

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-A594** URN:

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

This statement (consisting of: 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: Date: **02/09/2009**.....


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

Further to my previous statement concerning Father David PEARCE. I have been asked to compile a victim personal statement concerning how the sexual abuse I was a victim of at the hands of Father Pearce has affected me.

The results of Father David Pearce's actions towards me have had many different consequences in my life. Firstly, I must say that my poor parents, whose trust they put in him and the school have been in turmoil ever since I told my parents. He betrayed their trust and I am furious with Father Pearce for doing this, they did not deserve this. Both of my parents and especially my father sacrificed everything in order for me and my brother to be given schooling. They put in long hours at work to fund our schooling. I remember my mum having to out in the evening to work just to allow us the best education and give us the best start in life they could afford. No luxuries for them just hard, hard work.

As a result of the abuse I suffered at the hands of Father Pearce, I flunked my education. I ran away from school. I did not finish my "O" levels and left school with no qualifications. Father Pearce directly affected my future life and education as a result of his self pleasing, selfish and filthy little games towards me. I started to steal from my parents and my brother to buy drugs. I hated myself. I used to look at myself in the mirror and headbut the mirror. It seemed as though Father Pearce sapped all of my self confidence from me. He robbed me of all of my self confidence at the most important part of my life and left me with a lot of anger inside me towards life in general. I was a horrible person to be around and as a result I had no friends.

Whilst my **Siblings** started careers for themselves, I just drifted from job to job running away from commitment all the time. I felt I was the black sheep of the family always bringing shame upon my family.

Signature: Signature witnessed by: 

Continuation of Statement of

RC-A594

I hid my secret concerning Father Pearce over many years. I was unsure what Father Pearce was doing to me at the time was wrong or not. Over time his actions towards me built up and up and eventually resulted in me having a nervous breakdown. I attribute all of my behavioural problems to that vulnerable period of my life when he was sexually abusing me.

We are gifted one life only and if I choose not to fulfil it then that is my decision. It is not for anyone else to alter the course of my life, which is what Father Pearce has done by giving me the worst possible start in life. I believe that his actions towards me in my most vulnerable years have directly affected me emotionally, psychologically and financially. I believe that his actions had an adverse affect on my education and therefore my ability to find a financially rewarding career. He certainly affected me emotionally as I have described and his actions resulted in my receiving psychiatric help.

From my parents point of view I can only say that it has broken them. I believe they have made their own impact statements.

Now that Father Pearce has acknowledged his guilt, I have started to get on with my life. I have become a lot more focused and I feel that a huge weight has been lifted from my shoulders. My life has dramatically changed from the very day Father Pearce pleaded guilty. I have DPA beautiful children who have had to put up with a great deal from me in terms of my behaviour and problems caused by Father Pearce. I can look forward to a new chapter in my life; the only problem is it should have started 35 years ago.

Father Pearce has betrayed me, my parents and his position as a priest.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by: **469**