

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: MARJORAM, CATHERINE JEAN

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: SENIOR STAFF NURSE

This statement (consisting of 8 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: C MARJORAM

Date: 28/10/2004

I am Catherine Jean MARJORAM and I reside at the address detailed overleaf. I am employed at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital as a Senior Staff Nurse (nights) based on Daedalus Ward of the hospital but with a responsibility to the whole hospital during the course of the night.

A night duty is from 2015 hours to 0745 hours. At this time I work 3 nights a week. The days of working in my case is flexible usually working around other members of staff.

I was interviewed by the police in June 2000 regarding the death of Gladys RICHARDS at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I have also provided a witness statement to the police regarding other matters concerning the use of certain drugs, syringe drivers and care of patients at the hospital. This statement I made to the police in July 2003.

During March of 1996 I was employed at Gosport War Memorial Hospital as an E Grade Staff Nurse on night duty. I was at that time based on Sultan Ward I believe.

The responsibility of a E Grade Staff Nurse on nights would be; to be in charge of my ward during the night. However if the need arises then to provide cover for the Senior Staff Nurse or Night Sister.

I began my training as a nurse in 1967 and qualified as a State Registered Nurse (Staff Nurse) in 1970. Including my training I have been a nurse for 37 years. I have been employed at Gosport War Memorial Hospital since 1976. So have worked at this hospital for about 28 years.

Signed: C MARJORAM
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: C J LEE DC1019

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Continuation of Statement of: MARJORAM, CATHERINE JEAN

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I have been asked what involvement I had in the care and treatment of a patient called Elsie LAVENDER during her time at Gosport War Memorial Hospital from 22nd February 1996 (22/02/1996) to 6th March 1996 (06/03/1996). I first wish to state that I have no personal recollection of a patient called Elsie LAVENDER whatsoever.

I have been allowed to examine a copy of a set of medical notes bearing the exhibit reference of BJC/30.

From my examination of these notes I am able to state the following:-

I was involved in the admission of Elsie LAVENDER to Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 6th May 1989 (06/05/1989). I have completed paperwork at pages 177 and 178 and also at 179 and 180 of BJC/30 regarding her admission on that date.

I have also completed paperwork at page 175 and 176 regarding the same admission and stay at the hospital. At page 129 and 130 my signature appears on a prescription sheet for Elsie LAVENDER on 6th May 1989 (06/05/1989).

I have therefore been involved in the nursing of Elsie LAVENDER during an earlier stay at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

On page 87 and 88 of BJC/30 the medical records of Elsie LAVENEDER I have made the following note on the 'clinical notes'.

'Death verified by C J MARJORAM RGN' I have then signed this entry. I have not been able to find any other entries on the medical records of Elsie LAVENDER BJC/30 relating to her stay at the hospital in February or March of 1996 that has been made by me.

The only reason that I believe that I have made this note is as follows:-

Where the death of a patient is expected in Gosport War Memorial Hospital as there is no on site 24 hour doctor cover then a trained member of the nursing staff is able to 'verify death'. It is quite common that this is done by two members of staff.

I note from page 85 and 86 that an entry appears on the 'clinical notes' which reads as follows:-

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2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: C J LEE DC1019

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Continuation of Statement of: MARJORAM, CATHERINE JEAN

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'6th March 1996 (06/03/1996) 2128 hours asked to see'

'No cardiac sounds'

'No respiratory movement/sounds'

'Pupils fixed and dilated'

This entry appears to immediately proceed mine on the clinical notes and to have been signed by a Registered General Nurse. I do not recognise the writing or signature of this entry.

It is likely that the trained member of staff has been asked to examine Elsie LAVENDER by a member of the nursing staff.

The trained member of staff has examined Mrs LAVENDER and has found her to be dead.

It would have been possible for this nurse to verify death herself. However it would appear that on this occasion I have been called to 'Daedalus Ward' by the trained nurse to confirm the result of her examination.

In order to do this I would have checked Mrs LAVENDER's chest for heart sounds, breathing sounds and movement of her chest.

I would have also checked Mrs LAVENDER's eyes and established that her pupils were fixed and dilated. These are standard checks that are made before verifying death of a patient.

I would have made all these checks myself prior to making my entry on the 'clinical notes'.

This is one of the few occasions that nursing staff make an entry on a patients 'clinical notes' as the clinical notes are normally reserved for the use of the doctors.

I note that a corresponding note has been made on the nursing notes by the same nurse at page 155 and 156 under the time of 2128 hours on 6th March 1996 (06/03/1996).

Only a doctor is able to certify death. The verification of death by nursing staff is only

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permitted in the circumstances that I've previously described.

The verification of death by trained staff at Gosport War Memorial Hospital allows the staff to properly inform members of the family.

Layout the body of the patient and arrange for the removal of the body from the ward.

The removal of the body from the ward minimalizes distress that may be caused to other patients on the ward.

It also allows the body to be refrigerated.

Taken by: DC1019 LEE

Signed: C MARJORAM
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: C J LEE DC1019