

ON 38/36 D302

over 18 yrs...

Statement of Elaine Duffy

My daughter Emma was in the same ward as Raychel Ferguson in June 2001 at Altnagelvin Hospital Derry. Myself and my husband took it in turns to visit our daughter. I would normally visit during the day and my husband Stephen would usually stay at night time. We always made sure we were with Emma at all times.

On Friday morning the 8 June 2001 Emma tried to befriend Raychel as best she could. She passed her a magazine and tried to give her some sweets. Rachel did seem alert earlier on the Friday morning but she seemed to get very sick and deteriorate during the rest of the day. She had been up and about as any child would be in the morning and at that stage we did not have any concerns.

At some point early mid morning the doctors came to do their usual "rounds" which included Emma. ^{There was a team of doctors on the ward and while I think one was the Consultant Paediatrician, I am not sure.} The doctors did not attend to Raychel at this time. I did not know why. During my time in the ward I did not notice any doctors with Raychel on the day of Friday 8th June 2001 when I was there.

From mid day onwards Raychel started to be very sick. She started to vomit. The nurses had left trays in the ward for her and she used them. During the course of the day (I went home around 9pm) she had vomited so many times I could not say exactly how many. It was at least 5 vomits that I witnessed. Either her mother or the nurses removed the trays with the vomits in it. Raychel was becoming so sick that at one stage her father had to carry her to the toilet. Raychel was crying and moaning with pain. I remember the nurse trying to assist her with her headache. This was in the evening before I left for home. Raychel was crying with the pain and it was quite distressing. On reflection it is even more distressing.

During the day I also recall Raychel had a visitor. I think it may have been someone from her school but she did not acknowledge the visitor as far as I could see. She was motionless and sleeping on the bed.

Emma's Dad arrived around 8pm to stay for the night. At this stage Raychel was really distressed and agitated and her face was really flushed.

It was at this stage that I left for home and my husband Stephen stayed with Emma. While I was with Emma I did not see Raychel up and walking about the ward after about breakfast time.

Elaine Duffy
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Witnessed

Name

Address

Occupation