

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: CAIRNS, ANDREW WILLIAM

Age if under 18: OVER 21 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: GENERAL PRACTITIONER

This statement (consisting of 3 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: A W CAIRNS

Date: 12/06/2000

I am employed by the Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust at Petersfield Hospital . I qualified as a Doctor in 1980 and qualified as a General Practitioner in 1986. In my role as a General Practitioner I am self employed.

I have been requested to describe the procedure for certifying cause of death. To the best of my knowledge this procedure is carried out throughout the Portsmouth Health Care Trust.

In order to sign up cause of death, as a Doctor you are required to have seen the patient within fourteen days prior to death. As the medical practitioner responsible, you are expected to be satisfied with the cause of death, and to have viewed the body.

If this criteria is met then a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death must be completed by the Medical Practitioner certifying cause of death. If there are doubts over the cause of death then the matter should be referred to the Coroner. On occasion these doubts can be resolved allowing the Medical Practitioner to complete the Certificate of Cause of Death. Should these doubts persist then the matter is handed to the Coroner.

In respect of the patient being buried, the Medical Practitioners completion of the certificate is sufficient for the burial to proceed. If the patient is to be cremated, then a further certificate is required. This certificate is required to be completed by the Medical Practitioner and a second Medical Practitioner who has been registered for not less than five years, is not a relative of the deceased, is not a relative or partner of the doctor who has completed the first part of the cremation certificate.

The second practitioner must have viewed the body of the deceased and both practitioners must certify that they know of no reasonable course to suspect that the deceased died either a violent, unnatural or a sudden death of which the cause is unknown or died in such place as circumstances as to requiring on inquest.

Signed: A W CAIRNS
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

RESTRICTED

Continuation of Statement of: CAIRNS, ANDREW WILLIAM

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This certificate must be completed as per the Cremation Acts of 1902 and 1952 .

On the occasions when the Medical Practitioner certifies death but is unable to certify cause of death, a Medical Practitioner may attend the body at a later time and if the criteria allows may certify cause of death. This can be carried out at the mortuary or the undertakers.

I would add that in relation to the Cremation Certificate, the second Medical Practitioner need not refer to the notes and may find that a conversation with the first Medical Practitioner and with the family is sufficient to endorse the certificate.

Signed: A W CAIRNS
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: