

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: RAYMOND FERGUSON

Name

Rank

AGE OF WITNESS (If over 18 enter "over 18"): 9.6.65

*To be completed  
when the statement  
has been written*

I declare that this statement consisting of 4 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 7 day of SEPTEMBER 2005

Melanie Bell

Raymond Ferguson

*SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom  
statement was recorded or received*

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

MELANIE BELL, D/CONSTABLE

PRINT NAME IN CAPS

I am the father of Raychel Zara Ferguson. On 7 June 2001 I was at work as a taxi dispatcher at Branch Taxis, Bowling Alley, Derry. Shortly after seven o'clock in the evening my wife called for me in our car with my daughter Raychel. I remember the time because I normally finish work at 7.00 pm but the dispatcher who replaced me had not yet turned in for work. I explained to work colleagues that I had a crisis and had to leave. I left my post unmanned. We then went straight to Altnagelvin Hospital. Raychel was seen by a doctor who said it might be her appendix. This was the same doctor who operated on her, Doctor Makar. He gave her an injection for pain and she was well improved after that. We were told because Raychel had had her dinner they could not operate until maybe two or three in the morning. This all happened in Casualty and Raychel had to wait for a bed in ward six until one became available in ward six. We went up to ward six along with Raychel and explained to her when she had settled down that we were going to go home and collect a few things for her. I arrived home along with my wife around half past ten and a short time after that the telephone rang. We were told that the hospital wanted us back because Raychel was going to theatre. Both Marie and I returned to the hospital. We were in talking to Raychel and a nurse came to take Raychel to the theatre. I don't recall the identity of the

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: Raymond Ferguson

(11)

**STATEMENT OF: RAYMOND FERGUSON**

nurse, but I can say that she did not give evidence at the Inquest. I would know her if I saw her again. The nurse told us Raychel would be in theatre for an hour, she told us to go and get a cup of tea. We went and got a cup of tea and returned at approximately half past midnight. There was no sign of Raychel. We asked a nurse what was keeping Raychel and the nurse told us that once Raychel was ready to come back up from the theatre the ward would be contacted. We stayed at the ward and sometime after two o'clock Raychel was brought back up onto the ward. We stayed in the ward that night along with Raychel. Marie left between six and seven o'clock to go home and get our boys ready for school. I stayed on at the hospital. At around half past eight in the morning Raychel woke up and was talking to me. I asked her if she wanted to go for a walk and she got out of bed and was walking along the ward pushing her drip. My recollection is that Raychel was not on a drip going to theatre but on being wheeled back into the ward the drip was wheeled in also. I remember the drip bleeping all night and the nurses were in working on it all night. I cannot remember the names of any of those nurses. I remember that Raychel walked out of the ward and into the corridor. She then walked back to her bed and got into bed. At approximately nine o'clock I phoned Marie and told her Raychel was awake and doing well and had been for a walk along the corridor with me. Marie told me she would be over to the hospital shortly. I then went to the hospital shop and got a colouring book and pens. I returned to the ward and gave these items to Raychel. She got out of bed and began colouring on the table. Raychel coloured for a while and then got back into bed. The doctors came into the ward soon after doing their rounds. Doctor Makar was there and he told me the operation went well and that Raychel's appendix was only slightly inflamed. I recall the ward sister Nurse Millar was also present. I do not recall the identities of any of the other doctors but I know that there were other doctors present. I cannot recall any discussion about Raychel's treatment or the fluid that she was on. I do not know which doctor made any of the decisions about those fluids, but I am sure that the fluids remained up and the bag was changed when it was empty. At around ten o'clock Marie returned to the ward. Raychel

**STATEMENT OF: RAYMOND FERGUSON**

threw her arms around her and said, "Guess what mummy I was sick". To be honest I cannot remember Raychel being sick unless she was sick whilst I was at the shop and didn't tell me. Shortly after Marie came back to the hospital I went home to get washed and changed. I returned to the hospital between one and half past one. When I came in Marie told me that she had carried Raychel to the toilet and that she filled the sink with vomit from the Chinese she had eaten the night before. Raychel remained in bed whilst I was there and vomited several times. I recall taking several kidney trays filled with vomit out to the nurses. The vomit seemed to be very watery. The nurses told me that that was only normal and that she would stop now as her stomach was empty. Both Marie and I left the hospital at three o'clock to go and collect the kids from school. I dropped Marie back at the hospital at approximately quarter to four. I returned home to get the other children's homeworks done and got them their dinners. I returned to the hospital along with my sons, Jason and Jamie and the girl next door, Lisa McColgan, who was Raychel's best friend. This was at approximately quarter to seven. We came into the ward and Marie said to Raychel, "Look who is here, Jamie, Jason and Lisa". Raychel didn't even acknowledge us, she was still lying down in bed. Teresa and Sarah McCullough arrived a short time later. They had brought Raychel a video and book. I showed these to Raychel and she was unresponsive. Teresa and Sarah didn't stay for very long as they thought Raychel was only out of her operation. At around eight o'clock or thereafter Marie left the hospital to take the two boys and Lisa home. I remained at the hospital with Raychel. At around quarter to nine to nine o'clock Raychel sat up in bed and complained that her head was sore. I noticed she was bright red in the face. She was holding on to her head with both hands and saying, "Daddy, daddy, my heads wild sore". Raychel then vomited blood in the bed. Nurses then came in and made Raychel stand at the far side of the bed from me while they changed the bed. I noticed that Raychel could hardly stand. Raychel got back into bed and the nurses went out of the ward. Within mintues Raychel vomited blood all over the bed again. The nurses came back in again and asked Raychel to stand out of the bed again. I said, "Hold on a

**STATEMENT OF: RAYMOND FERGUSON**

minute, the wee girl can hardly stand". I lifted Raychel out of bed and put her on my knee. The nurses changed the bed again and I put Raychel back into bed. The nurses put pillow cases underneath her chin and on her chest. At around half past nine I phoned Marie and told her that Raychel had been vomiting blood. I was really worried. I can remember the sweat running down my back. I told Marie that the nurses weren't listening to me. I can also recall that after Raychel had vomited blood a dark haired nurse in her late 30s, I think her name is Nurse Gilchrist, she checked Raychel's records. This nurse said that she thought a doctor had been up and given Raychel something but that he hadn't signed for it. This nurse told me she would get another doctor to give Raychel more stuff to stop her from being sick. Marie arrived back at the hospital at around ten o'clock. We both stayed there until about twenty to one in the morning. At this time the nurses told us Raychel had settled and would sleep for the rest of the night. During the time I was at the hospital throughout that day Raychel was always on a drip. Every time the bag was empty it was replaced. I do not recall any doctor giving any instructions relating to the fluids. The only time Raychel was out of bed was first thing in the morning following her operation. During this time she walked out of the ward and into the corridor and then returned to her bed. I do not recall Raychel talking from about half past one until she complained to me in the evening of having a very sore head. I recall her being sick most of the time. While I was at the hospital I told the nurses every time Raychel was sick. On leaving the hospital at twenty to one in the morning Marie and I returned home. We sat up talking for a short time before going to bed. At quarter to four the phone rang and I answered it. It was the hospital who told me they had tried to ring us a couple of times. I have a caller display phone and I know that they hadn't as there were no missed calls displayed. The hospital asked us to return. They told us Raychel had taken a seizure. I went to the hospital alone arriving at around 4.00 am. Raychel's bed was surrounded by nurses and doctors when I returned to the ward. I saw Raychel shaking in bed, she was lying down and one of the nurses told her I was there. I went over to the bed and saw that Raychel's elbows were at her waist and her

STATEMENT OF: RAYMOND FERGUSON

hands were at her cheeks. She was trembling. I took hold of one of her arms and she was very tense. The nurses lifted Raychel out of bed and took her to the treatment room. I can recall during the Inquest into Raychel's death one of the nurses called Michelle Rice said that Raychel had been walking up the corridors along with her brothers while they visited her on the ward. At the Inquest Marie and I both said at the same that that was lies. We wer both rebuked by the Coroner. I am still adamant that Raychel was not walking in the corridors with her brothers while they visited. I also want to say that at the time Raychel was complaining of a sore head I went out to the nurses in the corridor. I told Nurse Noble that Raychel was complaining of a sore head and was bright red in the face. Nurse Noble said that she would come and give Raychel a paracetamol and did so a short time later. I remember feeling very angry at the way Nurse Noble dealt with that situation.

Certified a true copy of original

Raymond Ferguson

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS Raymond Ferguson

15