

### WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of RC-A596 ..... URN: 

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

This statement (consisting of ... **2** ... 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: DPA Date: 22-09-09

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

I have been asked by police to make an impact statement regarding the abuse that I received from Father David Pearce. The following are my thoughts and feelings about those incidents.

It is almost impossible to quantify the negative impact that Pearce's betrayal and abuse of his position of trust has had, and continues to have upon my emotional and psychological wellbeing. That is, the perverted sexual abuse he perpetrated against me as an innocent child had such widespread repercussions that the effects are virtually inseparable from my life experiences as a whole. Indeed, his conduct effectively excluded me from the ability to the type of life one has every right to expect to experience. He destroyed the foundations of mental, emotional and psychological wellbeing and stability which, for most, are the basic ingredients for a happy and productive existence.

His despicable conduct robbed me of the ability to trust other, destroying my capacity to form loving and lasting relationships. Instead, I found myself seemingly intent on self-destruction, the result of unbearable mental and emotional suffering. The self-loathing and self-hatred his crimes engendered in me saw me go through a lifetime of self harm, beginning at the age of 15. As such, I was repeatedly confined to psychiatric institutions over the next 25 years. I found myself unemployable and homeless, incapable of pulling out of the negative spiral that is substances abuse and dependence, a direct result of Pearce's crimes.

Six years ago I somehow managed to break free of that cycle. However, at times the recovery process, albeit with continuing professional help, has been excruciatingly painful and debilitating. At times I have found myself unable to barely function at all, hardly able to leave the house or even feed myself. Indeed, his abuse to this day has left me incapable of "normal, everyday" functioning. I remain isolated from society at large, still incapable of establishing meaningful, trusting, loving and lasting relationships. As such, I realise my ongoing recovery has

Signature: DPA DPA Signature witnessed by: .....

Continuation of Statement of

**RC-A596**

only scratched the surface of the damage Pearce did to me which necessarily requires healing.

He still appears in my nightmares. Sadly, his crimes are woven into the very fabric of my existence. Regardless of severity, no punishment he can receive will ever give me back the possible life I could have had but for his crimes against me. Nonetheless, whilst bearing in mind the interests of equity and justice, I sincerely hope that he is punished for what he did to me to the fullest extent that the law allows.

**DPA**

Signature:  
2003(1)

Signature witnessed by: .....