

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 297

Witness Name: HIA 297

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

## WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 297

I, HIA 297 will say as follows:-

PERSONAL DETAILS

1. I was born in on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] My Mother's name was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I was the third of five children. I have an older brother, NL 131 and an older sister, [REDACTED] then came me, [REDACTED] next and HIA 91 the youngest. My Mother's marriage to [REDACTED] ended and my Mother could not look after us so we were taken into care.
2. I understand NL 131 was put into Nazaeth Lodge first and [REDACTED] went straight into a Foster Home in Belfast, [REDACTED] My older borther had told me that HIA 91 and [REDACTED] were named [REDACTED] but NL 131 [REDACTED] and I maintained the name [REDACTED]. The name [REDACTED] is supposed to come from another bloke my Mother took up with. I believe my Father's name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NL 131 has also told me that there was another man who could be the Father of one of us. I have asked NL 131 to tell me the truth, I know it took him a long time to find out and I get information in dribs and drabs from him and the Social Worker.

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**Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (23<sup>rd</sup> April 1968 – 1<sup>st</sup> August 1972)**

3. I went into care on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1967. From records I have seen HIA 91 and [REDACTED] and I were kept together in Nazareth House in Portadown and we were then moved to Nazareth Lodge, Belfast on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1968. I was four years old when I went into care. My Mother died on [REDACTED]. I went into Foster Care (Boarded Out) on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1972 with HIA 91 and [REDACTED]. We went to a family called NL 77. From records I have seen I was removed from Foster Care on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1975 and placed in Dalton Family Group Home along with HIA 91 and [REDACTED] my brother NL 131 was already there.
4. I remember very little about Nazareth Lodge. It was a big place and there were big dormitories; you could turn the beds right round. I don't remember HIA 91 or [REDACTED] being there. I can remember one time I was playing in a pram being pushed around and I came out of it and scraped my head.
5. I also remember having an awful boil on my leg at one time. I remember one of the nuns put stuff on it but I didn't see a Doctor. I don't remember ever seeing a Doctor or a Dentist during my time in Nazareth Lodge.
6. In school my brother HIA 91 got any [REDACTED] from when he was in the big playing area playing on the swings. HIA 91 also went over a fence and a spike went through his leg.
7. If you did something wrong in Nazareth Lodge you were punished by being sent to your room.
8. I remember a Priest came round he gave us two pence pocket money.

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Foster Care (1<sup>st</sup> August 1972 – 27<sup>th</sup> June 1975)

9. I cannot recall the actual move to [NL 77 & NL 78]. I went with [HIA 91] and [redacted] [NL 77 & NL 78] had their own children. I think there were two boys, [redacted] and [redacted] and three girls, [redacted] and [redacted]. I can't remember the name of the other sister.
10. It was rosy at the start playing with the two fellas but then things started to get a wee bit bad. A clip round the ear at the start led to bigger things. We were hammered. On the report it says we stole bread from the pantry but, from what I remember, if [NL 77 & NL 78] sons did anything wrong we were blamed for it. Me and my brothers had to move the cows from the top of the street in [redacted] out to the fields. None of [NL 77 & NL 78] children ever had to do it. We became the gofers, the workers.
11. I remember coming home from school one day and being told to go upstairs and take my clothes off by [NL 78]. She then beat me with a stick the size of the leg of a chair until I was knocked out because I had stolen a chocolate bar. [NL 77] would never intervene.
12. [NL 78] would come up to us in bed and beat us and pull the hair off us. I remember her having [HIA 91] and [redacted] hair in her hands. She lost control altogether. I told my teacher, [redacted] about the beating when they got bad. [redacted] would ask about the bruises and I would tell her that Mummy did it. I called [NL 78] 'Mummy'. The school reported it to the Welfare and the Welfare woman asked about the bruising but you would always lie because you were afraid Mummy would give you another beating when you went home.
13. One time [NL 78] put matchsticks between my fingers and lit them. She burned my fingers. I remember her and [NL 77] doing it to [HIA 91] and [redacted] as well. They were crying. We were scared of them. [NL 78] always took her anger out on us. We were kept outside most of the time while the rest of the family were inside.

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14. We were taken away because the school made a report. The beating was constantly going on and [REDACTED] said she would go to court as a witness.

#### Dalton Home (27<sup>th</sup> June 1975 – 1982)

15. Dalton was good. We moved there at around the time the NL 79 took over and then they left the home and Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] took over. We never looked back. [REDACTED] was a great footballer and he had us all out playing football and got us all into sport. It turned things around for us in life, it was a totally different situation and [REDACTED] and all the staff were brilliant. I got into boxing and HIA 91 and [REDACTED] got into football. It was good to the day we left there.

#### Life After Care

16. When I was 16 I went to live with NL 131 who was married and living in [REDACTED]. I stayed there for a while and when HIA 91 and [REDACTED] were ready to leave the home [REDACTED] telephoned me and asked me to live with them in a flat. I was happy to do that. I worked at [REDACTED] and HIA 91 and [REDACTED] had jobs as well. We all moved on from there.

17. I went over to England to work on the buildings. I spent about five years in London and came back to Northern Ireland in 1991 because there was a recession and there was no work. I then spent 14 years working for a [REDACTED] company until I was laid off, HIA 91 worked there as well. I went back to the painting and decorating. I fell in love with a girl and we had four children, two girls and two boys and I have a granddaughter now. I'm separated from my Partner now but we get on well.

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18. My brother [REDACTED] died in London in 2011. I went over when he was very ill. I didn't realise he was going to die until I went to visit him. He was an alcoholic. It was a big shock and very sad.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed [REDACTED] HIA 297

Dated 9/7/2014 -

Sec 70  
81 F.P.O (67)

C.H. 5

ARMAGH COUNTY WELFARE COMMITTEE

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CHILDREN'S HOME NAZARETH HOUSE  
PORTADOWN

Surname <b>HIA 297</b>	Christian Names <b>HIA 297</b>
Home Address [REDACTED]	National Reg. Identity No.
Date of Birth [REDACTED]	Religion <b>R.C.</b>
Date of Admission <b>4.10.67</b>	Date of Discharge
Names and Addresses of Parents or next of kin [REDACTED] <i>- as above -</i>	Vaccination <b>NO</b>
Reason for Admission	Immuntisation <b>NO</b>
<i>Removed for care of mother by N.S.P.C.C. Sec 70. - Kephc duty, mother has drinking habits.</i>	

Remarks

*To be brought before Juvenile Court under Sec 62(4),*

<i>4.12.67</i>	<i>admitted to Nazareth Hse, Portadown - Sec 70</i>
<i>5.10.67</i>	<i>bring Juvenile Court - Interim order by F.P.O K.C. made by Sec 70(2) until 2/11/67.</i>
<i>2.11.67</i>	<i>bring Jur Ct - Further Interim F.P.O. order granted until 22/11/67.</i>
<i>23.11.67</i>	<i>bring Jur Ct - also remaining in care until mother released &amp; in a position to have them. Supervision order for 2 years directed by N.S.P.C.C. Now in care Sec 81.</i>
<i>8.4.68</i>	<i>Sub Committee - report given on [REDACTED] back of co-operation &amp; dis interest in children - recommendations for committed to care. Progress report submitted.</i>
<i>23.4.68</i>	<i>Transferred to Moy Lodge Belfast - to stay for Naz Hse P.O. care.</i>
<i>11.6.68</i>	<i>Sub-Committee - N.S.P.C.C. applying to Jur Ct, began on 20/6/68 to have supervision order revoked &amp; F.P.O. made instead.</i>

Date

26.6.68 Longan Quar Cr - F.P.O. granted in respect of 4 clms.

F.P.O. (67)

11.11.68 Ant-Committee - progress report submitted

15.12.68 Special holiday with leave [redacted]

(under 7 staff)

12.11.69 Discharged to Belfast City Hall for Christmas

13.11.69 Re-admitted to Moyville Lodge

13.12.70 Discharged to [redacted]

[redacted] for Xmas holidays.

14.12.70 Re-admitted to Moyville Lodge, Belfast.

1.8.72 Discharged on a [redacted] to the care of [redacted]

[redacted]

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ARMAGH COUNTY WELFARE COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT)

PARTICULARS OF CHILD BEING RECEIVED INTO CARE

A. PARTICULARS OF CHILD

Surname HIA 297 Christian Names HIA 297

Date of Birth Religion R.C.

Place of Birth Lurgan Hospital

Whether Legitimate Yes

Whether (a) Baptised Yes (b) Vaccinated No (c) Immunised No

Address from which received into care

Usual address if different from above same address

Date received into care 4. 10. 67. (Nazareth House, Portadown)

Circumstances in which received into care Removed from care of mother by N.S.P.C.C. under Sec. 62 1(b) 1 C. & Y.P. Act.

Details of any Court Order in force 5/10/67 - Lurgan Juvenile Court - Interim Order - 28 days.

Name and address of nearest relative Mother: [Redacted]

B. MEDICAL HISTORY

Give any history of (a) Measles NO (b) Scarlet Fever NO

(c) Whooping Cough NO (d) Chicken Pox NO

(e) Diphtheria NO (f) Any other diseases NO

Is the child normal (a) Physically Yes

(b) Mentally Yes

Has Consent Form for Immunisation against Diphtheria, Boarding-out, etc., been completed? Yes

Name and address of Doctor with whom child is registered Child not registered with any doctor.

Name and address of Doctor issuing Certificate immediately before being received into care Dr. Byrne, 31, Thomas Street, Portadown (Mother's doctor).

C. PERSONAL DOCUMENTS which should be handed over with the child

- (a) Ration Book (b) Medical Card (c) Birth Certificate (d) Baptismal Certificate

If any of these are not available, please give reasons in sufficient detail to enable duplicates to be obtained Medical Certificates enclosed. Birth Certificate at Lurgan Office. Milk Book to be fwd. to Nazareth House, Portadown, when received.

(P.T.O.)



p.c.

Gough Barracks,

158 August, 1970.

Dear Rev. Mother,

re            Children

I wish to confirm my recent telephone conversation with Sister Ignat. I intend transferring            HIA 91 and            on the morning of 24th August, to Nazareth Lodge, Belfast, to join            HIA 297 and            there.

I am glad we could get vacancies so that the children will all be together. Perhaps you would kindly have their personal documents ready for transfer with them, and have the children medically examined in the meantime.

Yours faithfully,

Society Welfare Officer.

Rev. Mother,  
Nazareth House,  
Charles Street,  
10/10/70.

122/11

H. W. F. REID, J.P.  
Secretary

J. H. WILLIAMSON  
County Welfare Officer

Telephones: Armagh 2262/3 (2 lines)

**Armagh County Welfare Committee**

22 Russell Street,  
Gough Barracks, **Armagh**

19th October, 1970.

Re: **HIA 91**

Extracts from Progress Reports as completed by Nazareth House in respect of above-named children, from the date of their admission to Nazareth House, which was the 4th October, 1967. These children were committed to care on 20th June, 1968, by a Fit Person Order.

**HIA 91**

- Had operation for Intussusception, 14th October, 1967. (report dated 5th April, 1968.)

Happy contented child, seems intelligent, takes an interest in action songs and loves music session and games. (report dated 24th October, 1968)

Bright and happy disposition. Troubled with dry skin, Betnovate ointment prescribed by Doctor Mackle. (report dated 25th March, 1969)

**HIA 91** is at present under the doctor's <sup>care</sup> after his dry skin and will see a skin specialist if it does not clear up on the present treatment. (report dated 16th October, 1969)

**HIA 91** is a lovely little boy. Very bright and happy disposition. Very agile, and musical. He has seen the skin specialist. His skin is much improved now. (report dated 20th April, 1970)

He is not too bright so far. (report dated 5th April, 1968)

Very silent type. Very good at jig-saw puzzles, building bricks etc. (report dated 24th October, 1968)

More solemn in disposition than his brother. Seems intelligent, concentrates on building materials and enjoys making things. (report dated 25th March, 1969)

is progressing satisfactorily. (report dated 16th October, 1969)

has had a hearing test and is waiting to see Mr. Gornley. He is very creative and enjoys modelling. He is also very destructive. (report dated 20th April, 1970)

HEALTH - Both boys seem to have very good health.

Confidential

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT (N.I.), 1960Report from Voluntary Organisation on Children maintained on  
behalf of a Welfare Authority.

Name of Child... **HIA 297** ... Date of Birth... **[REDACTED]** ... Religion... *RS* ...

Name of Voluntary Organisation... *Nagarrath Lodge, Belfast.* ...

School Attendance... *Attends the Nursery School in Nagarrath Lodge* ...

If child is in Employment give the following information :-

Name and address of Employer.....

Wages.....

Amount of contribution towards maintenance.....

Have parents visited the child within the past three months... *Visited once by mother.* ...

General Conduct... *Rather difficult child but is improving* ...

General Health (Note any illness)... *Frequent Head colds due to adenoids. Also on test for general deafness.* ...

Does child receive religious instruction... *Yes* ...

## GENERAL REMARKS

**HIA 297** had practically no speech when admitted.  
As a result he is backward, and often frustrated.  
We also referred him to the School Clinic where  
he is on the list for Audiology Tests.  
He is making rapid speech progress.  
Date... *28.10.68* ... Signature—Matron/Officer... **[REDACTED]**

## FOR OFFICIAL USE

*11/11/68 Sub-C... [REDACTED] ...*  
*M.E.S.*

## NOTES :-

1. This form should be completed in respect of each child maintained on behalf of a Welfare Authority.
2. Completed forms should be returned to the appropriate Welfare Authority at the end of March, June,

*All children. Registered Registrations  
Cards; minutes  
W. Office*

N.A.I. Case Conference on 27.4.82

Re: **NL 101** *Names + areas of  
SS - names of PSW (7)*

Family

[Redacted]

Unemployed.  
Housewife.  
Greenwood Assessment Centre.  
" " "  
St. Patrick's, Lancaster Street.

**NL 100**

**NL 101**  
**NL 102**

*Greenwood Assessment Centre  
Head teacher  
St. Patrick's School  
G.P. -*

The [Redacted] family were initially referred to Social Services in August 1979 re rehousing. At that time [Redacted] was squatting in [Redacted]. In October 1979 the family were referred again about rehousing although they had in the meantime moved to [Redacted] in the New Lodge district. [Redacted] was apparently drinking quite heavily at this time and was being aggressive towards his wife and family. Psychiatric treatment was at this time suggested to [Redacted] but he did not at that time see his problems stemming from his own inability to cope. [Redacted] and the family split to stay with relatives. They were allocated a house in [Redacted] where they moved in May 1980.

In October 1980 they were referred to Cliftonpark Social Services with financial and marital difficulties. **NL 100** the eldest child in the family, had bruising on his <sup>Race</sup> body which was later cleared as accidental. [Redacted] was experiencing severe headaches and back pains, the latter apparently connected with a back injury he had about ten years ago which has left him unfit to work. During this time he was very quick-tempered and inclined to be strict with the children. He was also involved in street fights and was violent towards his wife. He felt that pressures lay mainly in three areas -

- (1) intimidation;
- (2) his severe headaches;
- (3) children's behaviour.

**NL 100** had already been referred to the Educational Psychology Department and started to attend Greenwood Diagnostic Centre. [Redacted] the second child, also goes to Greenwood Diagnostic Centre after having attended Barnardo's Day

*June 1981 - bruising below shoulder  
- accidental*