

Witness Name: Cheryl Ann Farrugia  
Statement No.: WITN3233001  
Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHERYL ANN FARRUGIA**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.

I, Cheryl Ann Farrugia will say as follows: -

**Section 1: Introduction**

**Responses to criticism of W1216 and W1218 (1to 2 )**

1. My name is Cheryl Ann Farrugia, my date of birth and address are known to the Inquiry.
2. The witnesses I will be discussing in this statement are David WITN1216 and Tony Farrugia WITN1218 who are my step-sons. I have been asked by the Inquiry to provide this statement in response to criticism I have received from David and Tony in their witness statements.
3. At paragraph 30 of his statement Tony sets out that he grew up believing I was his birth mother. When my husband, Barry Farrugia, and I became a couple the boys started calling me 'Mum' almost immediately. Barry and I took the stance that we should not explain to them that I was not their real mother until they were at an age when they would understand.

4. Referring to paragraph 30 of Tony's statement, in 1981 Barry and I asked for help to cope with Tony and David's behaviour. Tony and David were referred to a child psychiatrist that year. The psychiatrist advised us that we should tell the boys I was not their biological mother.
5. At paragraph 31 of Tony's statement it is stated I was "physically and mentally" abusive to both Tony and David. Tony goes on to state he ran away from the family home in 1984 to get away from the "beatings". I was shocked to read Tony's allegations that I was both physically and mentally abusive to the boys and strongly refute this claim. Barry and I were strict parents, all three boys had a nightly curfew, they each had daily chores, bed time routines etc. However, we never beat them.
6. Further, Tony was prone to terrible temper tantrums, mostly over the smallest things, such as not getting his own way. I recall on one occasion when I was getting him dressed for school he became uncontrollable, throwing himself on the floor in the doorway of the lounge, lashing out with his feet and arms to prevent me getting him dressed. His temper tantrum resulted in his arms becoming bruised. The school noticed bruising on Tony's arms and notified the NSPCC. Barry and I were called home from work and visited by a representative of the NSPCC. During this visit, Tony was stripped to his underpants to be examined. The only marks on Tony were on his arms which had occurred that morning during his temper tantrum. I can confirm we heard nothing further from the NSPCC.
7. Referring to paragraph 27 of David's statement. David states that I ruled with an "iron fist". We were strict parents with the boys, because we had to be, their behaviour was so bad. The boys would stay out later than they should, smoking, solvent abuse and getting themselves into trouble. The boys would set fires in their bedroom, on one occasion they sawed the sofa in two with their dad's electric saw and sliced the lounge carpet with a Stanley knife. There are many other examples, however there are too many to mention. As mentioned at paragraph 3 of this statement, we sought help from a child psychiatrist in 1981. I would agree with the notion myself and Barry were strict parents, but I strongly disagree with the term "iron fist" and what that term portrays.

Section 2: Responses to criticism of W1216 and W1218 (3 to 5)

8. Referring to paragraph 44 of Tony's statement. I can confirm Barry had written a will and everything was left to me, his widow, in accordance with his wishes.
9. At the time of Barry's death Tony was in care in Luton and he had taken all his possessions when he moved to Luton to live with his mother in January 1985. In late 1984, Barry and I had to get the police involved as Tony had not returned home until after midnight. As a result of Tony going missing, Barry contacted his ex-wife and pleaded with her to let Tony live with her. Barry wanted Tony to move in with his ex-wife as his health was too poor to deal with the situation.
10. On the day Barry died David could not be found as he had not come home from school. David was eventually found with his mates by his Uncle Les and his brother Vince at around 8pm. They then brought David home so they could tell him that his dad had passed away. The atmosphere in the family home that night was unbearable, this resulted in Barry's brother offering to take David to stay with him until the funeral. I can confirm David was not thrown out.
11. Even though I had an extremely good job with Ford's I found I could not stay in Essex. I had a 3 year old child and no support network. My relationship with most of Barry's family had become toxic. 

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GRO-D	After this I
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GRO-D	decided to sell our family home and move to Wales
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 where I would be near to my family. Vince, who was at the time 18 years old, stayed in Essex to oversee the sale of the house. However, Vince eventually moved to Wales joining Paul and I in our new family home.
12. Referring to paragraph 63 of Tony's statement, in 1991, I was contacted by the Macfarlane Trust. I received widow's payments from them. Around this time I was also involved in the HIV litigation, any settlement thereof was not decided by me. I can confirm that any payments I did receive from the Macfarlane Trust and Skipton fund, the amounts were always split between the boys and myself.

### Section 3: Other Issues

13. I would like to add that the Second Statement of Tony Farrugia was provided to my Solicitors a few days after the Rule 9 was issued. Therefore I wish to provide a response to the criticism in Tony's second statement and this is set out below.
14. Paragraph 11 of Tony's second statement refers to a meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1986. Tony states that during the meeting between Dr Colvin, Sister Margaret, Nigel Harvey and myself we discussed/made plans for Tony and David's care after Barry's death. I do not recall such a meeting taking place.
15. Paragraph 12 of Tony's second statement refers to an alleged statement I had made following Barry's death that I was no longer Tony and David's mother. During that time I was informed by Nigel Harvey, Barry's social worker, that since the boys' biological mother was still alive, I had no legal responsibility regarding Tony and David. To this day I still call the Tony and David my sons, I would never have said I was no longer their mother.
16. Paragraph 13 of Tony's second statement states I always intended to put David into care after Barry died. As a family, there was never any involvement with social services until Tony was put into care in Luton by his mother. I was never involved in any discussions before or after Barry passed away regarding placing David into care.
17. Paragraph 16 of Tony's second statement refers to figures I had supposedly received from the Macfarlane Trust and the 1991 litigation. I do not recall the exact amounts I was given by the Macfarlane Trust or the 1991 litigation. As stated in paragraph 12 of this statement I also received money from the Skipton fund and this was split between myself and the boys.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

13-10-2019

**Table of exhibits:**

Date	Notes/Description	Exhibit number