

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 368

Witness Name: HIA 368

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 368

I, HIA 368 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] near [REDACTED] I lived with my mother. I have two brothers, NHB 129 and NHB 130 and two sisters, HIA 175 and NHB 131. I think we all had different fathers. I was the youngest child and I was born out of an incestuous relationship between my mother and her brother. I believe that my mother suffered from mental health difficulties, and that Social Services were involved with our family for a long time. I think I might have spent six months in St Joseph's Baby Home when I was a baby, from the age of four weeks until I was approximately six months old, to give my mother some respite.
2. When I was around four or five years of age, I was living in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] with my mother. I was taken into a field, and raped, by a male who I believe was in a relationship with my mother.

Nazareth House, Belfast, [REDACTED]

3. I was put into Nazareth House, along with HIA 175 in 1969 when I was aged around eight years, and left in 1971. HIA 175 was approximately twelve or thirteen years at the time. I think that NHB 130 was taken to Kincora where

PRIVATE

he stayed for about six months. NHB 129 wasn't taken into care because he would have been about eighteen. He went to live with his paternal granny.

4. The intention was that I would be put into Nazareth Lodge, but apparently I refused to leave HIA 175 so agreement was reached that I would stay in Nazareth House.
5. I was in the same group as HIA 175 I slept with the rest of the girls in the dormitory. I would have wet the bed a lot. Sometimes I would wake up with the nun hitting me because she knew I had wet the bed. I was made to stand out in the hallway with a wet sheet over my head. If she could, HIA 175 would try to hide the sheets and change them before the nuns found out that I had wet the bed.
6. I was made to bath with the older girls because there were no separate facilities for boys. We were all put in the same bath at the same time. The nuns used to put a bowl over my head to cut my hair.
7. I remember that I never liked butter, probably because we didn't have butter when I lived with my mother and I wasn't used to it. They would plaster the food with it. I hated vegetables because we were forced to eat them. We weren't allowed to leave the table until we had finished everything that was in front of us.
8. The nuns gave us hidings for nothing. There are very few good memories that I have of my time in Nazareth House. I don't remember going to school.
9. Some of the older girls used to sexually abuse me. This would have taken place when I was aged between eight and eleven years, and they would have been in their mid teens. They made me climb up their nightdress and touch them intimately. It happened in the dormitory, and there would have been a few girls present at the time.
10. Somebody from Social Services would take us out to buy clothes and whatever else we needed, but as soon as we went back into the home, the

PRIVATE

stuff we were bought was taken off us and was never seen again. HIA 175 said that she tried to tell the Social Workers what was happening to us, but they still took us back to the home. I think that HIA 175 eventually went to the Good Shepherd Convent to work.

Foster placement

11. In or around the summer of 1972, I was being fostered out from Nazareth House and went to a family in [REDACTED]. I can't remember their names. They were brutal. They had an outside toilet and an inside toilet, but I wasn't allowed to use the inside toilet. I had to use the outside toilet or they would put a bowl under my bed at night. I got beatings for nothing. They had their own children, who were allowed to treat me bad as well. I remember playing with a family called the NHB 128

Nazareth Lodge, 3rd September 1971 – 11th August 1972

12. After my foster placement I was returned to Nazareth Lodge. The woman in charge of us there was good. We stayed in one big dormitory. There was a lot of fighting between the boys, so we had to be able to look after ourselves. I remember us all playing outside in a big field.

13. I remember trying to run away a couple of times. On one occasion I ran away with two other boys. We ended up at the family home of one of the boys, and were returned to Nazareth Lodge. When we got back the nuns removed the wire from a net curtain, and beat us with it.

Foster placement, 11th August 1972 - 1979

14. I was told that I would be fostered out to the same family in [REDACTED]. I cried and said I wasn't going to go, and I ended up going out to [REDACTED] instead, and was fostered by NHB 132. They had four sons of their own, and they had also adopted a girl, [REDACTED] when she was a baby. They were strict but good people. That's when my life changed. I got

PRIVATE

lucky and got out of the system. I was eleven years of age. I stayed there until I was approximately eighteen or nineteen years of age.

15. The first time I remember going to school was when I was in foster care. I went for one year to [REDACTED] Primary School in [REDACTED] I had a fight on my first day because somebody made fun of my toe-pointers, and I lost my temper. I was used to reacting very quickly because I had to learn how to defend myself in Nazareth Lodge. Nobody came near me after that. I then went to [REDACTED] High School. I managed to get an O level in Maths but I don't know how.

16. My foster family sent me to a psychiatrist when I was younger, because I would pick my feet until they bled.

17. There were Social Workers from [REDACTED] coming out to visit me whilst I was in foster care. Later when I went to the Social Services offices in [REDACTED] to try to get information, I was told that there were no records. When I was fourteen, Social Services came out to my foster placement to tell me that my mother had passed away, after being caught in a house fire. They told me a couple of weeks after her death so I wasn't able to attend her funeral.

Rubane House, Kircubbin

18. On one occasion my foster family went on holiday, and put me into Rubane whilst they were away. I was only there for a few weeks. I remember on one occasion, a boy tried to put his hand under my blankets but I stopped him and nothing happened. That is the only incident I can recall during my time there.

Life after care

19. When I left school I took to the drink. My foster parents were very strict and my foster mother eventually threw me out. I was sleeping rough until Social Services found me a flat. My lifestyle changed when I met my wife. I worked in

PRIVATE

a [REDACTED] for twenty years. We have two boys, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are in their twenties now.

20. I have no contact whatsoever with my family. My biological mother has passed away and my sister ^{NHB 131} [REDACTED] passed away about ten years ago. I was in contact with ^{HIA 175} [REDACTED] until about six months ago, but she was always asking me about Nazareth House so I stopped answering the phone.

21. On one occasion I was visited by police about my time in Rubane. They had been given my name by another resident, ^{HIA 259} [REDACTED] who must have remembered me being there.

22. I haven't been working for six years as I suffer from osteoarthritis. I suffer from depression. I don't sleep at night. I have problems controlling my anger. I get angry at the slightest thing and sometimes I take it out on my wife. I found it particularly difficult to deal with the death of my foster father, and then people started to speak out about the abuse they had suffered in Nazareth House. I was seeing a counsellor and then I went to Nexus. The counsellor gave me the confidence to try to get some answers. I have been trying to get information from Social Services, but it's like a brick wall. I partly blame Social Services for what has happened me. I believe the Social workers knew at the time what was going on in the homes.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 368

Dated

20th - 8 - 2014

DOWN COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEES

A20

MEMORANDUM

From <u>Divisional Welfare Officer</u> <u>Division 5.</u>	To <u>County Welfare Officer.</u>
Ref. <u>HP/LMcC.</u> <u>19th May, 1969.</u>	Ref.

Committed to Care

HIA 175

(Date of Birth [REDACTED])

HIA 368

(Date of Birth [REDACTED])

I wish to let you know that at [REDACTED] Juvenile Court on Friday 16th May, 1969 the abovenamed were committed to the care of Down County Welfare Committee under Section 80 of the Children & Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1950. The children were conveyed to Nazareth House on Friday the 16th May, 1969 in accordance with [REDACTED] instructions. No maintenance contribution Order was made.

I shall forward copies of the Committal Orders when I receive them from the Clerk of Petty Sessions together with forms C.3; C.19 and C.2 in respect of

HIA 368.

[REDACTED]
DIVISIONAL WELFARE OFFICER - 5.

DOWN COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

HISTORY OF CHILD ACCEPTED INTO CARE UNDER THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSON'S ACT, (N.I.), 1950.

(1) Particulars of Child

FULL NAME: **HIA 368** Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
 Religion: *R.C.* Place of Birth: [REDACTED]
 Authority financially responsible: *Down County* Date of Baptism: [REDACTED]
 Place of Baptism: [REDACTED]
 Date of acceptance into care: *16.5.69* Section of Children Act under which child is in care: *sect. 40*
 State where admitted or accommodated, with dates: *Nazareth Home, Belfast N.I. 16.5.69*
 Estimated period of care: *Until 18 years*
 Reason for acceptance into care: *Committed to care of Down County Welfare Committee under Section of the Children & Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1950.*
 School and Standard attained: [REDACTED]

Has the child suffered from any of the following illnesses? — if so, state year and severity of illness, as far as possible:—

	Year	Severity		Year	Severity
WHOOPING COUGH	No.		RHEUMATISM	No.	
MEASLES	YES	4.60	CHOREA	No.	
DIPHTHERIA	No.		FITS	No.	
SCARLET FEVER	No.		BEDWETTING	YES.	
MUMPS	No.		GASTRO ENTERITIS	No.	
CHICKEN POX	No.		DYSENTERY	No.	
GERMAN MEASLES	No.		POLIOMYELITIS	No.	
TUBERCULOSIS	No.		OTHER		<i>Recent suspect.</i>

Has the child been vaccinated and immunised against the following diseases — if so, state dates, as far as possible:—

	Date	Dates of Reinforcement		Date	Dates of Reinforcement
SMALLPOX	YES	14.62	POLIOMYELITIS	YES	
WHOOPING COUGH	YES		TUBERCULOSIS	No.	
DIPHTHERIA	YES				
TETANUS	YES				

Details of any other serious illnesses/operations: *None.*

Is child at present under medical treatment? — if so, please give details:—

No.

Name and address of Family Doctor: *Wilson, Bryansford* [REDACTED]

14/5/67.

Place obtained in Nazareth Lodge
 if [redacted] HIA 368 is committed
 matter could be prepared to
 move [redacted] HIA 175 from Nazareth
 Home if we feel this is better
 Mr [redacted] informed

looky

DOWN COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

C 19.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that

HIA 368

(name) /

([redacted])

date-of-birth

of

[redacted]

(address)

was medically examined by me to-day

and is free from infection and suitable for *admission to)

Margaret Lodge

~~placing with~~

Signed: *M. R. Fanell*

(A) DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A *boss *Dw b*

Date

16/5/69

*Please delete words not applicable.

th
Ref. C.A. 56

Hazareth House,
352 Ormeau Road,
Belfast.
10th November, 1969.

pm
County Welfare Officer,
65 University Street,
Belfast.

C 1155.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a report on
the HIA 175, HIA 368 children, as requested in
your letter of 31st October.

Yours sincerely,

SR 152

Superior.

HIA 368

These children are in good health and
are visited by their mother weekly. They
have a good attendance at school and are
making fair progress. They appear to be
quite happy and contented and have excellent
character.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MISS THOMPSON.NOTE FOR FILEG.1155

Mr. Pool, Co. Arm. & Assistant Children's Officer phoned to say that this child will be returning to her mother probably on 11/5/70. [REDACTED] has a house at Bessbrook which she has re-decorated recently. She is very anxious to take the children back home and wants them both out of the Children's Home together. She was advised by Armagh Welfare Department that before she could take the children home she must visit them very regularly and has done this over the past six weeks. She has to get a fire guard yet for the open range and to make better provision for [REDACTED]'s sleeping accommodation but it is anticipated that [REDACTED] any way should be discharged on the 11th. Mr. Pool mentioned that he would have to get in touch with Co. Down to [REDACTED] and she immediately retorted do Co. Down think the same of me as they do of my mother?

11/5/70 Took HIA 175 & HIA 368 out. They wished to see their mother as she had visited them previous day & missed them. [REDACTED] was delighted to see them both. She smelt of either drink or the paraffin from her fire. The children were happy to see their brother & pet animals & HIA 368 told his mummy that he is praying for a new house. [REDACTED] will visit HIA 175 & HIA 368 on 16th - HIA 175's 14th birthday

LS/JM

HIA 368

STOCK RECORD SLIP B.O.C. N No 1939

DOWN COUNTY WELFARE COMMITTEE

Date 4/7/1969
To Seals
Address [Redacted]

PARTICULARS OF ORDER

1 pair shoes £2-11-0
1 blanket £4-12-6
1 pair slats 6-11
1 skirt 6-0

Signature [Redacted] for Secretary

Certified agrees with Delivery Docket Initials
Certified entered in Stock Record Initials
Stock Sheet No. Date

This Stock Records Slip is to be passed to the Stock Records Clerk through the usual channels.

HIA 368

STOCK REC'D SLIP B.O.C N No 1937

DOWN COUNTY WELFARE COMMITTEE

Date 25/6/1969
To Pines Ltd.
Address [Redacted]

PARTICULARS OF ORDER

1 Tee shirt 17 11
1 pair grey trousers 1 3 6

Signature [Redacted] for Secretary

Certified agrees with Delivery Docket Initials

Certified entered in Stock Record Initials

Stock Sheet No. Date

This Stock Record Slip is to be passed to the Stock Record Clerk through the usual channels.

NOTE FOR THE FILE27.11.69.

HIA 368, HIA 175

children

NHB 134, [REDACTED] telephoned in reply to my advertisement in the Frontier Sentinel. I visited her on the 27th November, 1969 and also saw Shirley Kennedy. Both seem to be very keen to take the children even for a holiday period. We discussed various difficulties in the situation e.g. mother visiting, jealousy on [REDACTED]'s part, HIA 368's difficulty in being the only boy etc. I formed quite a good impression of the NHB 134 family and arranged to take HIA 175 and HIA 368 to see them on the 14th December, 1969. HIA 175 and HIA 368 were quite excited at the prospect of going to a foster home.

HIA 175 is very quiet but seems to have almost a grown-up awareness. HIA 368 is more child-like and more reserved at first. He is possibly with-drawn to some extent. It was interesting that his conversation during the journey consisted in a great measure of "dangerous" things e.g. lakes, Indians in the woods etc. He also talked a great deal about God.

The NHB 134 family were very welcoming to the two children and were very impressed with their general behaviour. HIA 368 and HIA 175, in turn, enjoyed the visit. HIA 368 said that it was the best day of his life. HIA 175 stated that her mother would like to see them over the Christmas holiday and I assured her that arrangements would be made. [REDACTED] transported the children on the

DOWN COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEES

MEMORANDUM

From... Divisional Welfare Officer
Division 6

To... County Welfare Officer

Ref. WSH/CE/EW 10th September, 1970.

Ref. LS/MF C.1155

HIA 175 and HIA 368

Further to memo of 28.8.1970. HIA 175 will be taken by St. Mary's Intermediate School, Newry, whilst HIA 368 is assured of a place in the Boys' Primary School, Rostrevor.

NHB 134, [redacted], [redacted] their future foster mother, hopes to be able to take them, the second week in October. She is going to England for a short vacation, and she hopes to be prepared by this date (provisionally). Please find enclosed form for travelling expenses in respect of HIA 175. If it is necessary, please forward this to the Education Authority for travelling expenses (if this is not covered by the foster mother's allowance).

I should be grateful if you could let this Division know if Transfer Certificates will be arranged by Head Office.

W. Hall.

Divisional Welfare Officer

The County Welfare Officer

The Divisional Welfare Officer
Division 6.

IC/JS

19th October, 1970.

HIA 175 and HIA 368

I wish to inform you that the mother of these children has now changed her address and lives at [REDACTED], Belfast 7. She has stated that she is not happy about the children going to their foster mother and we have made arrangements for her to call at this Office on Thursday 22nd October, 1970 to discuss this matter.


for County Welfare Officer

17.6.71 **SR 119**, Nazareth House, telephoned to inquire what action we were taking with regard to **HIA 175** and **HIA 368** who was leaving school at the end of the current term. She seemed anxious that **HIA 175** should leave Nazareth House as soon as possible after the end of term and is not prepared to include her in any holiday arrangements made by the Home. She also feels that **HIA 368** should be transferred to Nazareth Lodge once **HIA 175** leaves Nazareth House. **HIA 175** sat the entrance examination for the Technical College but was unsuccessful. I gathered from **SR 119** that she has recently been a bit of a nuisance in the house tending to want and get her own way and very anxious to be out in the world.

A. Thompson
Children's Officer

loosely filed

DOWN COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEES

A20

MEMORANDUM

From.....County Welfare Officer.....

To.....Divisional Welfare Officer,.....
Division 6

Ref. CO'H/AM3C

Ref.

For the attention of Miss Walsh

25th August, 1971

HIA 368

I wish to confirm arrangements for the above named child who is at present on holidays with **NHB 134**, **[REDACTED]**.

I have now confirmed with Nazareth Lodge, ^{516, RAVENHILL RD BELFAST} that there will be a place for **HIA 368** with them, and I should be grateful if you would bring him there or the 31st of August, 1971, and not Nazareth House.

Catherine O'Higgins
County Welfare Officer

Report on

HIA 368

Nov. 1971. C1155

HIA 368

Health is very good.
 He is a very pleasant child to
 work with.
 Mr. Rice from Down Educ. Com.
 gave **HIA 368** a test on 19th Oct.
 The result indicated that he is
 of average intelligence but
 extremely retarded in reading and
 arithmetic. He is having special
 tuition after school to help him.
 He visits his Mother for a few hours
 each Sunday.

Signed:

SR 34