

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:

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: RETIRED COMPANY DIRECTOR

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:

Date: 25/01/2006

I am and I live with my wife Dorothy at an address known to the police.

I was a good friend of Geoffrey Michael John PACKMAN, whom I called 'Mick' and this statement is about Mick and the visits I and my wife made to him whilst he was a patient at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Hampshire.

I met Mick through his wife Betty. I have known Betty for over sixty years and when she started 'going out' with Mick I became friends with him. We used to do things as a foursome and I was Mick's best man when he married Betty.

Mick was a fit and active young man and we would play table tennis together. He always had what I would call a healthy appetite but he was not overweight.

He used to be an insurance surveyor and it was his job which eventually took him and his family to Emsworth in Hampshire.

I don't know the circumstances but Mick left his job in insurance at Zurich Insurance and set up a taxi business with a partner.

We used to visit Betty and Mick regularly and they would come up to Chesterfield to stay with us.

Betty and Mick adopted two children, Mark and Vicky and Dorothy and I are godparents to

Signed:

Signature Witnessed by:

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Mark. Mick was a pleasant and humorous man who liked to entertain people.

I noticed that each time we saw Mick he seemed to have put on more weight. He would talk about the places he had visited and would always mention what he had eaten there. It seemed to me that where most people eat to live, Mick seemed to live to eat. He seemed to be obsessed with eating which I put down to being a family trait as Mick's family is like that.

Mick's weight didn't seem to bother him but he did seem to have trouble walking. He wasn't able to take any exercise so he kept getting bigger. I have been asked if I can remember when Mick became ill and if I visited him.

I went down with Dorothy to visit Betty when Mick was taken ill. Betty had been diagnosed with cancer and was due to go into hospital.

We went to be with Betty, to support her whilst Mick recovered. I remember that he had gone to the toilet and couldn't get off. They had called an ambulance and it had taken four people to get him down the stairs.

We didn't visit Mick whilst he was in the hospital in Portsmouth but we saw him daily whilst he was in the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

He was in the hospital to recuperate and we would visit him with Betty.

Mick seemed to be doing well. He would be sat up in bed and chatting away. He was in a room on his own. He would give Betty a list of things he wanted, fruit, fizzy drinks, that type of thing. He didn't seem ill at all.

During one visit we decided that we wouldn't come in the following day as it was a bit of trek from Emsworth. Mick was quite happy about this, it didn't seem to bother him.

The next day we stayed at home with Betty and I think it was around tea time when the phone

Signed:

Signature Witnessed by:

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rang.

Betty answered it and came back to tell us that it was the hospital that called and asked her to come in as Mick had suffered a suspected heart attack.

Betty drove Dorothy and me to the hospital to see Mick. We had just got into his room and Betty and Dorothy had sat down on either side of his bed when a lady doctor appeared at the door.

She took one step into the room and said "Mrs PACKMAN?", in an abrupt tone. Betty said "Yes" and with that the doctor beckoned her with her finger and said "I want to see you in my office". Betty followed her out and was gone for some time.

Dorothy and I stayed with Mick who was sat up in bed chatting away to us. He didn't look as well as he had done but he certainly didn't look ill. When Betty eventually came back into the room she looked upset.

Mick noticed that Betty was upset and he said to her "What's that all about?" Betty told him it was to do with his medication.

When we eventually left Mick to go home, Betty became tearful in the car park. She told us that the doctor had told her that Mick was going to die. I couldn't believe it, Mick didn't look as if he was dying, he didn't look ill. I was also shocked at the attitude of the doctor. She was so abrupt which seemed worse knowing that she was about to tell someone that their husband was dying. I really didn't like her attitude.

When we get to Betty's she rang Code A, Mick's sister who arranged to visit Mick the following day. Code A came to see Betty after she had visited Mick. She told Betty that she didn't think that Mick was dying and that she had taken him a bag of apples.

I believe Dorothy, Betty and I visited Mick the following day but I'm not sure and he was sat up

Signed: Code A

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in bed chatting as he always had been. He gave no indication that he knew he was dying.

The last thing he said to me as we left was "Thank you for coming down .

Dorothy and I then left Emsworth to return home with the intention of returning when Betty went into hospital.

We received a call from Betty whilst she was in hospital to tell us that Mick had died.

Signed:

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Signature Witnessed by: