# **REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)**

NOTE: This form is to be used after an inquest.

## REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO: 1. The Department of Health 2. The Department for Education 3. NHS England CORONER I am Miss Stephanie Haskey, Assistant Coroner, for the Coroner area of Nottinghamshire **CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS** 2 I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013. **INVESTIGATION and INQUEST** In November 2014 an Inquest into the death of Emma Carpenter was opened, and it was resumed on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015, concluding on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013. A Narrative Conclusion was recorded as follows: "Emma Charlotte Victoria Carpenter died at The Queen's Medical Centre Nottingham as a result of Multi Organ Failure caused by severe Anorexia Nervosa. Her death was contributed to by delay in accessing effective inpatient treatment and physical health monitoring prior to September 2005". **CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH** Miss Carpenter was treated as an outpatient at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Thorneywood Unit of the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust ("the Trust") from February 2004 to November 2006, during which time she was a pupil at the Nottingham Girls' High School and in the care of her Mother, and later her Maternal Grandparents. During this time there were significant gaps in communication concerning the severity of her condition which affected all of the above. By the time she was admitted as an inpatient on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006 she was too ill to survive and therefore died on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2006. Whilst Miss Carpenter was an outpatient, and whilst she was an inpatient, there was no Trust specialist Eating Disorder Service for Children and Adolescents to which she could have been referred. 5 **CORONER'S CONCERNS** During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you. The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows: 1. Although the Trust has now set up a specialist Eating Disorder Service for children and adolescents, there is only short term funding in place for this service and a lack of commitment from Commissioners for its long term future. 2. There remains still a national lack of provision of inpatient beds for mentally ill children and adolescents including those who suffer from eating disorders.

- Although the view of mental health professionals was that it was important for school nurses to attend Multi Disciplinary Meetings to understand and assist with care planning, this does not happen on a regular, reliable basis due to lack of funding for school nurses.
- 4. In the absence of school nurses, there is a lack of clear connections between the mental health professionals and those in the education system who have responsibility for the pastoral care of mentally ill children and adolescents.

### 6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe your organisations have the power to take such action. I have addressed this report to all three organisations, as I trust that all three will wish to consider together how the issues arising from this Inquest may be addressed and how cases such as Miss Carpenter's may best be managed in future.

#### 7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 I, the Coroner, may extend the period.

Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.

#### 8 COPIES and PUBLICATION

I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons:

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust Nottingham High School for Girls

Nottingham Safeguarding Children Board The Care Quality Commission.

I have also sent copies to Ofsted, the Independent Schools Inspectorate and the School Inspection Service, who may find it useful or of interest.

I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.

The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the Coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.

9 [DATE]

[SIGNED BY CORONER Stephanie Haskey