

L413

CORONERS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1959

VERDICT ON INQUEST

On an inquest taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen, at THE OLD TOWNHALL BUILDING, 80 VICTORIA STREET, BELFAST in the County Court Division of GREATER BELFAST on the WEDNESDAY the 5TH day of FEBRUARY 2003, before me MR J L LECKEY, HM Coroner for the district of GREATER BELFAST touching the death of RAYCHEL FERGUSON to inquire how, when and where the said RAYCHEL FERGUSON came to his death, the following matters were found:

1. Name and surname of deceased: RAYCHEL ZARA FERGUSON
2. Sex: FEMALE
3. Date of Death: 10 June 2001
4. Place of Death: ROYAL BELFAST HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
5. Usual Address: [REDACTED]
6. Marital Status: SINGLE
7. Date and Place of Birth: 4 February 1992 at LONDONDERRY
8. Occupation: DAUGHTER OF RAYMOND FERGUSON, PLASTERER
9. Maiden Surname: N/A
10. Cause of Death: 1(a) CEREBRAL OEDEMA (b) HYPONATRAEMIA

Findings:

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2001 the deceased was admitted to Altnagelvin Hospital complaining of sudden onset, acute abdominal pain. Appendicitis was diagnosed and she underwent an appendectomy the same day. Initially, post-operative recovery proceeded normally. However, the following day she vomited on a number of occasions and complained of a headache. The next day, 9<sup>th</sup> June, she suffered a series of tonic seizures necessitating her transfer to the Intensive Care Unit of the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children where she died the following day. A subsequent post-mortem examination established that she died from cerebral oedema caused by hyponatraemia. The hyponatraemia was caused by a combination of inadequate electrolyte

(79)

replacement in the face of severe post-operative vomiting and water retention  
resulting from the inappropriate secretion of ADH (Anti-Diuretic Hormone).

Date: 10TH day of FEBRUARY 2003

Signed: *Paul L. Kelly*

Coroner for GREATER BELFAST