



Preparing for and Writing a Witness Statement

Education and Training are essential aspects to our professional development and help equip us to provide good quality and safe care to our patients, to support our colleagues and to appropriately assist the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

Witness statements are a crucial medium through which we communicate to the CJS and others. We hope that through the webinar we shall assist colleagues by outlining what should be included and sharing through others' knowledge and experiences.

Dr Bernadette Butler

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Learning Objectives

- To be aware of the importance of being objective and impartial.
- To be better prepared and more confident in approaching the task.
- To be more confident about presenting your statement in court.

Bernadette Butler, ('Dr B') graduated from St Thomas' Hospital Medical School, sometime in the last century (and millennium), when there were as many individual medical schools in London as the rest of the UK. Her post graduate career began in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, but she stepped off the career ladder when she had her children. The Haven Camberwell was the pilot sexual assault service for South London, which opened 2000, and Bernadette was one of the first sessional doctors to join this new service. Her education in Clinical Forensic and Legal Medicine was supported by the London DMJ Study Club and then through the University of Ulster's post-graduate Diploma, where she met Nick Swift, her co-presenter for this webinar.

As a result of her Diploma, she became a member and subsequently a Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians. She has a post-graduate award in Medical Education and is an examiner for the FFLM. In June 2016, she was appointed as the FFLM's Academic Dean.



Dr Nicholas Swift

Nick is a Forensic Physician currently with Cheshire Police via Mitie Care and Custody and is also the Clinical Medical Officer in Drug and Alcohol misuse with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.

Nick was a general practitioner from 1990-2012 in Wirral, Merseyside, a forensic physician in Merseyside from 1995-2016 and was the Lead forensic physician with Greater Manchester Police from 2012-2016.

Nick is an elected member of the BMA Forensic Medicine Committee and the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine Board. He also sits on the Faculty's Conference Subcommittee and is a Faculty examiner.