

**Code A**

LH/YJM

25 May 2001

4378

Dear **Code A**

Thank you for welcoming me into your home on Wednesday this week. I can understand your distress and upset at having your husband's death questioned, almost three years since his death. I hope that our meeting helped to set things in context, so relieving rather than adding to your anxieties.

As I explained, **Code A** approached us after seeing local news reports about a police investigation at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. They were unsure as to the cause of their father's death and wanted to talk to someone. When I met with them I explained that Mr. Wilson was a very sick man before he was transferred to Gosport War Memorial Hospital. He had a weak heart and his liver and kidneys were not working properly.

Although his sudden deterioration and death were not anticipated, his poor health meant that this was always a possibility. **Code A** said that they were reassured by what I told them but asked for copies of their father's health records for confirmation.

From what you told me, the staff at Gosport War Memorial Hospital were very honest with you with regard to your husband's health problems and the deterioration in his condition. I was sorry to hear that you found it very difficult to get information from the staff at Queen Alexandra Hospital.

As next-of-kin, the decision as to what happens now lies with you. I suggest that you discuss the options and what you want to do with your family, and perhaps the Citizens' Advice Bureau. As we discussed your options are:

- ◇ Allow **Code A** access to your husband's health records (you need not be involved further then).

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- ◇ Refuse [Code A] access to the records (you could choose for no further action to be taken, or you could proceed with any personal concerns that you may have).
- ◇ We could arrange for you to have a copy of your husband's records and for a consultant to meet with you to explain the circumstances of your husband's death.

If you choose not to release the records to [Code A] I will inform them of this sensitively.

In balancing your decision, you should consider if you have any doubts about your husband's death, and whether or not it would add to your pain and grief to reopen this chapter in your life.

Please let me know by letter or telephone what decision you reach, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

As we agreed, I have written to [Code A] (copy enclosed) to say that you wish time to consider your next steps; thank you for giving them a copy of your husband's death certificate.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Humphrey  
Quality Manager

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Dear **Code A**

**Code A**, your father's widow, contact me after my recent letter to her. She and I have now met, when I explained the background to your request for a copy of your father's health records.

**Code A** would like a little time to consider these issues before making a decision. She will advise me of her wishes in due course. I have sent her a copy of this letter (minus your address).

Enclosed is a copy of Mr. Wilson's death certificate that **Code A** gave me to send to you. She thought it might be some help to you.

I will write again when **Code A** contacts me.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Humphrey  
Quality Manager

Copy to: **Code A**

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