

Witness Name: David Allen
Statement No: WITN3248001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: August 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID ALLEN

I, David Allen will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is David Robert John Allen. I was born on **GRO-C** 1982 and I live at **GRO-C** Cornwall, **GRO-C**.
2. I am married and we recently had our first baby. I moved to Cornwall 4 years ago. I am currently employed.
3. I make this statement on behalf of my late father, Derek Charles Allen. He was born on **GRO-C** 1957 and died in February 1990 as a result of being infected with HIV and Hepatitis C (Hep C) through contaminated blood products.
4. My mother, Karen Jacqueline Allen, intends to provide a witness statement (WITN1622001), for the Inquiry.
5. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Affected

6. I would like to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section .
7. I was kept away from a lot of what happened to my father as I was very young at the time. I therefore was not told a great deal about what happened at the time.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I would like to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section .
9. I found out from my mother not long ago that my father was also infected with Hep C.
10. As a result of the infections, my father died of Pneumonia which I believe was a direct result of full blown AIDS.

Section 4. Consent

11. I believe my father was treated and tested without his knowledge. My mother told me that my father was not aware he was being tested for the infections and neither was she.
12. I do not know whether my father was treated and tested without his consent and without being given adequate or full information.
13. I believe that my father was treated and tested for the purposes of research, especially after hearing other people's stories.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

14. I would like to rely on part of my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

15. My memories of my father, although faded, are of him being quite fragile. My mother sometimes tells me stories of how I was always gentle around him and that I had an understanding that he wasn't very well. Although, I don't remember any times where his illness got in the way of our relationship and enjoying life. I know his life was cut terribly short in the pursuit of profit over compassion and I thank God for the time I had and the memories I do still have.
16. My father suffered mental effects as a result of the infections. My parents split up not long before my father death. My father became aggressive towards my mother, but he was not like that before. He lashed out at my mother most of the time. I was just a young child at that time so I didn't really witness much of it as it was all kept away from me.
17. I grew up in Essex with my mother and my father had moved down to Devon after they split up. Since I was living with my mother at the time, I usually visited my father once a week.
18. It was first brought to my attention that my father had died, when my teacher asked me to leave the class and to go and visit the head mistress (Wimbish, Primary School, Essex). She then proceeded to give me the news, (which she wasn't instructed to) and asked if I would be ok and then sent me back to class. I remember going back to class and sitting cross legged on the floor and just feeling numb and detached. I didn't cry as I was in shock and disbelief. My mother then told me.
19. I do not know what treatment my father received for the HIV. I know he did not receive any treatment for Hep C as he didn't even know he had it.
20. As previously mentioned, I do not know how the infections impacted on my father's private, family and social life as I was kept out of it.
21. My father's infections and subsequent death impacted on me physically, mentally and emotionally on my private, family and social life. It was difficult for me growing up without a father. I initially thought he was a drug addict and

I didn't really understand what had happened to him. I was quite close to losing it. I was the only child, which made it even harder for me. I didn't like going to school. Throughout secondary school I was quite a bad student. I hardly went in because of what happened to my father.

22. **GRO-C** I believe the way I behaved was because of my father's death. The people I was hanging around with at the time were also doing drugs and were from broken families. I am now in a happy marriage which I am grateful for.
23. I believe my mother told me about my father's HIV infection when I was about 18 years old. When I found out the truth about how my father died, it made me very angry, especially as more information came out.
24. I believe that my father suffered from the stigma that was attached to the infection at the time and I believe that was the reason why it was never discussed in front of me. My mother told me that his business partner was aware of my father's infected status. When I was told about my father's HIV, my mother told me to keep it to myself and not discuss it with anyone. We lived in a village at the time which was very insular so my father's infected status was kept within the family and I didn't tell anyone. I believe the reason why we kept it to ourselves was because of the way the media portrayed HIV at the time. I'm not scared of telling anyone now or scared of people finding out what happened to my father and that he died as a result of an infection, which he got as a result of being given contaminated blood products.
25. My mother was heavily impacted as a result of my father's infection and subsequent death. I believe she was very depressed and she wasn't in a good state. My mother and I didn't have a good relationship in my teenage years and I believe it was because of everything that happened to my father.
26. My father's mother, my grandmother, died about 4 or 5 years ago. She didn't take what happened to my father very well. She had already lost her other son, Robert who was my father's younger brother. I don't know if my father's elder brother, Michael is still alive. I don't speak to him.

27. My father had a decent house at the time. He was an independent man and his business was selling cars. I am not sure of the financial effect as I was not living with him at the time, but there much have been one.

28. I suffered educational effects as a result of what happened to my father. As previously mentioned, I wasn't the best at secondary school. I lacked concentration and was more interested in being a clown. I did still attend school to do coursework, but then I would be out most days without attending lessons.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

29. I would like to rely on part of my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

30. I do not know if my father was offered any counselling or psychological support. I was never offered any counselling or psychological support as a result of what happened. I believe that had I been offered some support it would have helped me.

31. I do not think my mother was offered any counselling or psychological support

Section 7. Financial Assistance

32. I would like to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section

33. I have not received and financial assistance from any of the trusts or funds that were set up. I only received money as part of my father's will.

34. I believe my mother received some money and we went on holiday.

35. My view on the financial assistance provided to those affected is that it's very hit and miss. Receiving some financial help has been a lifeline but I think it could have been handled a lot better in terms of decision making.

Section 8. Other Issues

36. I just think that what happened to my father was so well brushed under the carpet.

37. What happened to my father can't happen again. There needs to be someone in the NHS who is actually accountable for everything that happened. There needs to be more accountability for any wrong done in the future.

38. I want justice for everything that has happened.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

39. I do not wish to remain anonymous.

40. I do not mind giving oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed....

GRO-C

Dated 4.8.19