

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of **Name Redacted**

Age if under 18 **Over 18** ..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **RETIRED**.....

This statement (consisting of ... **3** ... 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, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **Name Redacted** ..... Date: **14TH MARCH 2003** .....

I am making this statement in relation to an allegation made by my step-son, **RC-A623** against John MAESTRI.

In **1950's** I was appointed as a teacher at St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Boy's School, 54 Easton Rise, Ealing.

In **1960's** I was appointed as second master of the Middle and Upper school for boy's aged 11-18 years old.

There is a junior school for boy's aged 3-11 years old which was on the campus but had a separate building.

John MAESTRI was a teacher in the Middle school from 1971-1984. Although we were colleagues I did not know Mr MAESTRI to any great degree until I became engaged to my wife, **wife** in September **1970's** **wife** was the **DPA** at St. Benedict's, initially in the Middle school and later the Upper school. **wife** lived at **DPA** with her children, **Name Redacted**, **RC-A624**, **RC-A419** and **RC-A623** I became aware that Mr MAESTRI was a lodger at **wife**'s house but I'm not sure when this would have been.

After we were engaged in September **1970's** I received a letter from John MAESTRI in which he complained about how I upset his life by becoming engaged to **wife**. Mr MAESTRI had to move out of **DPA** because we were moving to a new address. I replied to his letter by saying that I was sorry that he was upset. I didn't tell **wife** about this letter until recent events.

John MAESTRI moved into a school flat in **DPA** shortly after our engagement. Mr MAESTRI invited **wife** and I to his flat for dinner on one occasion. I can't recall the children being there. During this period **RC-A623** was in the Middle school when John MAESTRI taught.

**wife** and I were married in Easter **1980's** and John MAESTRI and other members of staff came to the wedding. John was a good teacher, the boys thought highly of him. He was number two in the Middle school under

Signature: **Name Redacted** ..... Signature witnessed by: **GARETH MORGAN DS**.....

Continuation of Statement of [Name Redacted]

Friar LAWRENCE. During this period we became friends.

In Christmas 1983 Friar LAWRENCE left the Middle school and the post of master in charge of the Middle school became available. I was offered the post but I declined and I recommended John MAESTRI. Mr MAESTRI was appointed to the post in January 1984 but after half a term he left the school. At that time, Mr MAESTRI leaving the school was a shock to everybody. There was speculation as to why he left but a reason wasn't given. In the school magazine, The Priorsism 1983-4 it states that Mr MAESTRI tendered his resignation owing to ill-health. After he left the school he went to the [DPA] area. At one stage he stayed with the [Name Redacted] family in that area who had boy's at St. Benedict's and he also stayed at a convent in that area. John MAESTRI invited [wife] and I to his flat in the convent and he gave us some beautiful antique furniture including an antique table.

Mr MAESTRI asked me to give him a reference for a job that he was applying for. I gave him the reference but said that I didn't know why he had left St. Benedict's. I don't know whether this reference was taken up.

John MAESTRI continued to be a family friend and we keep in occasional contact, either by phone or sending Christmas cards.

In 1986 he helped [Name Redacted] and her husband, [Name Redacted] with their house in [DPA]. I was aware that Mr MAESTRI was teaching in [DPA] but we have lost contact recently.

About September 2002 [wife] told me that [Name Redacted] had said that [RC-A623] said that John MAESTRI had abused him when he was a child. I was shocked and appalled because we considered him a friend and because of the position of trust that he held.

Later that month, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, Friar Francis ROSSITER, the ex-abbot of Ealing Abbey, visited our house. I talked to him about what [RC-A623] had said and Friar FRANCIS said that Mr MAESTRI had left the school because of an allegation, I don't know any more detail than that. I should point out that St Benedict's is owned by Ealing Abbey. Friar FRANCIS and [RC-A623] arranged to meet to discuss what [RC-A623] should do.

I am aware that [RC-A623] contacted John MAESTRI and met up with him. [wife] and I were told by [RC-A623] what Mr MAESTRI had done. [RC-A623] wanted to meet up with Mr MAESTRI although we tried to persuade him that this was not a good idea. However, I know that they did meet and I know that when [wife] phoned [RC-A623], Mr MAESTRI answered the phone. Obviously, I was not present at that meeting and [RC-A623] hasn't spoken to me

Signature: [Name Redacted] Signature witnessed by: GARETH MORGAN DS

2002(1)

Continuation of Statement of

**Name Redacted**

about this but has spoken to **wife** about what was said.

I would be willing to attend court and give evidence if necessary.

Signature:

**Name Redacted**

Signature witnessed by:

GARETH MORGAN DS

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