

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 16

Witness Name: HIA 16

**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**

---

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 16**

---

I, HIA 16 will say as follows:-

**Personal Details**

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I was put into care when I was a baby. My mother must not have been able to look after us. I never knew my father. I only met my mother once when I was sixteen.
2. I have a half brother [REDACTED] and three sisters (NHB 1 HIA 460 and NHB 3). I was the youngest. I was placed in St Joseph's Babies Home initially and moved when I was two years old.

**Nazareth Lodge (In/around 1959)**

3. I was placed in Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Road, Belfast. I stayed there for eight or nine years. My sisters were brought up in Nazareth House, Ormeau Road. My half brother was never put in care. He lived with my mother.
4. We were wakened very early for mass every morning and we went to school in the home. The standard of education was poor in the home. The school was in the home, on the school grounds. I recall I was never given homework and there was very little structure to the classes. I felt that we were taught very little.

PRIVATE

5. There were two staff members [NL 4] and [NL 5] who were very tough. They were civilians employed to look after the boys. [NL 4] [NL 4] used to call me names, [ ] and [ ]. She would get the other boys to call me names too. She used to beat me all the time. It was an almost daily occurrence. She would beat me with rubber bats all over my body. She was wicked.
6. [NL 4] used to make you sleep with your head under the blankets to make sure you'd fall asleep quickly. She never stayed in the dormitory, she had her own room. She used to go round all the groups bullying the boys. She would hit them and call them names and she used to argue with the nuns and the other staff. She lived in the orphanage full time.
7. If you wet the bed, [NL 4] used to threaten that she would put you in the washing machine.
8. The nuns at Nazareth Lodge were all kind apart from [SR 34] she used to pull you up off the ground by the cheeks and it was extremely painful. [SR 149] [SR 150] [SR 47], they were all good. They never saw the staff hitting us. [NL 4] used to wait until the nuns went to say their prayers and then she would come into the groups. I had plenty of bruises on me. I would never have received any medical treatment as a result of these beatings as it involved bruising rather than open wounds.
9. We slept in dormitories and there were about fifteen or twenty in each dormitory. Each dormitory had a group name (St Marian's/Our Lady's/Sacred Hearts/St Joseph's). I was in St Marian's. [SR 149] was in charge of St Marian's and she was very good.
10. We had hard porridge in the morning and the food was bad in the home and we were always hungry.

PRIVATE

11. After dinner we would play outside for a while. There were no organised sports or anything like that.
12. We were sent to bed very early, around 6pm, at night. The beds were warm enough.
13. We used to go to Christmas parties outside the home. Mackie's factory always had a Christmas party for the boys and the girls from Nazareth House used to go to it too but we stayed apart and never mixed. My sisters would have been there but you weren't allowed to go near them as both groups kept at a distance from each other. We got presents at the party, like a toy gun, but you weren't allowed to keep them and I don't know what happened to them after we got back to the home.
14. [NL 5] wasn't as bad as [NL 4] but she was just as rough. I was physically abused on numerous occasions by both [NL 4] and [NL 5]. People would donate toys to the home at Christmas time and I would steal a toy out of the baskets, because I knew we wouldn't get them anyway, and hide it. I got beat by [NL 4] for doing this.
15. The [REDACTED] used to take me out of the home every other weekend. They had children but they were grown up. I went out with them from I was five until I was fifteen. I stayed with them from Friday evening until Sunday.
16. In the summertime I would go on holidays with the nuns to Ballyhornan, County Down for six or seven weeks. We stayed in army type huts near the beach but I never liked those holidays as you were sent to bed very early at night.

PRIVATE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PRIVATE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PRIVATE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PRIVATE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PRIVATE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Life after care

46. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

47. I got married when I was thirty one years old after [REDACTED] but my marriage only lasted eighteen months as I couldn't settle down.

48. I had a daughter. Although I wrote to her every year her mother would not let me see her until she was eighteen. I met her last year for lunch with her boyfriend and my partner. She is twenty three now. We are working on our relationship.

49. I live in a house on my own.

50. I had a breakdown and was taken to hospital years ago when I was in my late teens. Since then I stabbed myself in the stomach and cut my wrists. I have been seeing a psychiatrist since then. Dr Barr at the Royal Victoria Hospital diagnosed me with split personality disorder. I see a psychiatrist every three months and I take tablets for my nerves but it's just the upbringing of the home and living on my own. It was really hard and I couldn't manage. I have seen different psychiatrists over the years.

PRIVATE

51. I never knew my dad. I found my mum when I was sixteen but she didn't want to know me. I went looking for her in England but only stayed one day as she was drunk and I did not want any further contact with her. I did not see her again and she is dead now. She never explained why I was put in care.

52. I have no contact with my half brother or my sisters, they mean nothing to me. I never saw them when I was in care. My sisters were only in the home up the street from me I was never allowed to visit them or see them so we never had a chance to form any relationship.

53. I made a report to the police and gave them a statement about my experiences in care on 4/5/2010 and 28/7/2010. I spoke to Constable J McCaw at Grosvenor Road Station.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
HIA 16

Dated 18/2/14

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] HIA 16

AGE OF WITNESS [If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 11 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 05 day of March 1996

REGGIE MARKS

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

[REDACTED] HIA 16

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am the above named and I was born in [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I live at an address in the Belfast area known to the police. When I was [REDACTED] I was placed in care along with my three sisters, NHB 1 HIA 460 and NHB 3 I was put into Nazareth Lodge which is on the Ravenhill Road, Belfast and my three sisters were put in Nazareth House which is nearby on the Ormeau Road. My recollection of my time in Nazareth Lodge were of bad ones, I remember getting a beating every single day at night time and during the day after school. These beatings were carried out by NL 4 NL 4 and NL 5 NL 4 was like a Trainee Nun who looked after the boys in the home and sometimes she looked after my group, which was called "St Marian's Group". Most of the beatings were carried out by NL 4 who done this for no particular reason, she just hated me. During the evenings while everybody was asleep in bed, she would come to my dorm and take me out to the shower room which was just down the corridor. When she got me into the shower room she would tell me to take down my pyjamas, which I did cause I was frightened of her. Then she would touch my private parts, my penis and my balls. She only ever touched me with her hands and I