

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: WHITNEY, GERARDINE MARTINA

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Registered Nurse

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: G M Whitney

Date: 10/12/2002

I live at the address shown overleaf. I am a Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse Teacher and a M.A Wales.

I qualified in 1976 within the East Surrey Health Authority at the Ivy School of Nursing.

In March 1976 I began nursing at the Redhill General Hospital, Surrey .

In September 1977, I began working as an assistant matron at Longcliff Nursing Home, Harrogate and I remained there until January 1978 when I moved to Cornwall and worked within the Cornwall and Isle of Scilly Health Authority as a staff nurse.

In May 1979 I became a ward sister and at this time I worked in elderly care.

In October 1981 I became a nursing officer, my responsibilities were for the in service training of nurses and nursing auxiliaries in the geriatric and general divisions of the health authority.

Between 1983 - 1985 I became a professional development officer with the same responsibilities. At this time I undertook a course for a certificate in education and qualified as a Teacher of Nursing in 1985.

In 1985 I became a Nurse Tutor at Basingstoke at the South Hants School of Nursing .

In 1988 I became a Community Tutor on the Community Unit in Portsmouth.

Signed: G M Whitney
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

RESTRICTED

Continuation of Statement of: WHITNEY, GERARDINE MARTINA

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

In December 1991 I became a senior lecturer as director of Community and Child Health Studies at the University of Portsmouth .

In February 1993 I moved to Birmingham and Solihull School of Nursing where I was concerned with teaching post registered nurses and with developing the curriculum for the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Higher Award.

In April 1994 I became an officer for the Royal College of Nursing in the West Midlands region.

In 1988 I became a visiting lecturer at the University of Huddersfield . I dealt in the main with nursing and healthcare studies and the ethics surrounding them.

I have been asked about a document which relates to a visit I made to the Redcliffe Annex, Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 31st October 1991 (31/10/1991).

I have been shown a copy of this document taken from a number of documents exhibited as JEP/GWMH/1/KMR/COPY/5 .

I can say that I recognise this as a copy of a document that I wrote. I can identify the signature at its conclusion as mine. I was in possession of the original document until around 1998. I normally keep my documents for around seven years and I believe that I have destroyed it.

I would like to provide a little background information to explain my involvement with the staff in relation to this matter.

When I took up my post in Portsmouth as the Community Tutor for Community Education, I was responsible for the teaching of staff in nine small hospitals, the district nurses, the health visitors and the school nurses.

Signed: G M Whitney
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

RESTRICTED

Continuation of Statement of: WHITNEY, GERARDINE MARTINA

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

In 1985, the National Association of Health Authorities issued guidelines for handling staff complaints about patient care. I developed the training for staff, in the Community Unit, in the recognition and prevention of patient abuse. This training was to support the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority policy on recognition and prevention of patient abuse.

This training would include all staff from auxiliaries to managers and also include staff in nursing homes monitored by the South East Hampshire Health Authority at that time.

I recall that the training for the trainers took 1-2 days. David CARPENTER, senior lecturer in ethics led some of the training. He was based in the Nursing School at St James' Hospital, Portsmouth..

I have been asked if I taught this program to staff at this time. I was involved in developing the training programme with the trainers from the multi disciplinary health care team of the community unit of Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority.

The course amongst other things, covered recognising abuse, how to report it and what is now considered 'whistle blowing'.

I have been asked how I met with Anita TUBBRITT. I cannot remember how or when I spoke to her but I know that it was in my capacity as tutor, not through any association with the Royal College of Nursing. I can remember going to a meeting with staff at the Redcliffe Annex in Gosport. I cannot recall any individual cases but I recall looking at the controlled drug register. I noted that a large amount of Diamorphine had been used and I did not know the reason why.

I remember going home and typing the report. Prior to my visit to the Redcliff Annex I had informed Susan FROST, my boss, that I was going to meet staff to discuss their concerns. Afterwards I gave her a copy of the report and informed her of my findings and the action I was taking after the meeting.

I gave a copy to Isabelle EVANS, the Patient Care Manager at the Gosport War Memorial

Signed: G M Whitney
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

RESTRICTED

Continuation of Statement of: WHITNEY, GERARDINE MARTINA

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

Hospital and I provided Bill HOOPER , the General Manager of the Western Area of the Community Unit of the Hampshire Health Authority, with a copy.

In effect I brought the concerns of staff members to the managers responsible for addressing the perceived problems in accordance with the policy of the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority.

I sent a copy of my report to Anita TUBBRITT, Sylvia GIFFIN , Beverley TURNBULL and Agnes HOWARD , these were all members of staff at the Redcliffe Annex, present at the meeting I attended.

I didn't hear from any of these people again so I concluded that the problems had been addressed. I am aware that Keith MURREY , the Royal College of Nursing Lead Steward, was supporting the staff who were Royal College of Nursing members in raising their concerns.

I also remember having a conversation with Pam GROSVNOR , who was a senior nurse with the health authority. She asked me how I had become involved in the matter and I explained that it was through the School of Nursing and in accordance with the policy in relation to patient abuse.

I have been asked if I was aware of any enquiry into the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I first became aware of an enquiry into the hospital around the beginning of October 2002, when I received an email from Sue DUNNE which was concerned with obtaining legal representation by the RCN.

Signed: G M Whitney
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: