

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 381

Witness Name HIA 381

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 381

I, HIA 381 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I lived in [REDACTED] with my mother and father and my [REDACTED] siblings. I am the [REDACTED] in the family.
2. At [REDACTED] a man from the NSPCC called [REDACTED] came to our home one night about 10.00pm. We were all dragged out of the house and Mr [REDACTED] put [REDACTED] of us - [REDACTED] and my mother into his mini car. He drove us to a women's refuge in [REDACTED] We were taken away because apparently my mother was being physically abused by my father. I didn't witness any domestic violence and my father never abused me.
3. We stayed in the [REDACTED] for about [REDACTED] months. I was then taken along with one brother [REDACTED] HIA [REDACTED] and one sister [REDACTED] SND 404 to Termonbacca. I was aged [REDACTED] at the time. [REDACTED] SND 402 went back to live with my father. I think [REDACTED] SND 403 may have gone back to my father or Middletown. I am not sure where [REDACTED] SND 405 went.

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St Joseph's Children's Home, Termonbacca [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

4.

[REDACTED]

(

5.

[REDACTED]

6.

[REDACTED]

7.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

8.

[REDACTED]

9.

[REDACTED]

10.

[REDACTED]

11.

[REDACTED]

12.

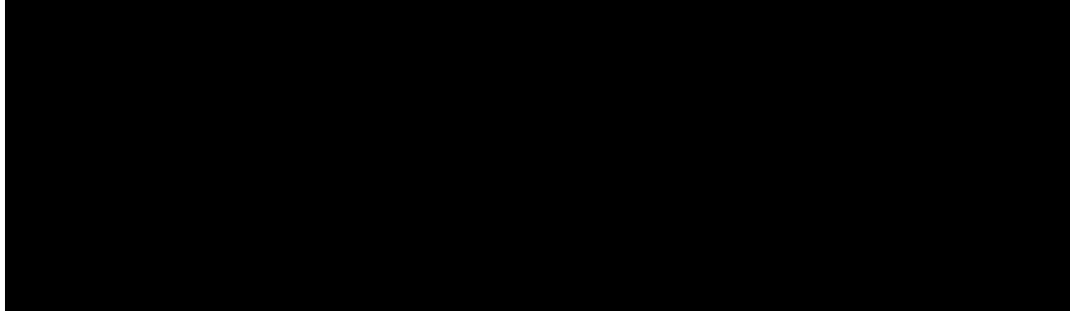
[REDACTED]

13.

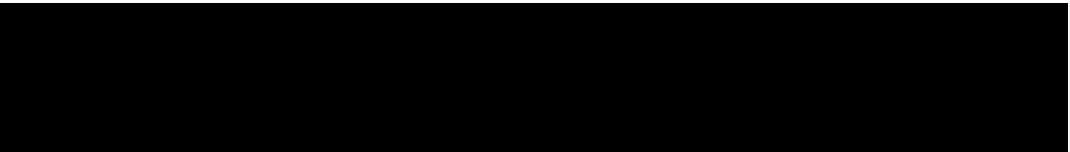
[REDACTED]

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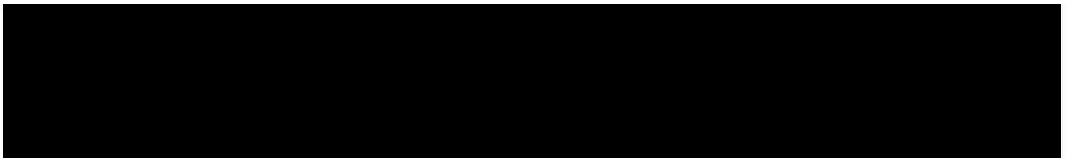
14.












15.



16.

**Rubane** 

17. I was placed in Rubane House under a Court Order when I was  years old. I have no complaints about my time in Rubane House. I loved it there. Brother  BR 2 was  and I got on alright with him. I remember there was also a Brother called  BR 7 and he was okay. I never had any trouble with the Brothers. I had  in chalet  and I was given pocket money and a clothing allowance every month.  BR 5 was in charge of chalet .
18. We were allowed to go home at weekends but  HIA 382 and I chose to stay at the home and work. We did gardening and decorating - basically anything that needed done and the Brothers paid us.
19. I did not witness any sexual abuse whilst I was in Rubane and I did not suffer any physical abuse.

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Life After Care

20. When I left Rubane I stayed in the [REDACTED] area for about [REDACTED] years. I started on a YTP scheme in [REDACTED] learning all the different aspects of construction including building and plastering. I only completed [REDACTED] months of the course and then I got a full time job in [REDACTED]. I then got various jobs including bar work and labouring. I served my time as a [REDACTED] and I eventually moved back to [REDACTED] permanently when I was about [REDACTED] years old.

21. I married in [REDACTED] and I have been married for [REDACTED] years. We have [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I am close to all my children except [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

22. I suffered from depression in my twenties and I have had it repeatedly ever since. I don't believe in taking any prescription drugs and I have never been to my doctor. I turn to alcohol to help me through difficult times. I have felt suicidal and I have had mornings where I question 'what is the point?'. I work as a [REDACTED] and it keeps me going along with my family.

23. I am angry with the NSPCC and social services for taking me away from my father and splitting my family up. They were taking away children from their families and that is not right. I had a good relationship with my father before he died and I feel I should have been allowed to live with him instead of being placed into care and then sent to live with my mother who was incapable of looking after me. Also only [REDACTED] of us were put into care and [REDACTED] were allowed to stay at home. It didn't make sense.

24. I am closest to [REDACTED] HIA 382 and I speak to [REDACTED] SND 404 but I have no real relationship with my other siblings. My brothers and sisters are all emotionally detached from each other. The social services ruined my life. They took me away from my family and took my life from under my feet.

25. I have never made a statement to the police about my experiences.

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Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed  _____

Dated 7-1-14. _____

Londonderry Limavady & Strabane District

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPT.
RIVERVIEW PARK
ABERCORN ROAD
LONDONDERRY N Ireland
Telephone 66111

Our Ref. AR/DH

Your Ref.

[Redacted]

Social Report for Juvenile Court on [Redacted]

HIA 381 - [Redacted]

HIA 382 - [Redacted]

Family

Father - [Redacted]

Mother - [Redacted]

Brother - [Redacted]

Sister - [Redacted]

Sister - [Redacted]

Subject - HIA 381 [Redacted]

Subject - HIA 382 [Redacted]

Brother - [Redacted]

Home Circumstances:

Mrs [Redacted] and her children live in a three bedroomed NIHE flat which they squatted into in [Redacted]. Material standards in the home have always been extremely poor although they have improved somewhat over the past year or so since Mr. [Redacted], a friend of Mrs [Redacted] moved in with the family. Mrs [Redacted] is in receipt of Supplementary Benefit for herself and children.

Backgrounds:

This family originally lived in [Redacted] and were brought to [Redacted] by the Area NSPCC Inspector in [Redacted]. The father apparently had a drink problem and regularly abused Mrs [Redacted] and the eldest children

They first lived into the [Redacted] and were then homeless for several months during which time the [Redacted] children were received into care under Section 103 CYPA. They remained in Termonbacca for [Redacted] and were subsequently discharged to the care of their mother. The oldest boy [Redacted] presented many behavioural difficulties around this time and at the request of [Redacted] he was placed in St. Patrick's Training School. From there he returned to live with his father in [Redacted]

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the [redacted] in the family was sent to Middletown Training School as a result of non-attendance at school and concern for her welfare following a series of taking overdoses of sleeping tablets. She too returned to her father in [redacted] when she was discharged on licence from Middletown. [redacted] who is now [redacted] years also returned to her father earlier this year as she felt unable to tolerate living conditions in the home or the fact that there were many problems in the relationship between herself and her mother.

This family have been the subject of much concern over the past few years and Mrs [redacted] has been given support by Social Services, NSPCC, Education Welfare and various voluntary bodies. The children generally have a very neglected appearance and material standards in the home are extremely poor. The family has been kept under close supervision and Mrs [redacted] was advised last year that should the standard of care deteriorate any further, the children might well be removed from her care. However, a friend of Mrs [redacted], a Mr. J. [redacted], is now also living with the family and material comforts at least, have slightly improved since he has been there. My overall opinion is that [redacted] finds it very difficult to manage and has no great motivation to care for her children. I feel that while perhaps not wilfully neglecting them she is unable to exercise any control over them especially as they grow older.

Subjects:

HIA 381, HIA 382 who are aged [redacted] respectively have a long history of absconding from school. Even when they do attend for roll-call they apparently often disappear at various times during the day. Both are well aware of the possible consequences of continued absenteeism, particularly as [redacted] have already been before the court in similar circumstances. However it seems highly improbable that either of them will make a conscious effort to return to a pattern of regular attendance. For this reason, at a recent discussion with the Education Welfare Officers, we agreed that it might be in the boys best interests to be admitted to Kircubbin Boys Home, in an effort to prevent them eventually being sent to Training School. During the past year I have received many complaints from neighbours about the boys behaviour and within the last few weeks Mr. [redacted] teacher at the boys' school removed them from a group of youths who were drinking about the street during the afternoon drinking from cans of beer. [redacted] expressed concern that although he did not actually see HIA 381 and HIA 382 drinking it was possible that they also were involved or would soon be involved in similar incidents if the present situation were allowed to continue.

I have discussed this with Mrs [redacted] and she seems agreeable to the boys going to Kircubbin. She has in fact previously asked me on several occasions to take them into 'Care' as she found it extremely difficult to discipline them. I would therefore agree with the Western Education Board's recommendation that HIA 381, HIA 382 be sent to Kircubbin Boys Home to continue their education.