

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3894001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: December 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. I was born on the GRO-B 1958 and I live at GRO-B. I am married with GRO-B children, GRO-B.
2. I make this statement in relation to my late father, GRO-B: F (also know to me and my mum as F, who was born on the GRO-B 1922. He passed away on GRO-B 1980, aged GRO-B as a result of receiving contaminated blood products. My father's death certificate states that the cause of death was 'Hepatic Failure' and Chronic Active Hepatitis'
3. I am the GRO-B.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's 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. To the best of my recollection in or around the mid 1970s my mother informed me that her and my father had been out one Saturday night and my father did not feel very well so he took two aspirin's and went to bed. In the morning he did not get up and this was very unusual for him, perhaps that's why I remember it so well. He stayed in bed all weekend and on Monday he did not go to work which was another land mark event. On the Monday or Tuesday my mother called the doctor [GRO-B] (I believe) who subsequently called an ambulance and my father was taken to [GRO-B]. He was diagnosed with a [GRO-B] and he required a blood transfusion urgently.
6. When I went to see my father later in the week [GRO-B] [GRO-B] which he said was from the blood transfusion. [GRO-B] [GRO-B] [GRO-B] [GRO-B]
7. My father was infected with Non A Non B Hepatitis, now known as Hepatitis C (Hep C) as a result of receiving contaminated blood transfusion.
8. I don't believe my father was given any information about the infection. It was never explained to him why he had a problem with his liver.
9. I don't know if the doctors had any information about the infection that they could have shared with my father. I believe near the end of my father's life they must have worked it out, but did not tell any of us. Looking back we could have all been cross infected. We were not prompted to get tested.
10. I only realised how my father was infected a few years later. I listened to the radio when I was travelling in the car and I heard them talking about how hemophiliac's were infected from contaminated blood products. When I heard about the infected blood products I put two and two together. My father drunk

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alcoholic beverages on occasions when he was younger but he had no reason to have a liver problem.

11. One of my brothers tried tracking down the hospital for my father's medical records but he struggled to get anything out of them. It seemed like a cover up.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I am not aware of my father contracting any other infections as a result of the blood transfusion other than Hep C.

Section 4. Consent

13. My father knew he had a blood transfusion.
14. At the time it was not known that there was a problem with the blood so I therefore believe that the doctors did not know there was anything wrong with the blood.
15. I do not believe that my father was treated or tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

16. Being infected with Hep C was pretty awful for my father. After my father had the blood transfusion, I saw a difference in my father. I remember on one occasion (near to the end of his life) we were all sitting in the back room watching television and my father [GRO-B], but he couldn't have them because they contained salt. The doctors told him that he had to reduce his salt intake, but occasionally he would say 'sod it I'm having [GRO-B]'. His diet had to change massively when he became infected.

17. My father lost a lot of weight. He was a big, strong, sturdy feller and after he got infected he just got weaker and weaker. He was a [GRO-B] and he was able to [GRO-B] the [GRO-B]. He was [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] at [GRO-B] [GRO-B] [GRO-B].

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GRO-B To see my father wasting away, and getting weaker and weaker, was difficult.

18. My father was a sociable person. He was always out and about. He was not a hermit GRO-B He would GRO-B He GRO-B
GRO-B When he was infected it became very difficult for him to GRO-B. One thing he always wanted to do was GRO-B but he never got round to doing it.

19. I am not aware if my father had any further complications as a result of the infection.

20. As far as I'm aware my father was not given any treatment for the Hep C.

21. I don't know if there were any treatments which ought to have been made available to my father at the time.

22. As my father was not aware of what was wrong with him he was not affected by any stigma.

23. After my father was infected he had to GRO-B so it was not a problem. He had to stop GRO-B because his eyesight was getting poor and I believe this was the time he went back to GRO-B. It is possible that the infection caused problems with his eyesight, although this was not confirmed by the doctors.

24. My father's decline in health had a financial affect on him because he could not work when he became too poorly. He was the main breadwinner in the house so this meant it affected everyone in the household.

25. We were in disbelief when we realised my father was extremely poorly. We couldn't believe he was going down hill. I remember my brother saying a month before he died that my father was on 'his way out'. I remember thinking 'don't be silly, there is no way'. No one else warned me that my father might die and when he did, it was a shock.

26. My mother took care of my father full-time. He was at home until the day he died. [REDACTED] GRO-B

[REDACTED] GRO-B My mother did everything for him, she was running around for him.

27. My children grew up without knowing my father, their grandfather. My first child was born just after he died. They never talk about their grandfather because they didn't know him. I feel it now because I am a grandparent and I see my grandchildren a lot.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

28. I don't know if my father received any support or care. I don't remember seeing anything around the house to help him. He was sent home by the doctors, where he later died. As stated above, my mother was my father's main carer.

29. I don't think counselling or psychological support was made available to my father.

30. I was not offered any counselling. I believe it might have helped had it been offered. It would have been nice to understand what was happening. It was more disturbing later on in life when I realised what caused his death.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

31. My father did not receive any financial assistance.

32. I have not received any financial assistance from any of the Trusts and Funds that were set up. I don't believe any of my siblings received any monies either.

Section 8. Other Issues

33. I would like to know the truth about what happened. As stated above, one of my brothers requested my father's medical records but we could not get any.

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The doctors told him that they did not have any information in relation to my father.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

34. I am seeking anonymity and would like my Statement redacted before publication. However I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

35. I wish to give oral evidence at the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

Dated

5th December 2019