

Witness Statement Ref. No. 326/1

NAME OF CHILD: Raychel Ferguson

Name: K Doherty

Title: Mrs.

Present position and institution:

Cook with the W.E.I.B. ST Patricks Primary School Pennyburn.

Previous position and institution:

[As at the time of the child's death]

Same as above. Have been employed there for 17 years.

Patient Advocate- Altnagelvin Hospital Health & Social Services Trust ("AHHSST")

Does not apply to me.

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:

[Identify by date and title all of those between January 2001 - Present]

Not involved with any panels or committees.

Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports:

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

I have not made any statements, depositions or reports in relation to Raychel's death.

OFFICIAL USE:

List of previous statements, depositions and reports attached:

Ref:

Date:

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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 to your statement.

- (1) With respect to the meeting between Mrs. Ferguson and the representatives of AHHSST and others (minuted Ref: 022-084-215) please state:**
- (a) What were your hopes and intentions in attending this meeting;**
 - (b) What was your understanding of the medical aspects of Raychel's case before you attended the meeting;**
 - (c) What documents did you have before the meeting;**
 - (d) What documents were you given at the meeting;**
 - (e) Were the hospital medical notes were available at the meeting;**
 - (f) Did you prepare for this meeting and if so what did you do;**
 - (g) Was an Agenda provided in relation to this meeting;**
 - (h) Did you discuss Raychel's case with Dr. Ashenhurst;**
 - (i) Did you discuss Raychel's case with the Patient Advocate;**
 - (j) What was the role of the Patient Advocate;**
 - (k) Why did the Patient Advocate not speak on behalf of Mrs. Ferguson;**
 - (l) Do you believe that the representatives of the AHHSST answered the questions posed, and if not why not;**
 - (m) Do you believe that the representatives of the AHHSST gave a full account of their understanding of the principle causes of Raychel's death, and if not why not;**
 - (n) Do you believe that the representatives of the AHHSST gave a full account of their understanding of the deficiencies in the care and treatment of Raychel and if not why not;**
 - (o) Were you sent a copy of the minute (Ref: 022-084-215 *et seq*) of this meeting afterwards and, if so, when and were you asked for your approval;**
 - (p) Is the minute of the meeting accurate? If not, please advise as to any errors or omissions;**
 - (q) Whether any confusion arises in the Minute between those contributions attributed to you and those to Mrs. A. Doherty;**
 - (r) Were you content that the meeting had fulfilled its purpose;**

- (s) Did you make a report of this meeting to anyone else, and if so to whom and in what terms;
 - (t) Did you think the meeting was useful to the family;
 - (u) Did you take any note or record of this meeting (and if so please provide);
 - (v) Did anyone else take any note or record of this meeting (and if so who);
 - (w) Please provide such other information about the meeting that you think the Inquiry ought to have?
- (2) In respect of the request made by Rosaleen Callaghan at the meeting *"for the family to be informed of the result of a meeting to be held at the end of the month"* (Ref: 022-084-223) please state:
- (a) What were you informed about this meeting, when and by whom;
 - (b) Whether the family was informed as to the outcome of this meeting?
- (3) During their evidence to this Inquiry Mr. and Mrs. Fergusons stated the following: *"We believed that - we were sitting in a side room of intensive care, it was myself Marie and Marie's sister, Kay. We were sitting -- I don't know if it was a doctor or a nurse, but a man with a dark hair and dark beard came and sat beside us and started to explain that she was going to the Royal for an operation. I asked him how long it would be until we knew if she's going to be brain damaged, he said two to three weeks. I asked how long it would be until we knew if everything is going to be okay, he said two to three weeks"* (Ref: Transcript of Hearings 26.03.13, page 135, lines 14-23). In respect of this please advise as to what, if anything, you remember about this conversation?
- (4) Please provide such further comment as you think relevant. It would be of very considerable assistance if you could attach any documents you may hold which may be useful.

Answers Follow Below

(a) What were your hopes and intentions in attending this meeting;

To get answers as to how and why that Raychel died.

(b) What was your understanding of the medical aspects of Raychel's case before you attended the meeting;

There was no clear indication given to me from any Altnagalvin staff as to what happened to Raychel only that she had a seizure.

(c) What documents did you have before the meeting;

I had no documents before the meeting.

(d) What documents were you given at the meeting;

I was given no documents at the meeting.

(e) Were the hospital medical notes were available at the meeting;

I was not made aware of any notes at the meeting.

(f) Did you prepare for this meeting and if so what did you do;

The only preparation made was a family discussion that we find out how and why Raychel died.

(g) Was an Agenda provided in relation to this meeting;

No.

(h) Did you discuss Raychel's case with Dr. Ashenhurst;

No i did not discuss Raychel's case with Dr. Ashenhurst.

(i) Did you discuss Raychel's case with the Patient Advocate;

I was not aware of a Patient Advocate at the time of the meeting.

(j) What was the role of the Patient Advocate.

I was not aware of the Patient Advocate.

(k) Why did the Patient Advocate not speak on behalf of Mrs. Ferguson

I do not know.

(l) Do you believe that the representatives of the AHHSST answered the questions posed, and if not why not;

No i do not believe they answered the questions posed. As the only answers they gave us were that they had absolutely no concerns about Raychel and what Raychel died of was very rare.

(m) Do you believe that the representatives of the AHHSST gave a full account of their understanding of the principle causes of Raychel's death, and if not why not;

No i believe they did not give us any explanation of their understanding of the principle causes of Raychel's death. Only through being at the inquiry and being made aware of the information they had at that time I do not know why they did not give us all the information that they had then.

(n) Do you believe that the representatives of the AHHSST gave a full account of their understanding of the deficiencies in the care and treatment of Raychel and if not why not;

No i do not believe they gave us any account of their understanding of the deficiencies in the care and treatment of Raychel. The reason i say this is the only thing they had to say was they had no concerns about Raychel and that this was very rare.

(o) Were you sent a copy of the minute (Ref: 022-084-215 *et seq*) of this meeting afterwards and, if so, when and were you asked for your approval;

No i was not sent a copy of the minute (Ref: 022-084-215-et seq) therefore i was not for approval.

(p)Is the minute of the meeting accurate? If not, please advise as to any errors or omissions;

I have not seen these minutes therefore i do not know if they are accurate.

(q) Whether any confusion arises in the Minute between those contributions attributed to you and those to Mrs. A. Doherty;

I have not seen the minutes therefore cannot answer this.

(r) Were you content that the meeting had fulfilled its purpose;

No we had no more knowledge leaving than what we had when we went in.

(s) Did you make a report of this meeting to anyone else, and if so to whom and in what terms;

I am unsure if i made a report of this meeting to anyone else.I spoke to Stanley millar but am not sure if this was before or after the meeting. I cannot recall at this time what the role of Mr Millar was.

(T) Did you think the meeting was useful to the family;

No i did not think this meeting was of any use to the family.

(U) Did you take any note or record of this meeting (and if so please provide);

No i did not take any notes or record of this meeting.

(V) Did anyone else take any note or record of this meeting (and if so who);

At time of meeting we suggested that Rosaleen Callaghan a family friend would take notes but were told by the trust that someone was taking notes. I now know from the inquiry that this was the patient advocate.

(w) Please provide such other information about the meeting that you think the Inquiry ought to have

I do not have any other information about the meeting.

(2) In respect of the request made by Rosaleen Callaghan at the meeting *"for the family to be informed of the result of a meeting to be held at the end of the month"* (Ref: 022-084-223) please state:

(a) What were you informed about this meeting, when and by whom;

I was never informed by anyone about this meeting.

(b) Whether the family was informed as to the outcome of this meeting?

To my knowledge the family were never informed of this meeting.

(3) During their evidence to this Inquiry Mr. and Mrs. Fergusons stated the following: *"We believed that - we were sitting in a side room of intensive care, it was myself Marie and Marie's sister, Kay. We were sitting -- I don't know if it was a doctor or a nurse, but a man with a dark hair and dark beard came and sat beside us and started to explain that she was going to the Royal for an operation. I asked him how long it would be until we knew if she's going to be brain damaged, he said two to three weeks. I asked how long it would be until we knew if everything is going to be okay, he said two to three weeks"* (Ref: Transcript of Hearings 26.03.13, page 135, lines 14-23). In respect of this please advise as to what, if anything, you remember about this conversation?

I remember this conversation taking place as we felt this was the first bit of information that we were given as to Raychel's condition and as what was going to happen to her from here on in.

Please provide such further comment as you think relevant. It would be of very considerable assistance if you could attach any documents you may hold which may be useful

I have nothing further to add. I was never supplied with any documents.

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

Signed: Kay Joherty

Dated: 20/6/13