[Identify by date and title all of those since January 1995]

Chairman Ulster Hospital Research Governance Committee since 1998
College of Anaesthetists of Ireland Council member 2004-2010
Obstetric Anaesthetists Association committee member since 2004
Confidential Enquiry into maternal deaths (CEMACH) anaesthetic assessor since 2005
College of Anaesthetists of Ireland, Dean Faculty of Pain Medicine 2007 to 2009
Chairman Organ Donation Committee, South Eastern HSC Trust since 2010

Name: David Hill

Title: Dr

OFFICIAL USE:

List of previous statements, depositions and reports:

Present position and institution: Consultant Anaesthetist and Associate Medical Director, South Eastern HSC Trust

Previous position and institution: Senior Registrar in Anaesthetics, Royal Group of Hospitals
[As at the time of the child's death]

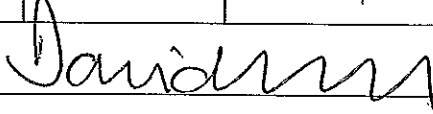
Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports:

[Identify by date and title all those made in relation to the child's death]

Ref:

Date:

Signed:



Dated: 12/10/11

THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANSWERING:

Please attach additional sheets if more space is required. Please identify clearly any document to which you refer or rely upon for your answer. If the document has an Inquiry reference number, e.g. Ref: 049-001-001 which is 'Chart No.1 Old Notes', then please provide that number. If the document does not have such a number then please provide a copy of the document.

- (1) State whether you were employed as a trainee anaesthetist at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) on 27th November 1995. If so, state at what clinical grade were you employed and the date on which your employment as a trainee anaesthetist at RBHSC commenced and finished.

I was employed as a senior registrar in anaesthetics (a trainee anaesthetist for the purposes of your questions) by the Royal Group of Hospitals from August 1995 until end of July 1996. During this year I was allocated to RBHSC for a period of either 3 or 6 months, I cannot recall which, however it included November 1995

- (2) What was your previous experience in anaesthetics prior to 27th November 1995.

This was the last year of my anaesthetic training and I was appointed as a consultant to the Ulster Hospital commencing August 1996. Prior to November 1995 I had 6 completed years of anaesthetic training and was finishing the 7th year.

- (3) In so far as you can, please identify the other trainee anaesthetists who were working on 27th November 1995, particularly those commencing their duties that morning.

I cannot recollect who was on duty on the morning of the 27th November 1995. I recollect that Dr Michael McBrien and Dr Terence Montague were also attached to RBHSC whilst I was there, although there may have been others that I simply I cannot recollect at this remove.

- (4) State whether you were on duty as a trainee anaesthetist on 27th November 1995, and if so, state:

- (a) At what time you commenced and finished working on that day

I recollect working that day, by reference to the events that occurred on the day you are now investigating, however I do not recollect the exact start and finish times.

- (b) Describe the duties that you undertook and where you carried them out

I recollect assisting a consultant anaesthetist doing a theatre list on the day in question. I understand that the medical charts for the day in question identify that consultant as being Dr. Rosalee Campbell, who was a locum consultant anaesthetist. I recollect that the theatre we were working together in was adjacent to the theatre where the patient I now know to be Adam Strain was being operated on.

- (5) Please mark on the attached plan the location where you were working between 07:00 and 13:00 on 27th November 1995 (the theatre where Adam Strain's renal transplant was being conducted during the morning of 27th November 1995 is shown as marked with a large red X).

I cannot recollect which theatre I was working in on the day in question. I was working in one of the other 2 theatres that were adjacent to the one Adam Strain was being operated on, but I could not say at this remove which one it was.

- (6) Attached is a copy of the RBHSC theatre log including the entries relating to 27th November 1995 (Ref: 094-006-021, Ref: 094-006-022, Ref: 094-006-023 and Ref: 094-006-024). The entry relating to Adam Strain's renal transplant and the other entries for 27th November 1995 have all been highlighted. If you were working in an operating theatre on the morning of 27th November 1995, then please:

- (a) Identify the particular procedures in which you were involved and the times at which each patient arrived and departed from theatre in relation to each procedure.

I have no personal recollection of any of the detail sought by this question. The theatre ledger that you have provided me with suggests that Dr. Rosalee Campbell anaesthetised patients who were then operated on by Mr. Stephen Brown, Consultant Surgeon; I understand that the medical charts suggest I was assisting Dr. Rosalee Campbell. The information about those operations are set out on the ledgers for the day in question under references 094-006-023 and 094-006-024.

- (b) Identify all those persons who were in the theatre with you and describe their respective positions and roles.

I can only say that it would appear that I was in the theatre assisting Dr. Rosalee Campbell; I can see from the ledgers that Mr. Stephen Brown was the surgeon, though I would not have recollected this myself. I cannot say who else was present.

- (c) State with reference to the Anaesthetists and Surgeons involved in each of the procedures for which you were present whether he or she was present throughout each procedure.

It is simply not possible for me to answer this question as I do not have that personal recollection and the available ledgers do not give that kind of precise information. What I do recollect is that at some stage during the theatre list, the consultant anaesthetist, who I understand to be Dr. Rosalee Campbell, left to assist Dr. Taylor who was working, in an adjacent theatre, on a patient who was slow to wake up, who I now understand to be Adam Strain. It may be that Dr. Rosalee Campbell went to assist because Dr. Taylor was on his own at that particular time, but that is something you will need to check with others. I do not recollect how long she was away for, or what if anything she said to me on her return.

- (d) Identify the consultant surgeon who carried out each of the procedures in which you were involved and whether he or she was present throughout each procedure.

I cannot personally recollect this detail at this stage; the ledger would suggest that Mr. Stephen Brown, Consultant Surgeon, was the surgeon in the theatre in which I was working.

- (e) Explain the meaning of the column entitled "Implant No." in relation to each procedure.

It would appear to me, on looking at the ledger, that it had a column for the serial number of an implant to be inserted if the operation involved an implant of some kind. However, it would appear that the manner in which that column has been used, in the ledgers provided to me, has been for the recording of the name of the responsible surgeon, as opposed to recording the serial number of an implant.

- (7) State the number of theatres in use on the morning of 27th November 1995 in RBHSC.

I cannot personally recollect how many theatres were in use but the ledgers provided to me would appear to suggest that 2 theatres were in use in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. The plan suggests there were 3 theatres in total so only 2 of the 3 were being used.

- (8) State your involvement, if any, in Adam Strain's renal transplant on 27th November 1995.

I can categorically state that I had no involvement of any kind in Adam Strain's renal transplant.

- (9) Other than Dr. Terence Montague, identify any other trainee anaesthetist who you can recall assisted Dr. Robert Taylor (Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist) in Adam Strain's renal transplant from approximately 08:30 onwards on 27th November 1995.

I cannot recall any information about who did or did not assist Dr. Robert Taylor on the day in question, other than the information that I have already provided; my recollection is that at some stage during our work on the day in question, which was in an adjacent theatre, the consultant anaesthetist, who appears to have been Dr. Rosalee Campbell, left to assist Dr. Taylor because a patient, who I now understand to be Adam Strain, was slow to wake up. I cannot say who else was there at the time.

- (10) Whilst you were working in theatre on 27th November 1995, describe your knowledge of what was happening in relation to and during Adam Strain's renal transplant in theatre.

I did not know anything about Adam Strain's operation until the consultant anaesthetist with whom I was working left to assist another consultant with a patient who was slow to wake up, who I now understand to be Adam Strain.

- (a) State the basis of your knowledge and how, when and from whom you acquired this knowledge.

I cannot say anymore how or from whom I gained the knowledge referred to in the question above

- (b) In particular, state whether any person from the theatre where Adam Strain's transplant was taking place entered the theatre where you were working, and if so, identify that person and state what they said and to whom and describe what happened as a result.

I cannot say whether anyone, from the theatre where Adam Strain was being operated on, entered the theatre I was working in at any time.

- (11) Identify any person who left the theatre in which you were working to go into the theatre in which Adam Strain's renal transplant was taking place and please also state:-

I believe that the consultant anaesthetist with whom I was working, who I understand to be Dr. Rosalee Campbell, left the theatre I was working in to go to assist Dr. Taylor.

- (a) The circumstances in which they left, including identifying any person who requested that they go into that operating theatre

I cannot say anymore than I have said; I believe that the consultant anaesthetist with whom I was working left to assist in an adjacent theatre because a patient was slow to wake up.

- (b) The reason for and purpose of their attendance in the other theatre, including what was said prior to their departure

See above. I cannot say precisely what was said.

- (c) Your knowledge of what the person said and/or did in the other operating theatre and the basis of that knowledge

I have no knowledge of what the person said or did in the other operating theatre.

- (d) The time at which they left the operating theatre where you were working, whether they returned and if so at what time

I am afraid that I cannot say what time they left, how long they were away, or when they returned (if they did).

- (e) The period of time that they remained in the theatre where Adam Strain's transplant was taking place

I have no knowledge that would let me answer this question.

- (f) What they said about Adam, his surgery and what had happened in that other operating theatre

I believe that I knew at the time that a patient had been slow to wake up; I now understand this to be Adam Strain. I cannot say if I gained this knowledge because of something said prior to the consultant anaesthetist leaving to assist Dr. Taylor or, if they returned, something they said to me when they returned.

- (12) State what you did during the absence of those persons from the theatre in which you were working.

I carried on with the list; the detail of which I do not recollect. I am afraid I cannot say if it was one or several patients.

- (13) State when you first knew what had happened to Adam, what you understood to be the reasons for this, and the source of that knowledge.

At some stage in the days following the 27th November, 1995 I became aware that the child who had been slow to wake up had been moved to intensive care and subsequently died. I cannot say how I came by this knowledge. I have a recollection that, subsequent to the death of the patient, I was involved in a conversation with other trainee anaesthetists where the fact that the patient had died was

discussed. Whoever I was having that discussion with were also not involved in the treatment of Adam Strain and my recollection is that, for whatever reason, we did not think there were any trainees involved at the time the patient was slow to wake up, which is why the consultant anaesthetist, whom I was assisting, went to assist Dr. Taylor. I did not know the patient as Adam Strain or the actual cause of his death. It is only as a result of being contacted by this inquiry that I am now aware of the identity of the patient and the cause of his death.

(14) State whether you had any discussions with Mr. Stephen Brown or any other person in relation to Adam Strain on 27th November 1995 or thereafter. If you had such discussions with someone other than Mr. Brown, please identify that person and state where and when those discussions took place and what was said.

I am afraid I have no recollection of any discussions with Stephen Brown at any stage in 1995; I am sure I would have had conversations with him but I have no recollection of any of them at this stage. I cannot say whether we ever had a conversation about the patient that I now know to be Adam Strain. The fact is that, unfortunately, at this remove, I cannot recollect who I had a conversation with about the patient that I now know to be Adam Strain beyond that which I have set out above.

W7

Nov MONTH 95 YEAR

D116

DATE OF OPERATION	PATIENT DETAILS	DIAGNOSIS	PROCEDURE/OPERATION	CLASSIFICATION OF OPERATION	SURGEON	ANAESTHETIC	ANAESTHETIST	WARD NUMBER	SCRUB NURSE	ARRIVAL TIME	DEPARTURE TIME	IMPLANT No.	OPERAT No.
27-11-95	ADAM STRAIN Lyles 364377	Renal Failure	Kidney Transplant (R)	Major	EP/IE/Blawn	GA	TAYLOR	MUSG	SN POPPLESTONE	06:55	12:05	SAVAGE	7/24
27-11-95		Acc Depts (L)	Excision of E. Nails	Minor	Small	GA	Samphell	DCU	SN Little	14:00	14:15	SMALL	
"		Hand Deformity	Syndactyly (L)	Major	Small	GA	Samphell	K/W	SN McIlhenny	14:20	17:45	SMALL	
27-11-95		Fac. Thigh Jts	Release T. Jts	Minor	Jayak	GA	McKague	DCU	SN Stajda	14:55	16:51	TAYLOR	
"		Fac. Thigh Jts	Release T. Jts	Minor	Jayak	GA	McKague	DCU	SN Sladky	14:50	15:27	Taylor	
"		Lat. # (L) elbow	Removal K Wires	Minor	Zem	GA	McKague	DCU		15:48	16:00	Jayak	
"		Lat TA	TA Tenotomy	Minor	Jayak	GA	McKague	K/W	SN MacLellan	15:50	17:10	Jayak	
"		VP Shunt	REVISION SHUNT	Minor	Jayak	GA	McKague	K/W	SN MacLellan	15:50	17:10	Jayak	
1-11-95		Infected PD cath	Removal of same	Invad.	Boston	GA	McBrien	B/W	SN Sladky	18:50	19:30	Boston	E
28-11-95		Left u.D.T	EUA NO SURGERY	Minor	KHO	GA	McBrien	MUSG		20:05	21:50	O'Connor	S
28-11-95		G O R	O G D	Minor	Potts	GA	McKague	DCU		9:05	9:15	Potts	
28-11-95		Post uctral valves	Post uctral valves	Minor	Potts	GA	McKague	DCU		9:25	9:50	Potts	
28-11-95		G O R	Fundoplication	Major	Potts	GA	McKague	ISU	SN Cowley	9:55	10:55	Potts	
					Potts	GA	McKague	B/W	SN Bradley	10:55	12:55	Potts	
28-11-95		Bilateral Prom ears	correction prominent ears	Minor	Singh	GA	Ketty	DCU	SN Little	9:30	10:50	Miller	
28-11-95		Bilateral prom. ears	correction prominent ears	Minor	Singh	GA	Ketty	DCU	SN Harrison	11:03	12:25	Miller	
28-11-95		Bilateral Renal Failure	attempted Right pyeloplasty revision of Subclavian line for Dialysis	Major	Brown	GA	Taylor	DCU		13:55	14:20	Brown	
28-11-95		Anaxetal Anomaly - low Anoplasty		Major	Brown	GA	Taylor	ISU	SN Bradley	14:30	15:10	Brown	
28-11-95		congenital Anomaly perianoplasty		Minor	Brown	GA	Montague	B/W	SN Cowley	15:20	16:10	Brown	
28-11-95		perforated appendix	Appendectomy	Minor	Brown	GA	Hill	B/W	SN Cowley	16:25	17:20	Brown	E
28-11-95		Right cup ear	Correction of Rt cup ear	Minor	Brown	GA	Ketty	DCU	SN Harboure	13:45	14:55	Leonard	W1
28-11-95		Left prominent ear	Correction left prom ear	Minor	Brown	GA	Ketty	DCU	SN Stajda	14:50	15:55	Leonard	W1
28-11-95		lesion upper lip	excision lesion upper lip	Minor	Brown	GA	Ketty	DCU	SN Harboure	15:45	16:35	Leonard	W1
1-11-95		Plum Ears	Correction Plum Ears	Minor	Brown	GA	Ketty	K/W		21:20	22:00	Course	E
					Brown	GA	Ketty	DCU	SN N. Allen	9:15	10:30	Leonard	W/L

094-006-021

094-006-022

Nov. MONTH 95

YEAR

PSM II

DATE OF OPERATION	PATIENT DETAILS	DIAGNOSIS	PROCEDURE/OPERATION	CLASSIFICATION OF OPERATION	SURGEON	ANAESTHETIC	ANAESTHETIST	WARD NUMBER	SCRUB NURSE	ARRIVAL TIME	DEPARTURE TIME	IMPLANT No.	OPERATION No.
3.11.95		Right inguinal hernia	right inguinal herniotomy	Int	Potts	GA	McKayne/Montague	Den	S/N Stanford	1400	1440	Potts	DC
" " "		Spina Bifida - Cysto-vesicovaginal Neph	OCB	Int	Potts	GA	McKayne	Den	"	1435	1505	Potts	DC
" " "		Recurrent umbilical epiphora	epitheliectomy	Int	Potts	GA	McKayne	Den	S/N Bradley	1455	1530	Potts	DC
" " "		abdominal pain	OCB	Int	Boulton	GA	McKayne	Den	"	1525	1600	Potts	DC
" " "		Foreign body (H. pylori) abdomen	Manual extraction	Minor	Potts	GA	Montague	Den	"	1600	1635	Potts	
" " "		Scarred lower esophagus	dilatation	Int	Jampochera Potts	GA	Montague/McKayne	Den	"	1615	1700	Potts	
4.11.95		Cleft lip Nasol Deformity	Columellar lengthening	Major	deonard	G.A.	M. Kaigne	KW	S/N Merynn	9.25	11.10	deonard	
24.11.95		Burns upper chest	Excision & grafting	Inter	Riaz	G.A.	M. Kaigne	KW	S/N Allen	11.25	12.30	deonard	
4.11.95		Mypospadias	Glue Ear's 1st stage corrector	Inter	Brennan/Dingis	G.A.	Crean	KW	S/N Harrison	8.50	10.20	Brennan	
4.11.95		Mypospadias	EVA/Dilatation/Excision Skin Bridge	Int	Brennan	G.A.	Crean	D.C.V.	S/N Mc Elhinney	10.10	10.40	Brennan	
24.11.95		Mypospadias	Change of Dressing	Minor	Riaz	G.A.	Crean	KW	"	12.30	12.50	Brennan	
24.11.95		Burns scar/mouth	Bilateral Mouth Widening	Minor	Brennan	G.A.	Crean	K.W.	S/N Harbourne	10.45	12.05	Brennan	
24.11.95		Cerebral Polyp	Soft tissue release	Major	Cowie/Zein	G.A.	Crean	KW	S/N Harbourne	14.05	16.10	Cowie	
24.11.95		# L midshaft radius	MVA & LA POP	Minor	Zein	G.A.	Montague	BW	"	16.00	16.35	Cowie	
24.11.95		Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	Trisecton of central line	Inter	Boston	G.A.	Montague	CHU	S/N Merynn	16.25	17.05	Dempsey Boston	
24.11.95		Distal 1/3 left femur	muft + application of Thomas Splint	Int	Arzoo (Pen)	G.A.	Montague	B.W.	"	17.15	18.50	Cowie	E
25.11.95		Irreducible R. Inguinal Hernia	Left Inguinal Herniotomy	Inter	Brown	G.A.	Montague	B.W.	S/N Allen	20.00	01.25	Brown	E
25.11.95		Irreducible L. Inguinal Hernia	Left Inguinal Herniotomy	Inter	Brown	GA	Hill/Taylor	15U	S/N Kelly	10.10	10.35	Brown	E
25.11.95		Pyloric stenosis	Ramstedt Procedure	Inter	Brown	GA	Hill/Taylor	15U	S/N Kelly	10.55	11.45	Brown	E
25.11.95		Abdominal Pain	perforated Appendix	Major	Brown	G.A.	Hill	BW	S/N Kelly	17.25	18.25	Brown	E
25.11.95		Blocked small	Two Shunt placed one replaced	Major	Brown	G.A.	Hill	BW	S/N Moun	20.15	22.10	Brown	E
25.11.95		Duodenal Atresia	Unstented Roux Y	Inter	Brown	GA	Taylor	15U	S/N Kelly	10.55	11.50	Brown	E
25.11.95		Diaphragm	Stomach laparotomy	Minor	Khan	GA	Montague	K.W.	"	13.23	14.20	Small	E
25.11.95		Intussusception	Reduction of intussusception & appendicectomy	Major	Brown	GA	Montague	15U	S/N Moun	15.25	16.55	Brown	E
27.11.95		ABD. PAIN	OCB + An. Studies	Inter	Saiki	G.A.	Campbell	Den	"	9.10	9.40	Brown	
"		undescended testis	left orchiopexy & I. Hemolysis	Inter	SKoo	GA	Campbell	Den	S/N Stanford	9.35	10.45	Brown	
"		bil. Hydrocoelis	bil. ing. hemiotomy	Inter	SKoo	GA	Campbell	Den	S/N Hyatt	10.00	11.40	Brown	
"		enlarged parotid nodes	Excision of L. node	Minor	SKoo	GA	Campbell	Den	S/N Stanford	11.33	12.20	Brown	
"		Rt undescended testis	right orchiopexy	Inter	Brown	GA	Campbell	Den	S/N Hunter	12.15	12.50	Brown	

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