

The Macfarlane Trust,
P.O. Box 627,
London,
SW1 HOQS.

Mrs M Murphy,

GRO-C

Liverpool,

GRO-C

GRO-C

14 February 1995

Dear Sir / Madam,

Financial Assistance for bereaved due to Hepatitis 'C' (Hiv -)

I was widowed in September 1994. My late husband was a haemophiliac (A).

Though diagnosed HIV negative, he suffered from the debilitating liver disease Hepatitis C. It was confirmed in January 1992 that he had developed chronic cirrhosis of the liver, due to the disease, which he contracted through the transmission of infected blood products.

I was informed in January 1992 that the cirrhosis / hepatitis combination would ultimately result in my husband's death. After developing cancer - also confirmed as a direct result of the Hepatitis C condition - he died on September 3 from a massive abdominal bleed.

To bear all this out, my husband's death certificate (enclosed) reads:

- 1a. Retroperineal bleed
- b. Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- c. Hepatic cirrhosis due to hepatitis C
- II. Haemophilia A

Therefore given the precedent of compensation and financial assistance offered to families of infected blood product patients, I am requesting help. I feel my case falls into the same category as other haemophiliac patients' families.

My weekly income is £138 comprised of: a basic Widow's Benefit @ £102 per week; a pension @ £145 per month from my former employer (I had to retire early due to health problems of my own); plus a pension from my late husband's former employer @ £194 per year.

As you can imagine I have all the necessary household payments to meet on that amount eg. mortgage (no mortgage protection was allowed due to haemophilia); Council Tax; Water rates; household insurance; fuel bills; and last but not least, general maintenance costs.

I do not need to emphasise that money is tight. I rely on my own pension to live on, which almost halves when I reach 60. At present I am 57.

My husband's last employment stretched from June 1988 to December 1991- when he was forced to retire due to Hepatitis C. This is why his pension is so small. His previous employment was from 1973 to 1988, when he was made redundant. My husband felt compelled to cash-in his pension, which would have been payable when he reached his 65th birthday. The reason behind this was his fear that it would be declared null and void, depending on what detail would be shown in the event of his death.

Therefore we cashed-in his pension and insurance policies in May 1991 and as a result we lost out considerably.

I am sure you will appreciate the position I now find myself in, through no fault of my own or my late husband's.

I would be grateful if you would consider my case and appreciate any financial assistance you may be able to offer me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Murphy.