

6<sup>th</sup> February 2003, 10.30am-1.00pm

Evidence of Dr. Vijay Kumar Gund

The Doctor read out his deposition. Under questioning from the Coroner, he confirmed that he had not been dealing with Raychel before the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, and did not see her again after surgery. He described the surgery as uneventful. Mr. Leckey referred to the previous day's discussion on naso-gastric tubes, Dr. Gund said it would not be his normal practice in this type of surgery.

Under cross-examination from Mr. Foster Dr. Gund said he left the fluid prescription to those on the ward and that it would be normal for a patient to be prescribed fluids, usually normal saline if a drug patient. The Coroner asked if there was a difference between adult and child patients, Dr. Gund said an adult would be prescribed Hartman's solution and normal saline. Mr. Foster continued to ask about the protocol, but Mr. Leckey was of the view that Dr. Gund could not take the matter much further as he did not create the protocol. The Doctor was asked about his knowledge of the protocol, he replied that he was informed by the nurses. If the nurses needed further guidance they would be able to ask the available paediatrician.

Under questioning from Mr. McAllinden the Doctor confirmed he was aware of the nature of the IV treatment and the use of solution 18, that that was discontinued by the patient's arrival in theatre, and that solutions administered in surgery were stopped before transfer to the ward. He reconfirmed that the nurses would have been able to refer concerns to the paediatrician.

Evidence of Dr. Clare Jamison

Dr. Jamison read her deposition aloud. Mr. Leckey asked for an explanation of cricoid pressure, which she explained was pressure administered by an assistant on the cartilage around the oesophagus. She confirmed the person described in her deposition as 'first on call' was Dr. Gund. Dr. Jamison also confirmed that she did not

**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* MR M H ZAFAR

of SOUTH WEST CARDIO THORACIC CENTRE, DERRYFORD HOSPITAL, PLYMOUTH who being sworn upon his oath, saith

I Mr M H Zafar was employed as a Surgical SHO in Altnagelvin Hospital in June 2001. I visited Ward 6 to do a ward round on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2001. I saw Raychel Ferguson. Raychel had an appendectomy operation on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2001. On my ward round she was free of pain and apyrexial. The plan was for continuous observation.

At approximately 3.15 a.m. on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2001 I was bleeped by the Surgical JHO and asked to attend to Raychel Ferguson who had a fit. I was asked to come to see the child. I advised the JHO that I was in Casualty with another patient and would come to the Ward as soon as possible. When I arrived on the ward the child was being resuscitated.

TAKEN before me this 5th day of FEBRUARY 2003

Coroner for the District of Greater Belfast