

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7550001

Exhibits:0

Dated: December 2022

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 GRO-B. I live at GRO-B.
GRO-B
2. My occupation is GRO-B.
3. I have been married to GRO-B years. We have a son from my GRO-B who is GRO-B having been born in GRO-B, a daughter GRO-B: D who is deceased and GRO-B who are GRO-B having been born in GRO-B.
4. I make this statement in connection with our daughter, D, who was born on GRO-B, and died aged GRO-B and GRO-B, on GRO-B GRO-B having contracted Hepatitis C Virus (HCV/Hep C) via a contaminated blood transfusion during GRO-B.
GRO-B
5. My wife has also provided a witness statement to the Inquiry under GRO-B.

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6. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my daughter's full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

7. [D] was born on [GRO-B]. She was [GRO-B] and sent to [GRO-B] the next day. She was in the Intensive Care Unit for several weeks until she was well enough to go home.
8. At the beginning of December, [GRO-B] [D] was taken ill again. We rushed her to [GRO-B] Hospital where we were told that [D] was in [GRO-B] [GRO-B]. The staff at [GRO-B] stabilised her enough to be transferred to [GRO-B] by ambulance. Once [D] had been examined, we were told that she [GRO-B]. When [D] was well enough, she was sent home [GRO-B].
9. [GRO-B] and the [GRO-B] was carried out at [GRO-B]. We returned home with [D] and the [GRO-B] [GRO-B].
10. Later that year while [D] was attending [GRO-B] for a follow up appointment, my wife was informed by the [GRO-B] Consultant, [GRO-B] [GRO-B] that [D] had been given contaminated blood with Hepatitis C in it. My wife was also warned about the dangers to us from [D] blood should she have an accident.
11. We were not made aware of any risks of infection from blood transfusions.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I am unaware as to whether [D] was infected with any other viruses following receipt of the contaminated blood transfusion.

Section 4. Consent

13. [D] had regular blood tests and I had assumed that that was how the blood contamination was discovered. [D] was tested for Hep C without our knowledge or consent.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

14. When [D] found out about catching Hep C from contaminated blood during [GRO-B] she was extremely upset and kept asking me if she was going to die. While she was always the same sweet lovable girl, she seemed to lose a little bit of her sparkle that day. I feel we lost a small piece of our daughter that day.

15. Although [D] seemed relatively happy and healthy, she became very ill several times and I assumed it was associated with the [GRO-B] [GRO-B] I now realise that this was probably not the case. To my knowledge [D] received no treatment for Hep C.

16. Initially there appeared to be very little impact on our lives as a family. I realised quite quickly that this was not the case. Between myself, my wife [GRO-B] and [D] we had agreed that we would not tell our family and friends about [D] Hep C and would always be as careful as we could to reduce the risk of infecting other people. We were extremely worried that we would be ostracised because of all the stigma associated with AIDS and HIV.

17. I ended up having clinical depression and I am still on medication now. There have been several times when I thought that our marriage was coming to an end, but we are managing to ride the rough times and stick together. Our social life never fully recovered although we are now both able to go out to see bands and socialise with our friends and family without feeling guilty. Although we quite often cancel arrangements at the last minute because we "don't fancy it".

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18. We managed to keep the impact relatively low as we had not informed family and friends of [D] infection. We did this because of the stigma around people with AIDS, HIV, etc at that time.

19. My wife was like a broken woman when [D] died. It was only her strong spirit, our [GRO-B] and many many months of therapy that got her through this terrible time. The [GRO-B] had to fit in with whatever was occurring at the time. Family and friends got used to babysitting at very short notice. My wife and I both found it exceedingly difficult to talk about how we felt.

20. [D] managed to go to the senior school of her choice and fitted in well and made many friends. I can still remember her friends at [D] funeral; they were all sobbing. After the funeral they [GRO-B]
[GRO-B] [D] wasn't
always well enough to go to school but when she was, she went with a smile on her face.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

21. We were unaware that any treatment for Hep C existed.

22. We were never offered any counselling, psychological assistance or any other support in consequence of [D] s infection and subsequent passing.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

23. We were never aware that there was any financial assistance available from Trusts or Funds which were set up to distribute payments.

Section 8. Other Issues

24. I would like the Inquiry to ensure that procedures will now be in place to ensure that what happened will never happen again. It should not have happened; our beautiful D should not have had to go through what she did. I also want to add that the staff at GRO-B in every step of the way.

Anonymity

25. I wish to apply for anonymity.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated

5/12/2022