

## STATEMENT OF MRS MARIA SHORTIS

51. My Feelings Now

I am still appalled at the lack of information that was available to us. I believe that Mr Dhasmana should have told me that one of the risks of the large shunt he fitted was heart failure. We did not ask for an especially large shunt. Dr Joffe, who recommended that Jacinta should have the shunt operation, never explained that heart failure would be one possible outcome. I also wish I had known what the side-effects of Digoxin were, as I found it terrible to watch my daughter's condition deteriorate, due to a lack of proper nourishment. Jacinta experienced all the side-effects associated with Digoxin, and it is awful to imagine that I gave her a drug which might have caused her death. At the time, I asked what the associated side-effects of Digoxin were, but never received a straight answer from any of the hospital staff. If I was the parent of a child who should be alive today, I do not know how I should feel towards the medical and nursing staff of UBHT. However, I do feel that Jacinta did not receive competent treatment, and that I and my family were burdened by unnecessary grief and guilt.

52. Declaration

The contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed ..... *M B Shortis* .....

Dated ..... *22.7.99* .....