

CORONERS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1959

Deposition of Witness taken on TUESDAY the 5th day of FEBRUARY 2003, at inquest touching the death of RAYCHEL FERGUSON, before me MR J L LECKEY Coroner for the District of GREATER BELFAST as follows to wit:-

The Deposition of DR BRIAN McCORD - CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN of ALTNAGELVIN AREA HOSPITAL, GLENSHANE ROAD, LONDONDERRY who being sworn upon his oath, saith

My name is Dr Brian McCord; I am a Consultant Paediatrician at Altnagelvin Area Hospital.

As such I was paediatrician on-call for the weekend of 08 - 10.06.2001. At approximately 03.45 a.m. I received a call from my registrar, Dr Trainor, regarding this 9-year-old girl previously admitted under the care of surgical colleagues with a history of abdominal pain and subsequently treated with an uneventful appendectomy. Post operatively she had given few concerns although there was some vomiting recorded. She was on IV fluids.

In the early hours of the morning of the 9.6.01 she developed an epileptiform episode requiring treatment with rectal and IV Diazepam. I was subsequently called in view of concerns about her general condition i.e. she looked very unwell and the finding of a few discrete petechiae. My verbal advice via telephone was to commence high dose antibiotics and seek anaesthetist assistance should there be any further deterioration in condition.

I then proceeded to the hospital and on arrival she had been intubated and was being manually ventilated. She was well perfused but unresponsive.

[REDACTED]

Pupils were fixed and dilated. Fundi were sharp. By this stage she was also noted to have a marked electrolyte disturbance with profound hyponatraemia and low magnesium. IV fluids were switched to normal saline and infusion rate was reduced. She was given i.m. Magnesium Sulphate. Once stabilised and airway secured an urgent CT scan was arranged. Initial impression of CT scan was one of subarachnoid haemorrhage and raised intracranial pressure.

Subsequently Raychel was to be transferred to intensive care for stabilisation and there was to be liaison between surgical colleagues and neurosurgical colleagues in Belfast regarding further management.

TAKEN before me this 5th day of FEBRUARY 2003

Coroner for the District of Greater Belfast

RF – ROYAL

064-057-172