

236/1 <p style="text-align: right;">Witness Statement Ref. No. 236-1</p> NAME OF CHILD: Adam Strain		
Name: Glenda Thompson (Adam's aunt) Title: Mrs		
Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports: <i>[Identify by date and title all those made in relation to the child's death]</i> None.		
OFFICIAL USE: List of previous statements, depositions and reports:		
Ref:	Date:	

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANSWERING:

Please attach additional sheets if more space is required. Please identify clearly any document to which you refer or rely upon for your answer. If the document has an Inquiry reference number, e.g. Ref: 049-001-001 which is 'Chart No.1 Old Notes', then please provide that number.

If the document does not have an Inquiry reference number, then please provide a copy of the document attached to your statement.

Particular areas of interest to the Inquiry

[Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]

1. **State whether you were present with Debra Slavin when the fact that Adam would require a renal transplant was discussed for the first time with her.**

I was not present.

- a. **If so, state when this happened, what was said or explained to you, who explained it to you and who was present.**

Not applicable.

2. **In November 1995, state when you first found out there was a donor kidney available for Adam.**

Some time after 7pm on the evening of Sunday 26 November 1995.

3. **Please state when you were present at Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) between the time of Adam's admission on 26th November 1995 and his death on 28th November 1995.**

I was present the whole time.

4. **Please identify any medical and nursing staff that you can remember saw you and Adam during the pre-operative period.**

I remember seeing Dr Maurice Savage and Nurse Catherine Murphy. There were also two other doctors and various other night staff.

- a. **Please explain so far as you can what you understood was their reason for seeing you and Adam.**

They were there to see my sister and Adam.

5. **Please describe any discussions you had with any medical or nursing personnel at RBHSC pre-surgery and what, who and when you had these discussions.**

None of the medical or nursing personnel discussed Adam with me.

6. **In particular, describe any discussions regarding the surgical/anaesthetic risks of the procedure and state if you were told at any time and, if so, by whom and when, about the implications of the following for Adam:**

There were no such discussions with me.

- a. **Adam's age and size**

There were no such discussions with me.

- b. **His previous procedures**

There were no such discussions with me.

- c. **His polyuric condition (i.e. the fact that he produced excessive amounts of urine)**

There were no such discussions with me.

- d. **His propensity for low sodium.**

There were no such discussions with me.

7. **Please identify, if you are able, the names, job title or gender of the 2 doctors (the junior doctor and the registrar) who tried and failed to take blood from Adam**

I remember two female doctors. I do not remember either their names or their job title.

8. **Please state who kept you informed of Adam's condition and progress during his surgery. If you can recall, please state how often they updated you, what times you were given this information and describe what information you were given.**

(a) Dr Maurice Savage informed us after 9 am on Monday 27 November that everything was fine.

(b) Dr Mary O'Connor informed us after 10.30 am on Monday 27 November that the surgery was taking longer than expected because of Adam's weight and previous operations.

9. **During your discussion with Dr. Savage and Adam's mother post-surgery (Ref: 058-038-181), please describe what you were told about:**

a. **What had happened during the surgery**

We were only told that this was a one in a million thing.

b. **Adam's condition and its cause**

We were told nothing about this.

c. **Hyponatraemia or Adam's sodium level**

We were told nothing about this.

d. **His prognosis**

We were told that much would depend upon a CT scan.

e. **What would be done to find out what had happened**

We were not told anything about this.

f. **The need for an Inquest.**

We were not told anything about this.

10. **Please describe any discussions you had with any other personnel at RBHSC post-surgery and what, who and when you had these discussions.**

Dr Savage and Dr Taylor came into the family room at the same time. We were told that it was a one in a million thing.

11. **Please state if you saw Adam post-surgery. If so, please describe his general appearance.**

I was totally shocked by how extremely bloated he was. He looked huge. He did not look like himself at all.

12. **Please describe the support you were given once Adam was admitted to PICU, including:**

a. **whether a nurse was allocated to you to ensure continuing support and communication. If so, please identify that nurse, and the support and communication which you were given when Adam was in PICU.**

No one was allocated to us.

b. **whether the support given to you was either adequate or appropriate.**

I was in shock. I do not remember any support being given to us.

13. **Please state if you were asked by RBHSC or the Trust to be involved in any way with a discussion about what happened to Adam and any lessons to be learned from his death. If so, please explain your involvement (if any), and state who asked you to be involved and when.**

No one from anywhere ever asked me to do any of this.

14. **Please state if you were contacted by RBHSC or the Trust in relation to the UTV Insight documentary broadcast regarding the deaths of Adam and other children.**

I was not contacted by anyone.

15. **Please provide and explain any further information or comments that you wish the Inquiry to have.**

I feel that we could have been given more information about the true nature of Adam's condition while in PICU as I feel this prolonged our anxiety. I appreciate that all hope could not be taken away but I think we could have been prepared for the outcome better.

I would also like to say that Adam did not have a permanent limp. He had a fall while at the zoo on his 4th birthday in August. He had obviously picked up a minor injury from this. Neither did he have a twitch. He was a perfectly bright and bubbly little boy who loved life and was keen to learn.

THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

Signed:

Dated:

Jennifer Thompson

17.4.12