Witness Statement Ref. No.

053/1

NAME OF CHILD: Raychel Ferguson

Name: Sandra Gilchrist

Title: Staff Nurse

Present position and institution:

Registered General Nurse Children Altnagelvin Hospital

Previous position and institution:

[As at the time of the child's death]

Registered General Nurse Altnagelvin Hospital

Registered General Nurse – qualified 27/2/87

Chemotherapy study day May 92

CPR Study Day June 1993

Genetic Disorders Study Day Dec 1993

Handling Violence in the Workplace Dec 1993

Paediatric Conference Sept 1994

Pain Conference Nov 1994

N.I Children Order Oct 1995

Children's accidents and the emotional effects Sept 1996

I.V Additives Course Feb 1997

Quality Care for Kids Study Day Oct 1997

Stress Management Workshop Jan 1997

Basic Life Support Training July 1997

Breast Feeding Awareness May 1997

Diabetic Study Day Oct 96 & 2003

Paediatric Resuscitation Aug 1999 Epilepsy Study Day Nov 1998

Asthma Study Day Nov 1998

Paediatric Continence June 1998

Mentorship Training 1999 & 2005

Epilepsy in Children June 1999

Health & Safety at Work Oct 1999

Paediatric Advanced Life Support 2000 & 2004

Complaints Procedures Study Day May 2000

Child Protection Jan 2001 & November 2004

Home Ventilation for children June 2001

Legal Issues in Nursing June 2003

Makathon Vocabulary Development Project Study Day July 2002

Paediatric Resuscitation February 2004, May 2005

Pressure Area Management May 2004

Manual Handling April 2004

SARS Training March 2004

1

Diploma in Nursing Studies (Children's Nursing) July 2004	
Asthma Care in Adults and Children (Module, Level 3 Feb-May 2005)	

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:

[Identify by date and title all of those between January 1995-December 2004]

None

Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports:

[Identify by date and title all those made in relation to the child's death]

Ref:012-004-094 Statement written on 10 June 2001

Ref:012-044-212 Deposition at the inquest into the death of Raychel Ferguson

OFFICIAL USE:

List of previous statements, depositions and reports attached:

Ref:	Date:	
012-004-094	10.06.01	Statement
012-044-212	05.02.03	Deposition at the Inquest into the death of Raychel Ferguson



Particular areas of interest

[Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]

- 1. Describe in detail your role in the treatment and care of Raychel Ferguson, to include:
 - (i) your concerns and observations in respect of Raychel on the evening of 8th June 2001 and early hours of 9th June 2001;
 - (ii) any conversations you had during that period with medical staff in respect of Raychel; and
 - (iii) any conversations you had with Raychel over the same period.

On the night of the 8 June 2001 I was a staff nurse on duty along with Staff Nurse Anne Noble, Staff Nurse Fiona Bryce and Nursing Auxiliary Elizabeth Lynch on Ward Six in Altnagelvin Area Hospital. After the handover report sometime after eight pm Mr. Ferguson, Raychel's father, asked me to change her bed linen as she had vomited on it. Elizabeth Lynch as far as I can remember, and myself changed the bed. At this time Raychel was sitting on a chair at the side of the bed. I don't recall what conversation took place at this time.

At approximately 21:15 I took and recorded Raychel's observations of pulse, respiratory rate and temperature (See p. 020-018-029). They were unremarkable. At this time she was nauseated and had vomited coffee grounds into a vomit bowl, approximately 150mls (See p. 020-018-037). Her nausea and vomiting subsided shortly after this but about 20-25 minutes later she became nauseated and vomited three small amounts (See P. 020-018-037). I spoke to Mr Ferguson and told him that I would contact the surgical doctor on call. I also spoke to Staff Nurse Anne Noble about contacting the doctor so that he could administer an anti-emetic to see if it could give Raychel some relief. As staff nurses on the children's ward we are unable to administer intravenous anti-emetics as this must be done by a doctor. I contacted the Surgical Junior House Officer on call, a locum named Dr Michael Curran. I explained to him about Raychel's nausea and vomiting and he said he would come to see her. He arrived on the ward at approximately 22:00 and administered Cyclizine at 22:15 (See p. 020-017-034). Raychel's nausea subsided at this time and she fell asleep shortly afterwards. At approximately 23:30 Raychel's parents informed us that they were going home, as she was asleep and resting well. They asked us to telephone them if Raychel needed them and we said that we would.

At 00:35 Staff Nurse Fiona Bryce came to me and said that Raychel was restless and asked me to help her change her pyjama jacket as there was a mouthful of vomit on it. When we went to Raychel's bedside I asked her if she was okay and she replied 'yes'. I then asked her if we could sit her up in the bed to put on a fresh pyjama jacket. When Staff Nurse Bryce and I had helped her to sit up Raychel said 'I just want to lie down and sleep'. So we lowered her back onto the bed and placed her pyjama jacket over the top of her. She fell to sleep almost immediately. I had no concerns at this time.

At approximately 02:00 I again took and recorded Raychel's temperature, pulse and respiratory rate (See p.020-015-028). They were unremarkable. She was asleep but woke when I placed the aural thermometer in her ear. I asked her if she was okay. She replied 'yeah' or 'yes'. I cannot be sure which. I checked her intravenous infusion and cannula site and recorded this on the fluid balance sheet (See p. 020-018-037). I had no concerns regarding Raychel at this time. I did not see Raychel after this until approximately 03:40.

At approximately 03:40 I returned from my break and was informed by Staff Nurse Anne Noble that Raychel had had a seizure. Mr. Ferguson was being contacted at this time. The doctors on the ward at this time were a Surgical Junior House Officer and a Paediatric Senior House Officer named Jeremy Johnston. The Surgical Junior House Officer and I went to Raychel's bedside and I helped him as he took some blood from Raychel for electrolyte profile and blood cultures. At this time oxygen was being administered to Raychel via a non-rebreathing face mask at eight litres per minute. A saturation monitor had been attached to Raychel and her pulse, respiratory rate and oxygen saturations were within normal limits. Mr. Ferguson arrived on the ward as this was being done. When I went to see if Dr Johnston could see Raychel he left the ward. I spoke to the Surgical Junior House Officer and said that Raychel was very ill and that we should contact the Paediatric Registrar immediately. At approximately 04:20 Dr Bernie Trainor the Paediatric Registrar arrived on the ward. She told me that Dr Johnston had spoken to her in the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit and had asked her to see Raychel.



Dr Trainor had immediately went to her bedside and listened to her chest with a Stethoscope and examined her
eyes. Raychel's pupils were sluggish but reacting to light. Dr Trainor said that her chest sounded 'rattly' and on
examining her further she noticed a few petecchial spots on her upper trunk. More bloods were taken and during this time Raychel's pulse and saturations were within normal limits. Her pupils were now dilated on examination.
Dr Trainor immediately telephoned the Paediatric Consultant Dr Mc Cord. Staff Nurse Noble then carried
Raychel down to the treatment room and a Pro Pak monitor was attached. Intravenous fluids were still running at this time. Dr Trainor came into the treatment room and on examination Raychel's pupils were fixed and dilated.
The anesthetist on call was emergency bleeped. Raychel's oxygen saturations dropped suddenly to 85% despite
oxygen still being administered. An airway was inserted and bagging commenced. Seconds after this the anesthetist arrived in the treatment room. After this I withdrew from caring for Raychel and from the treatment
room.
2. Give details of any contact you had with colleagues at RBHSC after Raychel's transfer from
Altnagelvin.
None



Pa	rticul	ar areas of interest (Cont'd)	
3.	Describe in detail your communications with the family of Raychel Ferguson both before and after her death, to include: (i) the nature and content of such communications; (ii) at whose request the communications took place; and (iii) when and where the communications took place.		
No	ne		

Other points you wish to make including additions to Reports [Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]	o any previous Statements, Depositions and or
y man especial regimeny	
signed: Sarda GA Grichust	Dated: 22rd Juve 2005



THE Queen's **UNIVERSITY** OF BELFAST



It is hereby certified that

Sandra Elizabeth Ann Gilchrist

was awarded the

Diploma in Nursing Studies (Children's Nursing)

with Commendation

on the fifth day of July 2004

Professor George Bain

Vice-Chancellor

053

NATIONAL BOARD

THE
The National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting for Northern Ireland

RAC House 79 Chichester Street Belfast BT1 4JE Telephone (0232) 238152

Date: 2

27/02/87

PIN:

83L0002N

This is to certify that

SANDRA ELIZABETH ANN DOHERTY

has successfully completed a course in

GENERAL NURSING (LEVEL 1)

at an Institution approved by this Board under the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979 and is therefore eligible to have this qualification registered/recorded on the single professional register maintained by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting.

Chairman

Twelyn N. J. Emb

Chief Executive Officer



North & West In-Service Education Consortium

Certificate of Attendance

is awarded to

SANDUR GILCHIUST

who attended the undermentioned In-Service programme

Childrens' Palliative Care - Pain & Symptom Management / Syringe Driver Training

Duration 1

10 June 2004

Date(s)

In-Service Nurse Teacher







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INQ-RF



Altnagelvin Hospitals Health & Social Services Trust



Certificate of Attendance

To certify that Sandra Richnist

has attended a Study Day on Care of the Child with Diabetes

Duration of	Lecture	6hm.	
Signature	Means		Date 2 /12/03

NURSING OF MIDWIFERY COUNCIL

Protecting the public through professional standards

STATEMENT OF ENTRY IN THE PROFESSIONAL REGISTER

Mrs SEA Gilchrist 1 Dalys Park Altanagelvin Co Londonderry N Ireland BT47 1SE N Ireland

Ref UK026/1/ CHRISW

Date: 04/12/2003

Forenames: Sandra Elizabeth Ann

Surname: Gilchrist

PIN: 83L0002N

Date of Birth: 17/07/64

Registered Entries

Registered Entry/Entries

RN1 RN15

and and pertorated stub, detach & return appropriate

Date Registered

28/02/87 29/10/03 Status Effective

Recorded Entries

Recorded Entry/Entries

Date Registered

Status

End of Statement - No Further Entries

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Asbridge President

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

23 Portland Place, London W1B 1PZ Telephone 020 7333 9333 Fax 020 7636 6935 www.nmc-uk.org



BRE



Certificate of Attendance

This is to Certify that

Sandra Gilchrist

attended a conference on

Home Ventilation for Adults and Children

Wednesday 20th June 2001

Postgraduate Lecture Theatre Belfast City Hospital

Approved for 5 CPD points

Dr Bob Taylor (Hon Secretary)

INQ-RF



The ROYAL **HOSPITALS**

This is to Certify that

Sandra Doherty

has attended the conference

"POSITIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT 2"

at the Balmoral Conference Centre on

Thursday 10 November 1994

Signed: Donna Brown.

Pain Control

Nurse

Pain Control

Nurse



Child Accident Prevention Trust

Healing the Hidden Hurt

- the emotional effects of children's accidents

held at the Southern Area College of Nursing, Craigavon

This is to certify that

Sacle Diaty

attended this conference on 12th September 1996

signed (UO 1 C) W

Carol Sherriff, Director Child Accident Prevention Trust



INQ-RF

Certificate of Attendance

Altnagelvin Hospitals Health & Social Services Trust

To certify that Sandra Dohesty

has attended a Study Day on Care of the Child with Diabetes

Duration of Lecture ____ 9am - 4pm

Signature Mccass



Breastfeeding Training

Two Accumulated Refresher Course Study Days Reference No: NBNI 97/10

Certificate of Attendance

Name: SANDRA DOHERTY Pin: 8320002 N

MAY 1997.

Signed



THE ROYAL BELFAST HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

'QUALITY CARE FOR KIDS'

This is to certify that

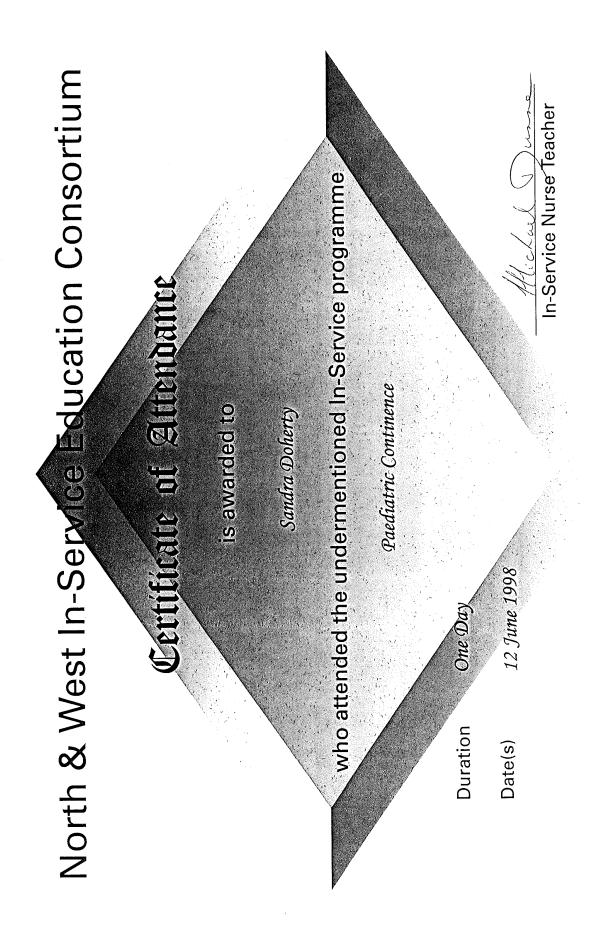
S. Poherty

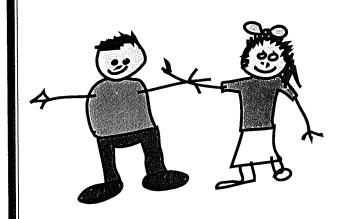
attended the above on

Tuesday 21st October 1997



Carolyn fit 5 immins Carolyn Fitzsimmins Quality Assurance Manager







This is to Certify that

Sondra Donerty

has successfully completed a eight hour training programme in

Paediatric Resuscitation

The training is based on the guidelines adopted by the European Resuscitation Council 1998 for Paediatric Basic Life Support

Signed: Dr N. Corrigan Consultant Paediatrician

Signed: Usuka Mc Collum : Ursula McCollum Resuscitation Officer

Date: 19/08/1999



The Queen's University of Belfast



School of Nursing and Midwifery

This is to certify that

Sandra Elizabeth Ann Doherty

attended a Half Day **Mentorship Session**

on

Friday 21st May 1999

Signed:

(Head of School)



Certificate of Attendance

This is to Certify that

Sandra Gilchrist

attended a conference on

Home Ventilation for Adults and Children

Wednesday 20th June 2001

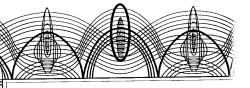
Postgraduate Lecture Theatre Belfast City Hospital

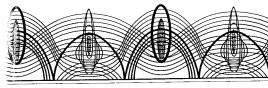
Approved for 5 CPD points

Dr Bob Taylor (Hon Secretary)

INQ-RF









British Epi apsy Association making the difference

EPILEPSY WHERE WE ARE NOW

MULTIDISCIPLENARY CONFERENCE

KILLYHEVLIN HOTEL, ENNISKILLEN

THURSDA ¥ 17TH JUNE 1999

This is to certify that

SANDRA POHERTY

attended the above conference

Monina Clarke

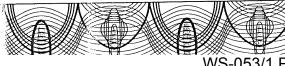
Morina Clarke

Regional Services Manager

British Egilepsy Association

Conference Organiser





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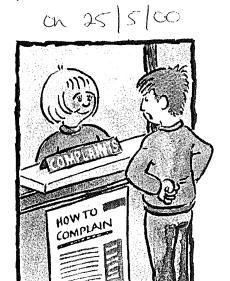


This is to Certify that

Gandiza Dohonty

Attended a Training Session Entitled

"Complaints Procedure"



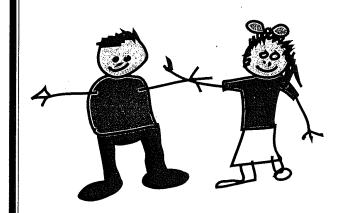
Signed: Anneth Patient Advocate



The Makaton Vocabulary Development Project

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

Sadra Gilchisk has attended
aworkshop (No. 2)
on2002
*The next level of recommended
training is a
Makabon workshop (No 3A)
*This completes the Makaton Training recommended-
by MVDP for
а Стои р н ser
Lisa Long/
Makaton Regional/Local Tutor





This is to Certify that

Sandra Gilchrist

has successfully completed a eight hour training programme in

Paediatric Resuscitation

The training is based on the guidelines adopted by the European Resuscitation Council 2000 for Paediatric Basic Life Support

Signed: Ap. N. Coerigan

Consultant Paediatrician

Signed: Alfohla Mc Collum Ursula McCollum

Moy McKenna Resuscitation Officer

Date: 12/02/04



Certificate of Attendance

This is to certify that

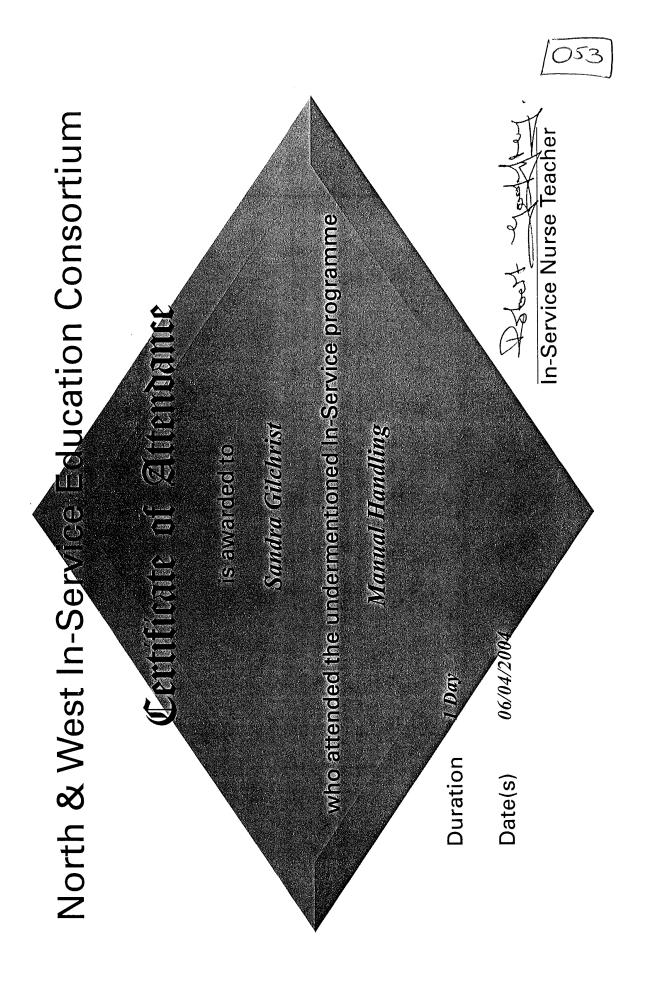
Candra guicheist

has attended our seminar on

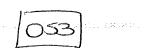
Pressure Area Management

Dated: 11TH May 2004 Venue: Altnagelvin Area Hospital

> Presented by: Sarah Prior



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The Queen's University of Belfast

School of Nursing and Midwifery



This is to certify that

Sandra Gilchnist

attended a half day Mentorship Session

on

3rd Feb 2005

Signed: Some all

North & West In-Service Education Consortium

Criticate of Attendance

is awarded to

Sandra Gilchrist

who attended the undermentioned In-Service programme

Manual Handling & CPR Update

Duration

1 Day

Date(s)

17 May 2005

Anne Counting lose Maconaghire In-Service Nurse Teacher