

5530B

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Statement of: RC-A622

Form MG11(T)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

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Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: DPA

This statement (consisting of 7 page(s) 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 in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

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Date: 14/06/2016

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

This statement details the chronology from firstly when I reported to Police sexual abuse allegations concerning Father Lawrence SOPER formerly of St Benedict's School, Ealing, West London, to taking out civil proceedings against the school and speaking with the Times newspaper.

In 2004 I reported to the Metropolitan Police Service that I had been sexually abused by SOPER. I remember being video interviewed by Police concerning these allegations. As a consequence of what has happened to me as a child I cannot be specific about dates and locations when all these events took place regarding reporting the outcome of the investigations and subsequent press contact.

At the time of reporting I was an extremely confused individual and had some severe mental health issues and was as far as I can remember interviewed in the presence of a member of staff of the Vulnerable Child Mental Health Team whom I was closely working with. Having reported to Police, some months later I was told by Police that no further action would be taken against SOPER as there was insufficient evidence to proceed to Court. The decision had a detrimental effect on my health as I was extremely disappointed and it led to me having a "mental breakdown".

Sometime prior to 2007 during therapy discussions with my Mental Health Team a member of staff, whose name I can't remember, informed me that the legislation concerning sexual abuse involving

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Throughout this period I continued to suffer mentally and I was very "poorly" resulting in spending long periods in hospital. Having learnt what had happened this time concerning SOPER this finally tipped me over the edge and in January 2012, I had been medicated to such a degree and with the strength of the drugs was admitted to hospital for the next 3 1/2 months as "I was in such a state". I have been on medication continually from 1999 to help me cope with what has happened to me and have tried on a number of occasions to overdose on medication to take my own life as I felt at times I couldn't cope with everything that was going on.

My mental health issues have been a concern throughout and has caused concern for both my sister and my Mental Health Team and as the result of the current situation with SOPER evading Police in discussion with both my sister and Health Workers it was decided I was in need of money to continue my care with the possibility of having private medical care. I have never worked since 2000. As I felt SOPER was responsible for the way my health was I carried out some research on the internet and came across a company called Blake Laphorn who specialised in child abuse committed by the clergy. Making contact with his company a Mr Malcolm JOHNSON came down from London interviewed me over a period of 5 hours and took a statement from me. I was told that I had a case for compensation against St Benedict's School and my case was transferred to my instructing solicitor Julie PRIOR who was based in their office in Eastleigh, Hampshire. Copies of both my medical records and HMRC records were collated.

I had assessment interviews by both Professor Anthony MADDEN representing the school and Dr FRIEDMAN instructed by Blake Laphorn. An out of Court compensation settlement was reached between all parties and my claim was settled for £135,000. In addition to the money I also received a written letter of apology from the school trustees stating that they apologised although it was limited clearly stating that at the time I was being subjected to abuse the school was being run by monks not the trustees as it is now, though the general sense to me is that they were in effect admitting responsibility on behalf of the monks.

For me it was not about the money I continued to wonder to this day where SOPER was and why he was not being punished for what he had done as he had ruined my life. I have retained a copy of the compensation file for these proceedings. I have had explained to me that the material may be subject to

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