

FORMAL STATEMENT

..... states:

1. My full name is...
2. I am a registered medical practitioner, qualifying...
3. I am...
4. I am familiar with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses and agree to abide by it.
5. On the evening of Wednesday 20th of November 2021, I conducted a medical examination on a five-year-old Cook Island Māori girl named, Geraldine WILLIAMS. I was assisted in this assessment by Amanda GREENWOOD, Te Puaruruhau nurse specialist.
6. This examination was conducted at Starship Children's Hospital.
7. Geraldine WILLIAMS was accompanied to the hospital by two members of the Police and her mother Christine.

History

8. I spoke with Christine WILLIAMS and obtained a synopsis of what was alleged to have occurred.
9. I understand from the subsequent evidential interview that the alleged abuse included repeated anal penetration by a finger.
10. It appeared that the most recent episode of alleged abuse may have occurred on Sunday the 17th or Monday 18th of November, two or three days before I saw Geraldine.

11. I also obtained information from Christine WILLIAMS about how the family came to be in New Zealand from Australia and how they knew the ACCUSED in this matter, Sean Murphy.
12. I also obtained information from Christine WILLIAMS about Geraldine's past medical history, from the time of her birth until the time that I saw her.
13. Of particular relevance to Geraldine's presentation, was that (according to Christine WILLIAMS) she had never had significant constipation in the past.
14. Although she has occasionally had hard stools, she has never required medication or had significant pain. The weekend before I saw her was the first time that Geraldine had ever reported pain on passing a bowel motion.

Examination

15. On examination of Geraldine, she looked well. She weighed 26 kilograms (above the 97th percentile for age) and was 123cm in height (also above the 97th percentile for age).
16. Her general physical examination was unremarkable.
17. She had widespread insect bites, which she had scratched.
18. Her genital examination was normal, with a normal pre-pubertal crescentic hymen.
19. However, on examination of the anus, there was a four-to-five-millimetre recent laceration in the skin of the anal verge at 12 o'clock.
20. This began at the anal verge and extended into the anal canal.
21. It was difficult to be entirely sure of the inner end of this laceration as Geraldine found it too painful when I applied traction on either side of the anus.
22. The laceration looked relatively recent in that the edges were still sharp and there was fresh white scab in the base of the laceration, but no granulation tissue.
23. The rest of the inspection of Geraldine's anus was normal.

24. Geraldine returned a negative result on routine screening tests (urine nucleic acid amplification tests) for sexually transmitted infections.

Conclusion

25. In conclusion, Geraldine presented as a five-year-old girl who alleged an episode of sexual abuse involving digital penetration of the anus.

26. She had a small laceration of the anal verge.

27. A laceration of the anal verge is a non-specific finding.

28. That is, there are a number of possible explanations, including trauma, inflammatory or other skin conditions and constipation.

29. In this case, I think Geraldine's laceration is most likely to be traumatic in origin.

30. My reasons for this opinion are:

- Geraldine had had no history of constipation (hard stools) to explain the sudden onset of a laceration the weekend before I saw her.
- She had no other condition affecting the skin of the anus which could explain the presence of a laceration.
- It is unusual for a laceration of the skin of the anus to develop for the first time in children of her age with no explanation.

31. Geraldine will be the subject of follow up care until her anal laceration has healed.

I confirm the truth and accuracy of this statement. I make this statement with the knowledge that it is to be used in court proceedings. I am aware that it is an offence to make a statement that is known by me to be false or intended by me to mislead.

Dated at Auckland this 5th day of December 2022.