

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: BERRY, MARION

Age if under 18: (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: HEALTH CARE SUPPORT WORKER

This statement (consisting of 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: 02/08/2000

1. I am a Health Care Support Worker employed by Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I have worked in this capacity for 7 years. Prior to that I worked for 3 years as a domestic at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. In August 1998 I worked in Daedalus Ward as I do at the present time. Daedalus Ward provides continuing care and slow stream stroke rehabilitation for frail elderly patients. In August 1998 Daedalus Ward comprised eight single bed rooms and four 4-bed rooms i.e. capacity for 24 patients in total, as it does today. My duties as a Health Care Support Worker are to assist in the general care of patients, washing, dressing and feeding. My role is to assist the qualified nursing staff who supervise me. As a Health Care Support Worker I do not make decisions as to how a patient is nursed. I am not involved in decisions concerning medication or the provision of intravenous drips. If I identify any problem with a patient's care I refer to qualified nursing staff.

2. I have checked the on-duty rota for August 1998. My on duties between 11 August 1998 (11/08/1998) and 21 August 1998 (21/08/1998) period covering the late Mrs RICHARDS ' two admissions to Daedalus Ward were as follows;

11 August 1998	Late shift	1.15 p.m. (1315) - 8.30 p.m. (2030)
12 "	Early shift	7.30 a.m. (0730) -1.30 p.m. (1330)
14 "	Late shift	1.15 p.m. (1315) -8.30 p.m. (2030)
15 "	"	"
16 "	"	"

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- 17 " Day off
- 18 " Late shift 1.15 p.m. (1315) -8.30 p.m. (2030)
- 19 " Early shift 7.30 a.m. (0730) -1.30 p.m. (1330)
- 20 " " " "
- 21 " " " "

3. I recall the late Mrs Gladys RICHARDS. On either 11 or 12 August 1998 (12/08/1998) I nursed her one to one. She was fidgety and a Health Care Support Worker had to be in attendance all the time. I stayed with Mrs RICHARDS in her room until 5 p.m. (1700) when a colleague took over from me. I cannot recall any other contact with Mrs RICHARDS until 14 August 1998 (14/08/1998). I escorted Mrs RICHARDS to Haslar Hospital in an ambulance. Mrs LACK states in her witness statement on page 9 that she accompanied her mother but this is incorrect. Mrs LACK met us at Haslar Hospital. Mrs RICHARDS was not at all distressed on the journey to Haslar Hospital. On arrival at Haslar Hospital Mrs LACK and Mrs MACKENZIE approached the ambulance. I told Mrs LACK and Mrs MACKENZIE that their mother was fine. I accompanied Mrs RICHARDS into the Accident and Emergency Department. I stayed with her in the treatment room where an intravenous line was put in. I remained until Haslar Hospital staff started attending to Mrs RICHARDS' leg. I then left the treatment room and stayed with Mrs LACK and Mrs MACKENZIE outside until I knew that Mrs RICHARDS' immediate treatment had been completed and that she was alright. I then returned to Gosport War Memorial Hospital in a taxi.

4. I have no recollection of caring for Mrs RICHARDS on her return to Gosport War Memorial Hospital from Haslar Hospital on 17 August until her death on 21 August 1998 (21/08/1998). I have examined Mrs RICHARDS' hospital case records. I have not made any entries. I recall some additional contact with Mrs LACK. I believe that this was on Sunday 16 August 1998 (16/08/1998) but I cannot be sure. To the best of my recollection Mrs LACK attended Daedalus Ward to pick up some of her mother's toiletries. I asked Mrs LACK how her mother was and she replied "Not very good today, not very good at all". I refer to the penultimate paragraph on page 10 of Mrs LACK's statement. I cannot imagine any member of staff speaking to a patient's relative in the manner stated. I also recall explaining to Mrs LACK that it was preferable to mark her mother's clothes with her name so they did not go missing.

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