

**RESTRICTED**

Form MG11(T)

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**WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: MUSSELL, DIANE

Age if under 18: 0.18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: COMMUNITY NURSERY NURSE

This statement (consisting of 5 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: Code A

Date: 12/04/2005

I am the above named person and I live at the address shown overleaf. I make this statement with regard to my mother Ruby Josephine Dorethea LAKE, nee WHITE who Code A Code A died on the 21/08/98 (21/08/1998).

Mum was born on the Isle of Wight and was one of ten children. I am not aware of any family illness nor any illness which affected my mother in the early stages of her life. I do not know how old my maternal grandparents were when they died but I think my grandmother was in her 60's when she died.

Mum was the youngest of the ten children and all her siblings are now deceased. I do recall some of my aunts and uncles. Some of them lived into their 90's others not so long.

As a young woman mum worked in a shop on the Isle of Wight and in 1935 she married my father Ronald LAKE. At the time dad was in the Army Medical Corps. Mum and dad had three daughters Pauline who was born in 1939, then me, then my youngest sister Margaret who was born in 1950.

After the war dad went to Theological College and became a Methodist Minister. As a result we did move about the country, living in Cornwall and Basingstoke. We then moved down to Gosport then Eastleigh prior to my parents retiring in Gosport.

Dad died in 1983 and mum continued to live in Code A Mum had her own home, her own friends and enjoyed a good quality of life.

Signed: Code A

Signature Witnessed by:

2004(1)

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Continuation of Statement of: MUSSELL, DIANE

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As she got older he did suffer from gout and leg ulcers. This caused her quite a bit of pain. These were something that she would have regular treatment for. The other thing she suffered from was arthritis. She had various aides in the house to help maintain her quality of life. Her mobility was limited and she did not go out on her own.

However there were things that affected her in the later stages of her life. Mum didn't drink or smoke and I would say that she was a fit and healthy woman for her age. Her GP was local and was Dr NORTH, he was with the Surgery in Stoke Road.

In late July 1998 mum had a fall whilst at home. She was alone at the time but was able to contact a friend who was in turn able to call the police who broke down the door and called for an ambulance. As a result of the fall mum broke her hip and was taken to the Royal Haslar Hospital. She underwent surgery later that day and was given a new hip.

I was able to see mum later that day, she was post op so I didn't spend a great deal of time with her I just made sure she had what she needed. Mum stayed in Haslar for about 2-3 weeks. I would visit her most days.

Whilst mum was at Haslar I never saw her out of bed. It was clear that the operation had had quite an effect on her. Her mood could go up and down and there would be periods when she didn't talk, although she could be quite lucid and was able to hold a conversation.

I think at this time mum had developed a cough and there was a question mark over fluid on her chest. As a result I think she found the meal supplements easier to digest than normal food and was quite happy with these.

On being told that mum was going to be moved to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, I raised concerns with staff at Haslar that I felt mum was not yet well enough, I think I spoke with a nurse but I don't recall who. I was assured she fit to be moved and on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1998 (17/08/1998) mum was moved to the GMWH. This was on Monday.

Signed: **Code A**  
2004(I)

Signature Witnessed by:

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Continuation of Statement of: MUSSELL, DIANE

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I went and saw mum on the Tuesday (18/8/98) (18/08/1998) she was in a private room and appeared to clean and well cared for. She was able to talk and I can't recall any concerns. Mum had numerous visitors, family and friends. My initial view was that I did not expect a fall and a hip operation to cause the demise of mum. However I was realistic enough to realise that the trauma of the fall and subsequent surgery could take its toll on an elderly woman, which became more apparent as the weeks went by. Up until late Wednesday (19/08/98) (19/08/1998) when mum appeared to become quite agitated and distressed I still felt there was a good chance mum would be coming home.

I had been able to talk to mum on the Wednesday but by the Thursday there was a noticeable deterioration. She gave no visible signs and was unable to respond either through hand gestures or oral communication. I can't be sure at what stage it was started but I think mum was on a syringe driver at this stage.

When I saw mum on the Thursday both my sisters were with me, as well as my brother-in-law and my husband's parents. Other friends from church would also visit. I spent most of the day with her on the Thursday and went to see her again on the Friday.

I found the hospital staff to be helpful with regard to allowing us to stay, they seemed quite caring but I don't recall talking to anyone in any great detail about mum's condition. By the Thursday we were all aware that mum was very ill and we didn't expect her to last that much longer.

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 1998 (21/08/1998) I spent the day at the hospital with mum. My husband his parents were also there as was his sister and niece as well as my sister Pauline and her husband Graham .

Mum seemed quite peaceful during the day and was to all intents and purposes asleep. She died in the early evening with the family close by.

Signed: **Code A**  
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

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Continuation of Statement of: MUSSELL, DIANE

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Mum's death was certified by Dr BARTON and cause of death was shown as Bronchopneumonia. There was nothing that struck us as out of the ordinary with regards her care. Mum was cremated.

STATEMENT TAKEN - DC Code ASigned: Code A  
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: