

RESTRICTED

Form MG11(T)

Page 1 of 4

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: GIFFIN, SYLVIA ROBERTA

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: 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: S R GIFFIN

Date: 06/06/2000

I am employed by Portsmouth Health Care Trust at Gosport War Memorial as a Staff Nurse. I have worked as a Staff Nurse at the War Memorial since 1972.

I work mainly at Daedalus Ward on night duty for about the last three years, covering August 1998.

The ward is mainly occupied by elderly patients. The ward is visited daily by a General Practitioner responsible for the treatment of the patients. The GP will prescribe drugs and treatment which will be administered by the Staff Nurses on the ward.

In August 1998, the GP in question was Doctor BARTON. A consultant would visit the ward once a week. This was Doctor LORD.

Dr BARTON is also on call for any emergency cases. On other occasions when Dr BARTON was not on duty, a GP would be contacted via a Healthcall system based at Cosham.

The patient capacity at Daedalus is twenty four.

I work a permanent night duty at Daedalus Ward which would consist of 8.15pm (2015) to 7.45am (0745). I work mainly Friday and Saturday nights.

In relation to the inquiry regarding Gladys RICHARDS, I was at work on Thursday 20th August 1998 (20/08/1998) and Friday 21st August 1998 (21/08/1998).

On the ward with me on 20th August 1998 (20/08/1998) was Anita TURBRITT, Senior Staff Nurse, Anne FLETCHER, Health Care Support Worker Monique GALLACHER, Health Care Support Worker. These three were on night duty with me on Friday 21st August 1998 (21/08/98).

When I started work at 8.15pm (2015) on Thursday 20th August 1998, (20/08/1998) I was made aware that Gladys RICHARDS was on the ward. I do not recall receiving any specific

Signed: S R GIFFIN

Signature Witnessed by:

2004(1)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Continuation of Statement of: GIFFIN, SYLVIA ROBERTA

Form MG11(T)(CONT)
Page 2 of 4

instructions regarding Mrs RICHARDS care or treatment. I do not remember who gave me the handover. I was aware at this time that Mrs RICHARDS was treated by [Code A] Dr. The practice of using [Code A] at the hospital has been in use for about ten to twelve years.

The [Code A] is commonly used at the hospital in order to relieve a lot of pain or discomfort. [Code A] is able to provide a constant level of pain relief as opposed to oral pain killers which wear off after a period of time causing the patient discomfort prior to the next administration of pain killers.

In relation to the drugs administered by Syringe Driver, in August 1998, Dr BARTON as the GP responsible for the ward, would have completed the prescriptions. This was backed up by a weekly ward visit by Dr LORD who would assess the treatment given to the patients.

The syringe drivers are used on all wards at the hospital to the best of my knowledge.

The care and treatment of Mrs RICHARDS would have been part of my responsibilities overnight. Anita TURBRITT was in overall charge of the ward and the hospital on the 20th August 1998 (20/08/1998) and 21st August 1998 (21/08/1998).

I was made aware, I believe by Jenny BREWER, another Staff Nurse, that Mrs RICHARDS had had a fall. I can not remember if Jenny BREWER told me anymore about the incident.

I also remember that Mrs RICHARDS had been in the ward previously before returning to Haslar and then returning to Daedalus Ward.

Mrs RICHARDS daughter was present with her on Thursday 20th August 1998 (20/08/1998) to Friday 21st August 1998 (21/08/1998). I spoke to her and learnt that she had previously worked in a nursing capacity. The daughter had concerns over the transport of Mrs RICHARDS from Haslar Hospital to the War Memorial. The daughter also believed that her mother was far healthier mentally than what had been diagnosed.

I do not recall administering any drugs to Mrs RICHARDS. I would have checked her treatment card to ensure any drugs prescribed were to be administered however it would be unusual to administer drugs overnight.

I have been shown LH/1/C/24, a prescription record for Gladys RICHARDS being part of health record LH/1/C. Having looked at this record I can state that I did not administer any drugs through the syringe driver or otherwise to Mrs RICHARDS. I have looked at the record

Signed: S R GIFFIN
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Continuation of Statement of: GIFFIN, SYLVIA ROBERTA

Form MG11(T)(CONT)
Page 3 of 4

Code A

Without having looked at Mrs RICHARDS case notes I believe Mrs RICHARDS died at about 4am (0400) on Friday 21st August 1998 (21/08/1998). There was no attempt to resuscitate. In Mrs RICHARDS case, I was able to pronounce death as her death was expected.

At that time both Mrs RICHARDS daughters and a granddaughter were present. I recorded

Signed: S R GIFFIN
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Continuation of Statement of: GIFFIN, SYLVIA ROBERTA

Form MG11(T)(CONT)
Page 4 of 4

death pronounced on the case notes and the nursing notes.

Mrs RICHARDS daughters then prepared her for the mortuary. They laid a rose on her and put a crucifix around her. Part of the preparation included ensuring Mrs RICHARDS was clean however the staff carried this out later on.

The procedure from this point is that later in the morning Dr BARTON would attend and certify the cause of death. If Mrs RICHARDS was to be cremated then two doctors signatures would be required on the cause of death. I would add that the other reason why a patient may not be able to take Oramorph is if they are unable to swallow. In this case the patient may be transferred to a syringe driver.

Signed: S R GIFFIN
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

RESTRICTED