

RESTRICTED

Statement number: S24

DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

STATEMENT PRINT

Surname: BASSETT

Forenames: JOHN HOWARD

Age: OVER 18

Date of Birth: Code A

Address: Code A
Postcode: Code A

Occupation: GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

Telephone No.: Code A HOME Code A BUSINESS

Statement Date: 22/09/2000

Appearance Code: 1

Height:

Build:

Hair Details: PositionStyleColour

Eyes: /

Complexion: /

Glasses:

Use:

Accent Details: GeneralSpecificQualifier

Number of Pages: 4

I am the above named person and am employed as a General Medical Practitioner at Manor Way Surgery, Manor Way, Lee-on-Solent .

On Friday 22nd September 2000 (22/09/2000) at 4.45pm (1645), I was shown by DC Code A exhibit reference JC/1, namely a certificate of medical attendant forms B, C and F in respect of Gladys RICHARDS .

In relation to Form C of the form namely Confirmatory Medical Certificate, I can confirm that the writing in blue ink dated 25th August 1998 (25/08/1998) is mine.

This form is required to be completed in order that the deceased, in this case Gladys RICHARDS Code A can be cremated.

Form B was completed by Dr BARTON who at the time was working as a General Medical Practitioner with a role at Gosport War Memorial Hospital .

I do remember speaking to Dr BARTON regarding the circumstances of Mrs RICHARDS death.

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Mrs RICHARDS had been a patient at Manor Way Surgery for approximately four to five years and during this time had been living at Glen Heathers Nursing Home, Milvil Road, Lee-on-Solent .

I do not have Mrs RICHARDS notes, however I do remember that she was physically and mentally frail and suffered from severe dementia. Mrs RICHARDS was receiving medication for the agitation she displayed. Her condition demanded that she would have required constant attention.

I was aware that at the end of July 1998 Mrs RICHARDS was admitted to Gosport War Memorial Hospital having fractured her right neck of femur.

During her time in hospital I had no contact with Mrs RICHARDS as she would have been cared for and treated by the relevant hospital.

Between the 24th August 1998 (24/08/1998) and 25th August 1998(25/08/1998) I had a telephone call from Dr BARTON stating that Mrs RICHARDS had died. Dr BARTON had given the cause of death as Bronchopneumonia. My role would then have been to discuss the events leading up to Mrs RICHARDS death and whether that would confirm the cause of death.

I was made aware that Mrs RICHARDS had fractured her right neck of femur and had undergone a hip replacement and had subsequently fallen requiring the hip to be relocated.

Based on my knowledge of Mrs RICHARDS condition her immobility, being bed bound, her frailty, I felt the circumstances given to me were consistent to my knowledge of the patient.

I would have confirmed with Dr BARTON that the coroner was informed. The coroner can authorise Dr BARTON to verify cause of death. If the coroner has concerns then he may request a post mortem.

In order to verify the cause of death, I would have viewed the body externally and endorsed Form C to that effect. This would assist in verifying that the patient has not died by other means.

I also spoke to Staff Nurse COUCHMAN who is noted on Form C as a person who nursed the deceased during her last illness or who was present at the death.

I cannot recall the conversation with Staff Nurse COUCHMAN however I would ask in other cases for the nurse to describe the final few days of Mrs RICHARDS life, to confirm her frailty and her immobility which would lead to Bronchopneumonia.

Based on this conversation I was clearly happy to endorse Dr BARTON's diagnosis of Bronchopneumonia and signed Form C on the 25th August 1998 (25/08/1998).

I would not routinely speak to relatives in this case as hospital staff can provide a detailed account of events leading up to death.

The form would stay with the body and go to the funeral directors before the medical referee at

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Portchester Crematorium would check the paperwork and give the final authority for cremation.

Signed: J H BASSETT

Signature witnessed by:

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