

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 G A NESBITT – CLINICAL DIRECTOR of ALTNAGELVIN HOSPITAL, GLENSHANE ROAD, LONDONDERRY who being sworn upon his oath, saith

I was called to Altnagelvin Hospital in the early hours of Saturday 9th June 2001 to assist with the transfer of Raychel Ferguson from the paediatric ward to the X Ray Department where a CT scan was to be performed. I was not on duty but because of pressure on the on call team extra help had been requested.

Raychel had had an uneventful operation for appendectomy the day previously and had made a good recovery. However throughout the day she had several episodes of vomiting and had developed a headache in the evening. Nursing staff found Raychel fitting around 3 a.m. and called medical staff. Her condition deteriorated requiring intubation and ventilation. Blood results taken following the seizure showed a low Sodium level and a saline infusion was in place to allow a slow correction of this imbalance.

I attended Raychel around 5.30 a.m. by which time she had been brought to the X Ray Department. A CT scan was performed uneventually and Raychel was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit for continuing care there. I contacted the Neurosurgical Unit in the Royal Victoria Hospital

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and at their request arranged a second CT scan. Transfer to the Children's hospital was organised following this and I accompanied Raychel to their Intensive Care Unit, leaving Altnagelvin at around 11.10 a.m. Throughout the transfer Raychel was ventilated and monitored. Her condition remained unchanged and she was admitted to Intensive Care in the Children's Hospital around 12.20 p.m.

TAKEN before me this 5th day of FEBRUARY 2003

Coroner for the District of Greater Belfast