

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3411001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 31st July 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B and I was born on GRO-B I live at GRO-B
GRO-B. I am in a civil partnership and I
have two children aged GRO-B I work part time in a GRO-B
GRO-B
2. I make this statement in relation to my father, GRO-B: F who was
born on the GRO-B and unfortunately died on GRO-B
GRO-B aged GRO-B having received contaminated blood.
3. At a very early age, my mother took me from him and I never had the chance to
meet my father so the evidence contained in this statement regarding my father I
have obtained from my grandmother, my father's mother: GRO-B

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who was born on the [GRO-B] members of my family and from my father's close friends.

4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

5. I understand that my father had a blood transfusion in about [GRO-B] when he was about [GRO-B] years old at the [GRO-B], [GRO-B] when he had an operation for a broken leg. He had another transfusion in the [GRO-B] at [GRO-B] [GRO-B] as a result of a hit and run.
6. At my father's funeral, (which I did not attend as I had not found my father or his family at that stage), the congregation were told that in [GRO-B] my father was 'less energetic, lethargic and had stopped visiting his friends and going out'. Further by the autumn it was apparently clear that my father was very ill. Also that decades before my father had contracted a virus, which affected his liver.
7. I understand that he was admitted to St Mary's Hospital and transferred to [GRO-B] where he was on the liver transplant list. However he was too ill to have the transplant and he was transferred back to St Mary's Hospital on the [GRO-B]. He died there on the [GRO-B] [GRO-B].
8. I have no knowledge as to whether any information or advice was provided to my father or my grandmother, before hand about the risk of being exposed to infection from blood transfusions.
9. My father's death certificate shows that he died of (a) Hepato Cellular Carcinoma, (b) Cirrhosis and (c) Hepatitis C (chronic).

10. I have been unable to obtain my father's records as I am not his next-of-kin, neither is my grandmother. I did contact [GRO-B] but I was told the records were destroyed in [GRO-B] [GRO-B] years after the transfusion.

11. I have no knowledge when or how my father found out that he had been infected with Hepatitis C or what information was given to him.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I do not believe that my father was infected with any other infections as a result of receiving blood transfusions.

Section 4. Consent

13. I have no knowledge whether my father was treated or tested without his knowledge, or without his consent, or without being given adequate or full information, or for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

14. I am my father's only child, he had a relationship with my mother [GRO-B] that apparently did not work out and my mother took me away when I was a baby. My father was denied contact with me and I am told it broke his heart. He spent his whole life trying to find me.

15. My name was changed by deed poll as a child, but I do have my father's name stated on my birth certificate and I also have the documentation regarding my name change.

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16. I was placed in care at the age of [GRO-B] and had no family around me. Ever since I can remember I have longed to gain contact with my father and meet him. After years of searching for him I finally traced his family in early [GRO-B] as a result of finding his obituary, I was [GRO-B] years old.
17. To find my father had passed away on the [GRO-B] and that he and his family had been looking for me since I was a child is so upsetting and has emotionally taken a massive toll on me.
18. Due to contaminated blood, my father lost his life at only the age of [GRO-B] and I have lost the chance to know and love my father. Also both my children will never have the chance to have a grandfather in their lives.
19. I now have contact with his whole family and it is lovely to hear stories about him and his life but I feel angry at the fact I was denied having him in my life due to contaminated blood.
20. I have had to cope with discovering my father had died in late [GRO-B] when I was so close to finding him and his family and now [GRO-B] years later I find he passed away due to having severe Hepatitis C from a blood transfusion he received as a child. This has brought the hurt and pain back to the surface yet again but with even more questions, anger and emotional distress to me and my family.
21. As a result of making this statement, which I want to do for my father, I pulled out the tiny box of personal belongings given to me by his family to find photos of me and him as a baby and also loads of photographs of his childhood.
22. I also found his funeral eulogy in which it states how he missed me and had wanted to find me his whole life, that it had been the second biggest tragedy in his life.

23. To be pushed to read and see all this hurt and pain again has very much destroyed me yet again, after years of hurt and pain already!

23. I have suffered from mental health on and off since I was [GRO-B] years old and all this new information has contributed to me having to be referred back to the adult mental health team once again to learn how to cope with all these difficult emotions once again.

24. From my patient records it shows that I had care episodes with the [GRO-B] [GRO-B] between [GRO-B]. Further I had a care episode with the [GRO-B] between [GRO-B]. During this care episode I engaged in [GRO-B] which I found useful. Finally, I contacted the [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] due to suicidal thinking and feeling at risk of harming myself. I found talking to them useful. However, I have also been prescribed anti psychotic medication again.

25. Since [GRO-B] I have found it hard to concentrate and I struggle to be at work at the moment. This has affected me deeply. My last mental health meeting I broke down in tears when I spoke of all this.

26. I grew up with no family, no contact with my mother and sister; I was placed in care at the age of [GRO-B] and if I had found my father and his family, my life could have been totally different.

27. Both my parents were [GRO-B] years old when I was born and my mother would have had no idea that my father was infected with Hepatitis C.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

28. I have no knowledge of any difficulties or obstacles my father had in obtaining treatment, care and support in consequence of being infected with Hepatitis C.

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29. I do not know if counselling or psychological support was ever made available to my father.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

30. I am trying to apply for financial assistance but I need my father's medical records. My grandmother wants me to apply so that in some way my father has helped me and his grandchildren as he would have liked to have done.

Section 8. Other Issues

31. I want to make my father proud by becoming involved in the Inquiry, I am doing it for him so as he has a voice and I want to see justice done.

Section 9. Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

32. I confirm that I do wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

33. I do not want to be called to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....
 GRO-B
 GRO-B

Dated: 31/07 2019