

Witness Name: T SHEPHARD

Statement No: WITN1706001

Exhibits: WITN1706002

Dated: 27th February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF TERESA SHEPHARD

I, Teresa Shephard will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Teresa Shephard of GRO-C. I was born on GRO-C 1945. I have lived here since 1979. I used to work as a cashier for the GRO-C and as a Tax officer for the GRO-C but have not worked since I was in my thirties.
2. I currently live with my husband David Alan Shephard whom I married in November 1968.
3. My daughter Claire Shephard was born on GRO-C 1979 and passed away on 14 August 1980 at Sheffield Children's Hospital. She was 13 months old when she passed away.
4. I have another daughter named GRO-B who was born before Claire.
5. **This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late daughter's full medical records.**

Section 2. How infected

6. My husband and I began trying for a child immediately after we married but I did not fall pregnant. I went to see a gynaecologist to see if there was something preventing me from having another child. It was found that my womb was tilted the wrong way and I would need to have an operation to correct it. I had this operation in around 1973. The surgery was successful and in 1975 I fell pregnant with GRO-B.
7. In 1978, I became pregnant again and gave birth to Claire on GRO-C 1979. For both my children, I endured very difficult labour and caesarean sections were necessary in both births.
8. When I gave birth to Claire, I arrived at the hospital at 5:00pm and I had to wait until the following morning to have the caesarean section performed. My husband watched me all night and was seriously worried. He was told to leave the ward when I went in for the caesarean section. Claire was born that day as a healthy child weighing seven pounds.
9. Claire was a lovely baby and was always smiling. She seemed perfectly healthy. Her smile was something that everyone always remarked upon. She was a beautiful, bouncy, happy baby.
10. Everything was fine until about August 1979 when I noticed that Claire's right ear lobe had become very red. The redness kept growing and so we took Claire to our GP, Dr K.S. Raj at his Willows Surgery, Hilary Way, Grimsby. Dr Raj is now retired and his surgery is under the control of his son-in-law Dr P.S. Babu.
11. Dr Raj initially diagnosed the redness as an insect bite. However, after the swelling grew, he referred Claire to Mr. Davies, Consultant at the Grimsby Maternity Hospital, which has since closed down. We were told that '*this could be something serious*' and Claire was referred onwards to a hospital in Sheffield for a biopsy. A week or so later we were informed that Claire had non-Hodgkin

lymphoma. I went completely numb at hearing the news. Claire was only months old at the time.

12. Almost immediately after the lymphoma was diagnosed, we took Claire to the Sheffield Children's Hospital (SCH). At the SCH, we saw Dr John Lilleyman, a consultant in the Haematology department. He explained what the proposed treatments of chemotherapy (Prednisolone) would entail and that this was to treat the tumour.
13. During the treatment Claire received blood transfusions of Plasma, Platelets and Factor VIII, which we were told was to boost her immune system, something my husband distinctly remembers. My husband distinctly remembers that she was treated with Factor VIII because at first he thought the doctor had said "*Factor H*".
14. For the first few months we had to take Claire to the SCH every week for regular blood tests. Travelling from where we lived in GRO-C to SCH involved a round trip of 150 miles and my husband had to take a lot of time off work to drive us all. We would always go the three of us. As treatment progressed our visits became less frequent, lessening from weekly visits to fortnightly visits and eventually to monthly visits. Thankfully, the treatment was effective and the tumour reduced in size.
15. Factor VIII was administered to Claire on a regular basis between about January and August 1980. I was never told prior to Claire's treatment being administered that there was a risk that the blood products were contaminated. We simply trusted that the medical professionals would give Claire the most appropriate treatment.
16. In or about early August 1980, we had travelled to Durham for a holiday. Whilst there, Claire began to suffer from high temperatures and she wasn't eating or drinking much. My husband contacted SCH and we were told to bring her in immediately, which we did. I stayed with Claire at SCH for a number of days whilst she stayed as an in-patient, but came home for two day's respite.

17. I can clearly remember that shortly before 14th August 1980 we were at home and SCH telephoned us to say that Claire's condition had deteriorated. My husband and I returned to SCH and stayed in one of the parents' sleeping rooms. At approximately 7:00am on 14th August 1980 we were woken by a nurse who said "*You had better come down, Claire might not last much longer.*" We got dressed and found her in bed on drips.

18. The medical staff put her in my arms without saying anything. We knew she was dying, and because of the drips, it was like I was looking at a dead body. At approximately 9:00am Claire died in our presence.

19. On Claire's death certificate, Claire's cause of death was recorded as: '*Hepatorenal failure, Viral Hepatitis and Lymphoma*'.

Section 3. Other Infections

20. To date it has never been confirmed precisely what infection it was that caused Claire's death. It was only discovered from the post mortem that Claire suffered from irreversible liver failure as a consequence of a viral infection.

Section 4. Consent

21. I believe that my daughter was tested and treated without consent. As I have already mentioned, I would go to the hospital and would entrust my daughter to the medical professionals. They would then do whatever they had to do.

22. No information or advice was provided to me beforehand about the risk of being exposed to infection via being given contaminated blood products.

23. Since whilst Claire was alive, Hepatitis was not diagnosed, we never received any information or advice about this.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

24. When Claire died the hospital asked us if we wanted to have a post mortem performed on Claire to which we said yes. This was performed immediately but we had to wait some time for the full results. We were however told that Claire's cancer had cleared but something else had destroyed her liver. We were baffled. We had heard of Hepatitis, but the doctors were saying they didn't know what it was, so I had no way of knowing precisely what had caused my daughter's death.
25. On the day Claire passed away, we were told by SCH that we would need to register her death at the Sheffield Registry Office before we returned home to [GRO-C]. SCH arranged for me to be taken with my husband, in a taxi, to the registry office, to register the death, after which we had to return to the SCH, with the death certificate and to collect our car then return home to [GRO-C]. I think SCH thought they were being helpful by arranging a taxi for us, thus saving us the trauma of having to drive ourselves to the Registry Office. It would have been incredibly traumatic to have to perform this task ourselves when our child had died just moments beforehand.
26. After registering our daughter's death, we returned to the SCH, collected our belongings and car and drove back to [GRO-C] with the death certificate. On the way home we went to see the priest to arrange the funeral. My eldest, [GRO-B], was four at the time and we had left her at our house with her grandparents. As we drove close to our house, [GRO-B] was out for a walk with her grandfather because she told us that she saw our car passing down the road on the way to see the priest.
27. When we returned home we had to tell [GRO-B] that her baby sister had died. It was my husband who conveyed the news to her.
28. My father in particular was really upset about losing Claire as she was his favourite. Every time we would visit him, my father would come out to the car and

take Claire out of the car and play with her. My mother had to put on a brave face for him, but she too was hurting badly.

29. We held Claire's funeral on the 20th August 1980. When Claire was in a coffin,

GRO-B

GRO-B

On the day of the funeral many of our friends and family asked us what had happened to Claire. We couldn't answer that question, as we couldn't understand ourselves why we had lost our daughter.

30. I had lost my youngest daughter and I was never going to be pregnant again. I had already had two caesarean sections and had been told that I would not be able to have a third one. I was numb. I cried for four days straight after her death.

31. Before Claire was born we had moved into a new house to accommodate our soon to be larger family. We were ready to start a new chapter of our lives together. After Claire died, I had to find a way to cope for the sake of my younger daughter. GRO-B My husband seems to believe that I became very overprotective of GRO-B as a result of what happened with Claire. To me, Claire was always the healthier child so what happened to her came to me as a shock. She was a lovely happy and bouncy baby with a beautiful smile and even after the redness appeared on her ears and during her chemotherapy, you could never tell she was ill.

32. Because of this loss, my husband and I stopped going out as often as we had beforehand. We hardly ever socialised. I never went back to work, as I wanted to care for GRO-B. My husband went back to work and so I was alone in the house. We didn't spend a lot of time together as my husband's job required him to drive some 30,000 miles per annum.

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GRO-B

GRO-B

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GRO-B

36. I remember that there was an increase in the news about HIV and AIDS during the 1990s. My husband and I started to wonder whether Claire might have received contaminated blood products which led to the unknown virus that had caused her liver failure.

37. As a family we did talk about what happened to Claire from time to time, but since the Infected Blood Inquiry was announced, we have started talking about it more often. I have two brothers and one brother-in-law and my husband wrote them all a three-page letter shortly after the Inquiry was announced explaining what may have happened to our daughter.

GRO-B

GRO-B

. I refer to exhibit WITN1706002.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

38.No counselling or psychological support had ever been offered to me in consequence of what happened to Claire. I wish it had because believe that it may have helped me.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

39.Neither my husband nor I have received any financial assistance whatsoever after **GRO-B** death. I had no knowledge of the Skipton Fund or the English Infected Blood Support Scheme before I was informed about these by my solicitors.

Section 8. Other Issues

40.I have not been involved in any previous litigation concerning Infected Blood products.

41.My family has never received any closure as to why my daughter died. **GRO-B** would always ask a lot of questions growing up about the death of her sister, and we would often have nothing to say in reply.

42.The more I read into the Inquiry and the news, the more I suspected that it was as a result of contaminated blood being given to Claire that ultimately caused her liver to fail.

Anonymity

43. I do not wish to remain anonymous.

44. I am unable to give oral evidence to the Inquiry as I have health conditions of my own.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed...

GRO-C

Teresa Shephard

Dated

27-02-2019