



Elaine Higgins

RGN, RSCN, SCN, Dip MGMT

Types of Reports Undertaken: Quantum Care Reports, Combined Care & OT Reports

Locations Covered: Southern Ireland

Client Age Categories: Neonatal, Paediatric, Adult



Specialisms:

- Amputations
- Brain Injury
- Cerebral Palsy
- Paediatrics
- Spinal Injury

Profile:

I qualified as a nurse in 1971 and have over 50 years' nursing experience. I have been a nursing Expert Witness providing care reports for Litigation since 2012. I combine preparing expert care reports with case managing clients throughout the Republic of Ireland. I have prepared quantum reports in cases of Complications of Birth Injury, Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Amputations, Spinal injury, and Complicated Fractures resulting from road traffic and industrial accidents.

I currently manage children with acquired brain and spinal injuries and traumatic injuries following road traffic accidents. I also case manage adult clients with brain and spinal injury and other complex injuries including amputees.

In my role as nursing expert I analyse medical records, deciphering notes of physicians and nurses and prepare care reports. I pride myself in my work ethic and my passion for healthcare providing a high standard of care to all people.

On the completion of my nurse training in 1971 I took up a position as a staff nurse in general and neurosurgery at Our Lady's Hospital. I gained vast experience in the field of acute neurology care and rehabilitation following catastrophic injuries including brain, spinal, and amputees.

I completed my paediatric training at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Dublin. Following the completion of my training I completed my general training in St. James's Hospital, Dublin followed by midwifery training at the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin.



Maggie Sargent & Associates

In 2001 I was appointed night superintendent where my duties involved providing professional managerial leadership. This involved the supervision of all night personnel, ensuring that both the high standard of patient care was maintained, and the training requirements of student nurses were fulfilled. I was also involved in the counselling, support and guidance of patients, parents, and colleagues alike.

From 2002 to 2006 I worked as a clinical nurse manager in nursing administration and in 2006 I was promoted to assistant director of nursing. Here, I played a key role in nursing management within the hospital, where I provided professional, managerial, and nursing leadership, ensuring safe and effective care was delivered to patients and carers. This role also involved organising the emergency admissions of critically ill patients and the emergency transfer of patients to hospitals in the United Kingdom and Sweden for treatment that was not available in Ireland.

For the past four years I have worked with Community Case Management Services as a Senior Case Manager and I have been able to transfer those skills, while increasing my caseload of children and adults with birth or acquired injuries of both brain and spinal and other catastrophic and complex injuries to include amputees throughout Ireland.

In my role as Case Manager, I act as a facilitator, assessing clients, identifying need and appointing appropriate therapists whom I then manage. I recruit, arrange training, and monitor teams of support staff. I organise care plans, complete risk assessments, draw up rehabilitative support programmes and arrange for appropriate equipment and aids to be made available. I work in accordance with other health professionals in implementing strategies that enable the clients to manage their challenges and so to reduce the effect of their injuries on their lives. I work closely with the clients and their families in helping them to reach their full potential, thereby increasing their quality of life.

I work with and support families through the process of rehabilitation and liaise with solicitors when appropriate, acting as an advocate for the clients and families as required.

Qualifications:

- Registered General Nurse
- Registered Midwife Registered
- Paediatric Nurse
- Member of An Bord Altranais (The Nursing Board, ROI)
- Diploma in Management, National College of Ireland
- Diploma Class: Merit 1