

Witness Name: Ann Murphy

Statement No: WITN2930001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: March 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANN MURPHY

I, Ann Murphy will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Ann Murphy. I was born on [GRO-C]1943 and I live at [GRO-C]
[GRO-C] Liverpool, [GRO-C]
2. I make this statement on behalf of my late husband, Hugh Murphy. He was born on the [GRO-C]1933 and died on the [GRO-C]1990 at the age of 56. Hugh's death certificate states that his cause of death was Encephalopathy, AIDS.
3. I am currently living with my partner. I have 2 daughters with Hugh and 4 grandchildren. Hugh and I got married in 1964.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late husband'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

5. Hugh was diagnosed with severe Haemophilia A. He was diagnosed when he was 18 months old.

6. From the early 1980s Hugh received Cryoprecipitate at Broadgreen Hospital (BH). I believe in the early/mid 1980s he received his first Factor VIII concentrate (FVIII) just before an operation at the Royal Liverpool Hospital (RLH). He continued to receive FVIII treatment until he died.
7. Hugh had FVIII as and when he had a bleed. He was so happy that he could self-administer FVIII at home or when we went on holidays without having to go to the hospital for treatment. It was like a wonder drug for us.
8. We were not provided with any information or advice beforehand about the risk of Hugh being exposed to infections through contaminated FVIII blood products.
9. Hugh was infected with HIV and I believe he was also infected with Hepatitis C (Hep C). We were never told that he tested positive for Hep C.
10. The news about AIDS was all over the media and it was known as the 'gay plague' and that is how we received information about HIV.
11. I believe that information should have been provided to us earlier as soon as it was known and prior to the media broadcasting about HIV/AIDS.
12. Hugh attended the hospital regularly for his Haemophilia appointments, but he was only prompted to ask to be tested for HIV after seeing the adverts and hearing about how people were dying from the infection. Following the test, he had to wait 3 weeks for his results. When his results came back positive, we were so shocked. By the time Hugh was tested, we had already had children. We were not provided with any information about the infection and as previously stated we got most of our information through the media. I do not believe that Hugh was provided with adequate information to understand and manage the infection.
13. We were told much later about the risks of others being infected as a result of Hugh's infection. When we became aware of the risks of others being

infected, I was told to be tested and thankfully, the result was negative. However, I believe that this information should have been provided earlier.

14. Hugh had it at the back of his mind that he would have a short life expectancy from how the media portrayed the infection and he believed he only had 5 years to live. It was awful as the doctors were unable to provide any clear information at the time.

Section 3. Other Infections

15. Hugh died before he was tested for Hep C. I am therefore not sure whether he had Hep C but I believe that he did.

Section 4. Consent

16. Hugh knew he was being tested for HIV but there is a possibility that he was tested prior to that without his knowledge and consent.
17. Prior to being tested, Hugh was just told that he was being tested as a precaution. He was not given adequate or full information as to how he could have contracted the infection.
18. I believe Hugh was probably tested for the purposes of research and used as a guinea pig.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

19. Hugh suffered mentally as a result of the HIV. It changed him completely and he became quite withdrawn. He did not want to do anything or go anywhere or tell anyone about his HIV. It just ruined his life. Prior to being diagnosed with HIV he was always an excellent father to our children. However, post diagnosis, he became very paranoid about the infection and he was terrified about passing the infection to us. His relationship changed towards the children because he was scared of the infection. He used to tell us not to touch his knives and forks. His whole demeanour changed.

20. Hugh also suffered physically as a result of the infection. He suffered from terrible flus and nose bleeds. He also suffered from oral thrush, anaemia and had sore throats. I believe the mental impact was greater than the physical one.

21. In December 1989 Hugh thought he had the flu and he was unable to shake it off so he went to hospital. He was in hospital for about 10 days. He was allowed to come home for Christmas, but he was still ill. Just after Christmas he went back to hospital and was there for a further 10 days. My son-in-law went to visit Hugh on a Saturday morning and he was fine, sitting up and he was talking. However, when I attended the hospital later that evening, he became very poorly. He tried to wipe his mouth but could not find where his mouth was. He became quite disorientated. This was quite a shock for me as he was perfectly fine in the morning. The doctor said he was going to put Hugh in a private room. He told me that if Hugh had a family, to get them to the hospital as Hugh has come to the end of his life. The following morning he died.

22. I believe Hugh had treatment for the HIV but I cannot remember what it was called.

23. I do not know whether there were treatments that ought to have been made available to Hugh at the time.

24. Hugh's HIV status had an impact on his private, family and social life. After he was diagnosed, he was quite withdrawn and told me not to tell anyone about the infection. He was very cautious about the things he touched and how he used them around us. He made a decision to keep his infected status a secret because there was so much false information on the media about AIDS/HIV such as if you shake hands you could catch the infection. He was more scared about transmitting the infection to me, our children and our close friends. That was another reason he did not tell anyone.

25. The infection also had an impact on my private, family and social life. When he was in the hospital, people would ask what had happened. I was struggling

to tell people as I did not want to say something that I should not. I wanted to respect Hugh's wishes and not to tell anyone. As a result, I isolated myself and did not have a social life.

26. There was definitely a stigma attached to the infection at the time. Hugh would not tell anyone about his status because of the stigma and he did not want his infected status to affect me or our daughters. His infected status stopped him from having a social life as he did not want to meet people and I had to stay in with him. We just became isolated. I would go out once a week to church but apart from that, I did not go anywhere.

27. Our children were also affected as a result of Hugh's infection and his subsequent death. We did not tell our youngest daughter to begin with as she was young and we did not want her to tell anyone. My eldest daughter knew as she worked at RLH. It was awful for my daughters to lose their father. Our children were not asked to be tested after Hugh tested positive for HIV. Even after Hugh's death, it felt like our children were just ignored taking into consideration the trauma they suffered. They were not taken into consideration at all. My eldest daughter was [GRO-B] years old and my youngest daughter was [GRO-B] years old. They were both at the age where they understood what was happening.

28. Hugh suffered work-related effects as a result of the infection. His employer knew he was a Haemophiliac. However, after his diagnosis, Hugh could no longer work and he was made redundant because he was became poorly and he was scared about what his employer would think if they had found out about the infection.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

29. As far as I know, Hugh did not receive any counselling or psychological support. We did however have a social worker who helped us.

30. At the time, I attended a woman's group once a month. It helped me to release some pain and talk about what I was going through.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

31. We received a grant from the Haemophilia Society to renovate our bathroom.

I cannot remember the amount we received or when we received it.

32. I did not receive any financial assistance before Hugh died. After he died, I received some money towards Hugh's funeral.

33. I also received a lump sum payment of £32,000 from the Macfarlane Trust. I found out about this Trust after someone at the women's group told me that the government was paying people that were infected and affected. I cannot recall when I received it. I believe the application process was straight forward. I also received a grant of £4,000 to pay towards a new kitchen.

34. For 12 months after Hugh's death, I also received £100 a month from the Widow's Fund.

Section 8. Other Issues

35. My father-in-law who was a Merchant Seaman was aware in the 1960s of the source of blood and blood products in America ie. Drug users, prisoners and prostitutes. He used to travel from Liverpool to New York and he used to say that he hoped he never had to get blood from America as there are a lot of drug users who were selling their blood.

36. Why then, did supposedly educated government officials and health chiefs think it was acceptable to import these products for use in the UK? It has annoyed me all these years to think that these highly educated people should have seen it coming and they did not see it. They did not take responsibility and admit that it was their fault.

37. I do not have Hugh's medical records as it has been 29 years since Hugh died.

38. Hugh did not get the chance to walk his girls down the aisle or see his grandchildren.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

38. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

39. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed,

GRO-C

Dated

22 / 3 / 20 19