

This case was one of the saddest to come before the criminal courts. The Clarence family, and in particular Tania Clarence, dedicated their lives to the care and welfare of their 3 severely disabled children. Her love, commitment and tenacity in the face of the overwhelming responsibilities such care entailed was extraordinary. Her daily struggle ultimately overwhelmed Tania's ability to cope with the enormity of the task she faced. Ultimately her story of dedication and love became a story of despair and utter hopelessness.

The loss of the children's lives at the hands of the mother who cherished them is a tragedy explained by her severe depressive illness. But it is also a tragedy from which lessons need to be learnt. Tania's depression was certainly not assisted by the constant pressure placed on the family by some individuals within the medical profession and social services who could not agree with Tania and Gary Clarence's stance of prioritising quality of life for their children and who were not readily willing to submit the children to operations and other interventions that they felt were not appropriate in the circumstances.

Gary Clarence will be making no personal comment until the conclusion of all internal investigations and reviews. In due course he will be assisting Kingston Borough Council in their review of the decisions taken in this case, and he hopes to be able to ensure that never again will a family have to endure the unbearable pressure that eventually overwhelmed the resources of his wife. However he wishes to make it clear that all of the evidence made it plain that the three children were well cared for and loved by their parents and that allegations of "neglect" mentioned in Court last Friday were wholly unfounded.

Tania now faces further struggles and a future of coping with the past and understanding what happened and why. It is a future she will face with the support of her husband Gary who has stood by her throughout this tragedy. Tania and Gary Clarence would like to publicly acknowledge the support they have received from the public at large which has been evident in the large number of e mails, texts and letters I have received on their behalf. They also want to thank the police and the staff at the prisons who were never less than compassionate and sensitive, and the hospital carers who have treated Tania with great sympathy and understanding. Mr and Mrs Clarence face rebuilding their future together and have made a plea that the press, who have largely dealt with this case with sensitivity, respect their privacy and allow them the space to embark on what will be a slow path to recovery"

Thank you

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