

Witness Name: AMELIA HASLETT

Statement No: WITN4549001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: September 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF AMELIA HASLETT

I, Amelia Haslett, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Amelia Haslett. I was born on GRO-C 2000 and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C Gloucestershire GRO-C with my mother and stepfather.
2. My stepfather, David Whistler (born on GRO-C 1971), was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) as a result of receiving Factor IX (FIX) Concentrate.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to David's full medical records.
4. David has provided his own Witness Statement to the Inquiry (WITN1603001). My mother has also provided a Witness Statement to the Inquiry (WITN4143001).

Section 2. How Affected

5. David (Dave) has Haemophilia B (also known as Christmas Disease). I believe that he was infected with HCV through contaminated FIX concentrate at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. I refer to Dave's Witness Statement for further details.

Section 3. Other Infections

6. I refer to Dave's Witness Statement.

Section 4. Consent

7. I refer to Dave's Witness Statement.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

8. Dave has been a father to me since he moved in with my mother and me in 2010. I was 9 years old. They married in 2011.
9. Dave and my mother have set out in detail in their own Statements the impact Dave's extreme fatigue and volatile (anxiety and anger) temperament resulting from his HCV infection and treatment had on us all. I would like to comment further as follows:-
10. When I look back over our relationship as stepfather and stepdaughter I view it as having not always been smooth and it was, at times, rather difficult. Although it is improving as I get older, our relationship, during my childhood and teenage years and the transition from a young girl to becoming a young woman, was anything but normal due to Dave's treatment changing his personality and making his temper unpredictable.
11. Because of Dave's mood swings, from a young age I always found it hard to get close to him as father and daughter as he could quickly snap over the smallest of things like a comment made by me meant in good humour or even

just a hug. This created a sense of tension in our relationship because I didn't understand how to behave around him to avoid provoking a reaction. Whereas I could easily let things go, the fatigue and mood swings caused by Dave's treatment meant that he found it a lot harder to forgive a move on, a normal aspect of parenting. Instead, I felt that he often held what were just normal teenage behaviours against me. After a while, this actually created a divide in our relationship. We wouldn't communicate much and I often avoided speaking to him altogether on specific topics for fear of confrontation. In reality, this behaviour was never necessary or normal. It was the fact that Dave's responses were so unpredictable through his extreme fatigue that made me feel so hesitant to share aspects of my life with him.

12. Dave's fatigue affected my day to day life as, unlike any of my friends at that time, I could never have sleepovers or even groups of friends around late into the evening. It was so important for Dave to get his sleep that even on the rare occasions I had friends over to stay the night, I was never fully able to enjoy the experience because I would be worried about the noise or paranoid that I would be annoying my friends by repeatedly reminding them that we needed to be quiet and get to sleep early. On the off chance we woke Dave, his reaction would get blown completely out of proportion compared to the event because of how hard he finds it to control his temper especially when tired. I grew to always try instead to avoid having friends stay over. It was easier that way and I didn't risk any awkward encounters.

13. I struggled all the more during my formative years as a result of not having a good relationship with my biological father and finding it hard to have a good, normal one with Dave. I would look at some of my friends who were really close with their own fathers and it would make me upset. I would speak to my mum about it and she would tell me how different Dave's personality was before he had treatment. I wish the character traits of calmness and easy going ways that my mum described to me would return so that he and I would have a better chance of getting along consistently.

14. As I now look back over my teenage years from a more mature perspective, I am really proud of how Dave has always continued to look out for me. Despite our struggles, I can see even more now that although at times he really struggled to express it in a normal way (and from not being able to control his temper due to fatigue), he always had my best interest at heart. I realise that had it not been for Dave's input into my upbringing alongside my mum, I would probably be a completely different young woman now, one who is not nearly as driven or prepared to face the world as an adult. We are growing to have a progressively good relationship now and I will continue to love, forgive and support him as if I were his biological daughter because I think of him as my real father.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. Dave had Interferon and Ribavirin combination treatment in 2004 and has now cleared the virus. I refer to Dave's Witness Statement for further details.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

16. I refer to Dave's Witness Statement.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

17. 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.

18. I am happy to give oral evidence if it will assist the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed... GRO-C

Dated ... 04/09/2020