

STATEMENT

This statement is made by CAROLINE JONES, who will say as follows:

1. Introduction

I am Caroline Jones. I was born on 30th December 1962. My husband and I run our own business. Since being married, I have always lived in Pembrokeshire. This statement concerns treatment provided to my son, Matthew, at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and elsewhere.

2. My Children

I have five surviving children, now aged 18, 15, nearly 11, 7 and 4. Matthew was born on 15th June 1985. I had another daughter in 1990 who suffered a cot death when she was six weeks old. I had no problems during any of my pregnancies, or labours. Matthew was the quickest labour. He was born at Withybush Hospital in Haverfordwest.

3. Matthew's Diagnosis

Matthew always cried a lot. When Matthew was about 3 or 4 weeks old, the Health Visitor took us to see the GP. I have since discovered that a heart murmur was noticed at this appointment, but the GP did not (as I now know) mention it to me because she knew Matthew had a six week check-up arranged shortly. The six week check-up took place at one of the local surgeries. Matthew was seen by a Dr Owen who referred Matthew to a Dr A Palit in Withybush Hospital.

Signed

Caroline Jones

Dated

30.6.99

STATEMENT OF MRS CAROLINE JONES

4. Meeting Dr Palit

Matthew's first appointment with Dr Palit took place at our home. After this, he arranged for Matthew to go to Withybush Hospital, where he was examined with the aid of an ECG trace and x-rays. Dr Palit told me that he was unable to make a complete diagnosis, and wanted to refer Matthew elsewhere. He explained that he could hear a heart murmur, but was unable to say what was wrong. He gave us the choice of sending Matthew either to Bristol or to Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. Dr Palit told us that the unit at Bristol had a good reputation and was on a par with Great Ormond Street. Because of this recommendation, and because Bristol is nearer, we chose Bristol.

5. Bristol Children's Hospital

When Matthew was about 2 or 3 months old, we took him to Bristol Children's Hospital to see a cardiologist, Dr Joffe. We drove him up on a Wednesday, and he had an echocardiogram and a cardiac catheterisation on the Thursday. Matthew was transferred to the Bristol Royal Infirmary from the Children's Hospital for the catheterisation itself. He was discharged on the Friday. As I was still breast-feeding him, we were given a room on the ward.

6. Matthew's Condition

After the tests, Dr Joffe came into Matthew's glass cubicle with about six or seven medical students in tow. I felt rather overwhelmed by the number of people. Dr Joffe explained that Matthew was suffering from aortic stenosis and coarctation of the aorta. I had no idea what these terms meant, but he explained them in simpler terms. I am pretty sure that he drew a picture to explain what was wrong.

Signed

Caroline Jones

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