

Witness Name: Jennifer Ann Dorricott

Statement No: WITN1198001

Exhibits: None

Dated: January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JENNIFER ANN DORRICOTT

I Jennifer Ann Dorricott, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Jennifer Ann Dorricott. I was born on GRO-C 1941 and I live at GRO-C with my husband. I have one daughter, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. I am currently retired.
2. I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006. I am aware that both my daughter in law Ann Dorricott and my granddaughters Eleanor Dorricott and Sarah Dorricott will also be giving statements.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to any of my late son Michael's full medical records.

Section 2. How infected

4. I make this statement on behalf of my son Michael Paul Dorricott who died on 3 April 2015 aged 47 years old. Michael was infected with Hepatitis C from Factor VIII when he was 15 years old.

5. When Michael was about 3 years old, he fell off his slide and bumped his head. This resulted in a lump with a bruise on the back of his head. When this did not heal as it should have done and blood kept weeping from the wound and knowing that Haemophilia was in the family, our GP referred him to the Halifax General Hospital for testing. The doctor at the hospital told us that they could not detect any Haemophilia. Shortly afterwards, when the wound still had not healed, my husband took our son to the Royal Infirmary, Huddersfield and he was tested again. The results were that Michael had mild Haemophilia and this is what we were told.
6. Through most of his childhood we dealt with cuts and bruises at home. Michael played football and we just told him to be careful. We did not wrap him up in cotton wool. We only took him to hospital on one occasion when he was about 7 or 8. He was ill at home and the GP came to the house. The GP told us to wrap him in a blanket and take him to the hospital. The medical staff on duty at the time told us to *'leave him with us and we will deal with him'*, or words to that effect. I have since found out that he was treated with Cryoprecipitate. That was the only time he ever had Cryoprecipitate.
7. In 1982, when Michael was 15 years old, he had to have some dental treatment for impacted wisdom teeth. I am sure that it was at this point the hospital gave him Factor VIII. I later found out that prior to the treatment with Factor VIII he had liver function tests, but I think that this was just routine, and they were perfect. I cannot remember how many wisdom teeth he had extracted.
8. When my son had his wisdom teeth out, I knew that he would need something to cover the bleeding but nobody asked for our permission. There was no discussion, no dialogue and no consent when he was given Factor VIII instead of Cryoprecipitate. In those days, we trusted the doctors implicitly. We didn't expect them to do something different without telling us.
9. I spoke to Dr GRO-D (who was the doctor at the Royal Infirmary Huddersfield) when I was asked to collect some Factor VIII as Michael was going abroad

either when he was in the sixth form at school in or around 1985 or it could have been in 1986 when he was at university. I went to the hospital and Dr **GRO-D** said to me that they wanted Michael to take his own Factor VIII with him because they knew it was heat treated. I believe Michael travelled to either Spain or France but I do not think he used the Factor VIII on these trips.

10. When he was older Michael attended the hospital appointments on his own. I drove him to the hospital but I did not go into the consulting room with him.

11. Michael went to university in Newcastle at 18 years old and he then moved to the Newcastle Royal Infirmary for any treatment.

12. My son was infected with Hepatitis C.

13. I first found out that he had been infected in 1996 when he told me and his father. I do not recall how he said that he was told that he had Hepatitis C. At the time we didn't really know what Hepatitis C was.

Section 3. Other Infections

14. I do not believe that Michael was infected with anything other than Hepatitis C but he did have other illnesses because of the infection. In 1996, he found out that he had grade 5 cirrhosis of the liver - 5 is the maximum.

Section 4. Consent

15. My husband and I looked after our son for the first 18 years of his life before he went to university. I believe that Michael was tested without his or our knowledge or consent. I was not aware that his liver was tested periodically. I know he requested his medical records in approximately 2006/2007. He told me that he had to pay for his medical records and that he had to fight quite hard to get them.

16. I believe that he was used as a guinea pig and that he was used as a Previously Untreated Patient (PUP) when he was given Factor VIII aged 15.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

17. When Michael found out that he had been infected with Hepatitis C he was very shocked. I am unsure how it affected him mentally because he was living with his wife and daughters by this time.
18. I remember that he did act very strangely at one particular time around 1998. One day he came home from work and went straight to bed as he was extremely tired. He had parked his car in the driveway and Ann, his wife, couldn't get her car out to go to work the following day. He refused to move his car which was completely out of character for him. Eventually, the problem was solved and, to my knowledge, it didn't happen again. He was affected badly at that time.
19. After Michael was told he was infected he was permanently tired. He told us that he used to come home and just crash in bed.
20. Prior to his first liver transplant, his treatment for Hepatitis C was a combination treatment of Interferon and Ribavirin which left him feeling permanently ill and shattered with 'flu like' symptoms. He also had mental health problems.
21. For the first transplant, he was put on the liver transplant list in early 2000. His health was extremely poor in the period prior to the operation on 2 October 2000. He was not living with us and I know he did not tell me a lot of things as he didn't want to worry me. My husband and I stayed with him the whole time that he was in Addenbrooke's Hospital. He was in hospital for around 3 weeks and we visited him twice a day. His recovery after the first transplant seemed to go very well and eventually he went back to work.
22. Michael regularly went for check ups at the hospital and after a routine scan they found something else. I believe it was cancer and they said he needed another liver transplant. Again he was put on the liver transplant list and I recall that it seemed a long time before he had the operation. He had his

second liver transplant on the 25 April 2008. At some point he contracted MRSA and Clostridium Difficile (C-Diff) and he had itching all over his body.

23. As far as I am aware, the hernias came after the second liver transplant. At one point he had three big hernias. He was regularly stopped and searched at airports because of these three big hernias. He was a business man who flew all over the world and being stopped and searched was embarrassing for him.
24. The recovery after the second transplant left him with a lot of mental health issues and he could not cope with any kind of pressure. After this second transplant his company medically retired him from his senior role at United Biscuits.
25. I believe that Michael received another treatment which cleared the Hepatitis C but eventually they found the cancer had returned. They surrounded the blood vessels of his liver with some kind of treatment but somehow a cancer cell escaped and the cancer was inoperable.
26. The doctors would not give him a third liver transplant, and Addenbrooke's Hospital said that he would not have received the second transplant if they had known how bad the liver was from the first transplant. I called Addenbrooke's Hospital to ask if I could provide part of my liver but they said the size of the liver that I could offer would be too small for Michael, who was 6ft 3" and a big man.
27. I believe that Michael should have been given another liver transplant. We would have paid for him to go to America or anywhere for another liver, even if we had to re-mortgage the house, but the doctors said that no hospital would operate on him.
28. It was later on that he had problems with fluid retention. Eventually he couldn't walk because he was carrying so much water and his feet were very badly swollen.
29. The effect on the family has been totally and utterly devastating for us his parents, his sister and his wife and daughters. Perhaps we all grieve

differently but, when you lose a child, the loss is so tremendous it is not something you ever come to terms with. I will never get over this. We are bereft and inconsolable. Emotionally, I am a wreck. This has aged me by many years. I still cannot believe that this has happened, yet, I know it has. I was there with others when he died.

30. The effect on his sister, Jane, has been huge. They were born 14 months apart and were very close. They spoke almost daily and met up often. Michael was a huge support to her and her two children. Since he died, she has lost her best friend and confidante. The impact has been immense. From an emotional point of view, she has lost the person she was closest to, the person she shared everything with and who provided her with practical support, advice and counsel.

31. My daughter has suffered [GRO-C] since Michael's death [GRO-C] [GRO-C] and she has [GRO-C] to try to help her come to terms with his death. Before he died Jane had to give up her job because she [GRO-C] couldn't concentrate on her very demanding profession. She still finds it very difficult to talk to others about him and to cope with news coverage about contaminated blood, especially when pictures of Michael appear in newspapers or friends post on social media when she is not expecting it. She is affected very deeply.

32. Michael was very close to Jane's two children Rachel and James. As a single working mother, she relied heavily on his support and her children saw him as a surrogate father. Like her, they miss him terribly.

33. One only has to look at his Facebook page to see how many lives he touched and how deeply affected many people have been by his death. It upsets her greatly to see how badly this has affected us, his parents.

34. Other family members of Michael's first family, his aunt, uncle and cousins have been greatly distressed by his suffering and death. One cousin, to whom he was close, is unable to bear what he suffered and still cannot talk about it.

35. When Michael told me of his infection in 1996, I didn't feel any type of stigma at all because I really felt like he had been treated like some sort of guinea pig.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

36. My son didn't have any difficulties obtaining treatment. Addenbrooke's Hospital were wonderful with him.

37. I am not sure how much support he received. I have never been offered any support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

38. Michael's finances were his business so I cannot comment on this.

Section 8. Other Issues

39. The main reason that I am giving this statement is that I want justice for my son.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

40. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand that this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Infected Blood Inquiry.

JAD. 41. I do ^{JAD}~~not~~ wish to be called to give oral evidence to the Infected Blood Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 22nd January 2019