

NAME OF CHILD: Raychel Ferguson

Name: E.M. Ashenhurst

Title: Dr.

Present position and institution: Retired from General Practice, Glendermott Medical, Waterside Health Centre, Londonderry on the 30/9/11.

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

General Practitioner- Waterside Health Centre

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:
[Identify by date and title all of those between January 2001 - present]

Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports:
[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 to your statement.

(1) Please provide the following information:

- (a) Your medical qualifications as of 2001 (please also provide a copy of your CV);**

MB BCH BAO DRCOG DCH MRCP

- (b) How long had you acted as General Medical Practitioner to Raychel Ferguson?**

Since birth

(2) Did you receive any note, advice or communication from the Altnagelvin Area Hospital in relation to Raychel's discharge from that hospital? If not, would you have expected to receive such notification from it?

No record in notes of any communication from Altnagelvin Area Hospital re Raychel's transfer to Belfast. Usually we would have received a form informing us of the transfer.

(3) Did you receive any communication or explanation from Altnagelvin Area Hospital as to the fact of Raychel's death or the cause thereof? If not, would you have expected to have received such information?

No written communication from Altnagelvin Hospital re Raychel's death is in the notes. I can remember that we learnt of Raychel's death by a phone call taken by the clerical staff but cannot remember if the phone call was from the RBHSC, Altnagelvin Hospital or family member. No member of Altnagelvin staff spoke to myself or a GP colleague about the fact or cause of Raychel's death. Fortunately child death in General Practice is rare and since Raychel's death we have had as a practice only one, and we were telephoned by a Consultant to inform us.

(4) Were you sent a copy of the Autopsy Report? If not would you have expected to have received it?

We did not receive a copy of the autopsy report. 12 years ago we did not routinely receive autopsy reports.

(5) With respect to the meeting between Mrs. Ferguson and the representatives of AHHSST and others (minuted Ref: 022-084-215) please state:

(a) What was the purpose of your attendance at this meeting;

To be supportive to Mrs Ferguson.

(b) Who asked you to attend this meeting;

Mrs Ferguson asked me to attend. Apparently Mrs Burnside had suggested to her that she might find my presence at the meeting supportive.

(c) State whether, before attending this meeting, you were briefed as to the outcome of the Critical Incident Review;

I was not briefed as to the outcome of the Critical Incident Review.

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

The representatives of AHHSST answered the questions posed.

(e) 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;

I recall low sodium levels being discussed and also the possibility of Raychel having an inherent sensitivity to such levels. With the passage of time I cannot remember how comprehensive the discussion was.

(f) 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;

I have no recollection of deficiencies in the care of Raychel being mentioned at the meeting by the representatives. I do remember the representatives mentioning the possibility of reviewing the post-op blood test monitoring and the provision of IV fluids that were used.

(g) Please indicate all respects in which the minute of the meeting might be inaccurate;

To the best of my recollection the minutes appear to be accurate.

(h) Did you have any liaison with the Patient Advocate in relation to Raychel's case (and if so please detail);

I had no liaison with the Patient Advocate with regard to Raychel's case.

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

My recollection is that the family felt that the meeting did not meet their expectations.

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

As per above, unfortunately the family still had concerns about Raychel's treatment.

(k) **Did you take any note, record or memorandum of this meeting (and if so please provide);**

I did not take notes.

(l) **Please provide any other observations about the meeting which you think may be relevant?**

I have no further observations to make.

(6) **Did the Altnagelvin Area Hospital provide you with the medical casenotes (and if so when)? If so did you review them with the Ferguson family?**

I received a copy of the medical case notes a few days later following the meeting and went to Mrs Ferguson's home and reviewed them with her.

(7) **Were you provided with a copy of the Coroner's Verdict?**

We have no record of having received a copy of the Coroner's Verdict.

(8) **Please provide such additional comments or documents which you think are relevant.**

I have no additional comments.

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

Signed:

Thomas O'Riordan

Dated: 22.05.13

CV – Dr Elma Ashenhurst

June 1978	Qualified QUB Belfast MB BCH BAO
1/8/78 to 31/7/79	Pre-Registration Year, Altnagelvin Hospital
1/8/79 to 31/7/81	GP Rotation Scheme, Altnagelvin Hospital
1/8/81 to 31/7/82	GP Training Placement, Glendermott Medical
1/8/82 to 30/9/11	GP Partner, Glendermott Medical
30/9/11	Date of retirement