

Witness Statement Ref. No.

314/1

NAME OF CHILD: RAYCHEL FERGUSON

Name: Zawislak

Title: Mr

Present position and institution: Associate Specialist

Previous position and institution: Locum Staff Grade
[As at the time of the child's death]

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees: None
[Identify by date and title all of those between January 2000 - December 2012]

Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports: None
[Identify by date and title all those made in relation to the child's death]

OFFICIAL USE:

List of previous statements, depositions and reports attached:

Ref:	Date:	

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 an Inquiry reference number, then please provide a copy of the document attached

(1) Please address the following matters relating to your qualifications and experience:

- (a) State your medical qualifications and the date you qualified as a medical doctor, and append a copy of your CV.
September 1998.
- (b) State the date of your appointment to Altnagelvin Hospital, and the role to which you were appointed.
February 1999 - Locum Staff Grade.
- (c) Describe your career history before you were appointed to Altnagelvin Hospital.
Training Scheme in Northern Ireland.
- (d) Describe your work commitments to the Altnagelvin Hospital or elsewhere from the date of your appointment to date of answering hereof, stating the locations in which you worked and the periods of time in each department/location.

I was employed by Altnagelvin Hospital in January 1999. In the year 2001 I was working as a Locum Staff Grade.

I was running a Dedicated Elective Surgical Unit. I was working there as a single handed surgeon. The Unit was dealing only with elective and mainly day cases. I was responsible for this unit and therefore I was not affiliated with any consultant surgeon and I was not working with any surgical team. I was cooperating with my surgical consultant colleagues regarding patients who were under my care and were elective patients.

(2) As of June 2001 did Altnagelvin have in place any arrangement, written or unwritten, formal or informal, or any form of guidance concerning the circumstances in which junior surgeons were expected to confer with a senior colleague before undertaking any anaesthetic or surgical procedure?

I have no recollection of it.

If so,

- (a) Fully describe the arrangement or guidance which was in place, and the circumstances in which it was understood that the junior surgeon should confer with a senior colleague?
N/A
- (b) Insofar as you are aware fully describe whether or how this arrangement was applied in the case of Raychel Ferguson?
N/A

(3) Describe your duties on the night of 7th June 2001, the time you commenced your duties and the time when those duties ended.

I cannot recall if I was on call on that date.

(4) If you were the on-call surgical registrar on the night of the 7th June 2001, please address the following questions:

(a) Were you contacted to discuss the treatment of the patient Raychel Ferguson on the night of the 7th June 2001?

I have no recollection of being contacted by anybody to discuss the treatment of Raychel Ferguson on the night of the 7th June 2001.

I was not involved in her treatment at any stage. This was a very high profile case and very tragic case. Should I have been involved in anyway I would remember that. Therefore I am positive that nobody contacted me to discuss the treatment of this patient at any stage.

(b) If so, who contacted you? N/A

(c) At what time were you contacted? N/A

(d) What was your understanding of the reasons for contacting you? N/A

(e) Outline what was discussed? N/A

(f) Was a conclusion or plan agreed further to this discussion? N/A

(g) What action did you expect would be taken on foot of what was agreed? N/A

(h) Did you make any note or record in relation to the contact that was made with you or what was discussed or agreed? If so, please identify the document and arrange for the Inquiry to be provided with a copy of same. N/A

(5) Were you ever contacted by any of your surgical or other colleagues at the Altnagelvin Hospital following Raychel's death in order to address with you what you had discussed or advised in relation to her treatment on the night of the 7th June 2001?

No.

If so,

(a) Who contacted you?

(b) When were you contacted?

(c) What did you tell this person about your involvement?

(6) Were you advised of the death of Raychel Ferguson? If so, who advised you of this and what were you told?

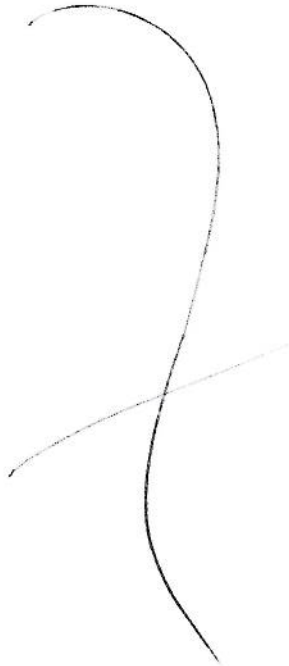
No. I learned about this case few weeks later from one of the nurses whose name I cannot recall. The name of the patient was not mentioned. I didn't make any enquires and I was not involved in this case.

(7) Were you ever asked to participate in a review concerning decisions regarding the treatment of Raychel and the care which was provided to Raychel Ferguson at the Altnagelvin Hospital between the 7th and 9th June 2001?
No.

If so, please outline the nature of the review which you were asked to participate in, and describe the contribution which you made to the review? N/A

(8) Provide any further points and comments that you wish to make together with any documents in relation to, N/A

- (a) The procedure leading to the decision to operate on Raychel on the 7th June 2001;
- (b) The decision to conduct an appendicectomy;
- (c) The care and treatment which was otherwise provided to her between the 7th -9th June 2001.



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

Signed:



Dated:

25/01/13