

Witness Name: Alfred James Newman

Statement No.: WITN2849001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 25th February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ALFRED NEWMAN

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 28th January 2019

I, Alfred James Newman, will say as follows:

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Alfred James Newman. My date of birth is GRO-C 1940 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am retired and I live with my wife Joan. I intend to speak about my son Craig Thomas Newman and his contraction and subsequent death of Hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of if his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.

Section 2. How Affected

2. Craig was diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia when he was 5 years old
3. In 1973, Craig started to suffer from internal bleeding and had to receive blood transfusions; I believe he had three in total.
4. Craig was originally treated as an outpatient at the Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children. He was treated by a Dr Simpson.
5. Craig was given the infected blood through transfusions in 1973.
6. I was never made aware of any potential issues with the transfusions that Craig received, although I did have to sign a consent form for him to receive the treatment.
7. Craig was eight years old when I was told by Dr Simpson that he had received infected blood from the transfusions and had contracted hepatitis C. Therefore, they could no longer treat Craig and he would be moved to the Edinburgh city hospital where he would have to be put in isolation. That was the only information I was given about hepatitis C from the Sick Children's hospital Edinburgh

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I do not believe that Craig suffered from any other infections aside from the Hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

9. I consented to Craig's treatment at the Kids Hospital; as far as I am aware, he received no further tests or treatment at the City Hospital.

Section 5. Impact

10. The effect of Craig's condition on my life was devastating; we were at this City Hospital for nine months to a year. I would spend 5 to 6 hours a day at the hospital. I would leave about 9 PM. The hospital never said it was time to leave but I felt like I should at 9 p.m. so my boy could get some sleep.
11. He was responding well to treatment at the Kids Hospital and I feel that the infected blood took away his chance of a future as he stopped being treated for the aplastic anaemia when he was infected.
12. I do not think Craig was denied any treatment or faced difficulties due to getting hepatitis C, however, he did not get treatment for his aplastic anaemia.
13. I do not feel like Craig or my family suffered from any of the stigma associated with Hepatitis C.
14. Craig never got the chance of any education because he was had to stay in an isolated ward. No tutors came to the hospital for him.
15. My social life suffered as a result of Craig's treatment. I would not go out very often and I would only speak to my now wife, Joan, and my mother about it. Before Joan, I just had my family to speak about it with, I don't think they fully understood.
16. I had my own business but this suffered due to Craig's illness, I would spend a lot of time at the hospital and struggled to focus at work. After Craig passed away, I gave up the business. I ended up working for another company as a joiner working around the local housing schemes. I lost my business after his death but also lost

money during his illness, as I was not able to work as many hours as I usually would. This was a very difficult part of my life because alongside Craig's illness, I was going through divorce proceedings, I was having disputes with my ex-wife, and there was also custody issues with my ex-wife. I felt like my life was completely different from anything I expected. I had to give up my hobbies. My whole way of life just completely changed.

17. His sister was not allowed to visit him so she could only see him through the glass of the isolation ward. However, on one occasion I did get her gowned up and sneak her in so she could see her brother. Lorraine found it all very quiet, upsetting and difficult. My mother helped take care of her.
18. It was difficult to accept that we could not have an open casket for his funeral and therefore my family did not get a chance to say goodbye to him. When the undertakers came to the hospital, they told me that we had to put him in a coffin and that the coffin had to be nailed shut. I was also told that I had to get him cremated, so that there was no chance of infection. This was very difficult to accept. My family did not get to say goodbye to him properly.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

19. I do not think Craig was denied any treatment or faced any difficulties getting treatment due to having hepatitis C however; he did stop getting treated for his aplastic Anaemia. This was upsetting as he had been responding well to the treatment before he was diagnosed Hepatitis C.
20. Craig was not provided with any counselling at all, he was not aware of how seriously ill he was. After Craig passed away, I was not offered any counselling or any information. I do not think it was available back then.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

21. I have never applied for any financial assistance. I have not really actually thought about it.

Section 8. Other Issues

22. I was quite happy when I heard a new enquiry was to come about. Craig is still on my mind. I want justice for Craig. He did not deserve to die. I want someone to tell me exactly what happened and why it happened. Most of all, I would like an apology.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 25-02-2019