

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 Mother of RC-A594 URN: [] [] [] []

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: []

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

I am the mother of RC-A594, dob DPA/DPA/1965. I have been asked by police to make a statement regarding the impact of offences committed by Father David Pearce against my son RC-A594

RC-A594 started school at St Benedicts when he was seven years old. He was a happy little boy, bright, good worker, gentle and very popular. He was extremely good at sports and was in the junior cricket and rugby teams and was awarded his colours. From the Junior school he then went into the Middle school. He settled at first but gradually became naughty and disruptive. He was in contact with Father David who would ask him to tea in his rooms; at the time I thought it was a kind gesture!! Gradually RC-A594 seemed to be in trouble with Father David regularly and was caned by him. When RC-A594 asked me why Father David smiled when caning him, I became worried and contacted the school to have an interview with the then headmaster Father Anthony. When I met Father Anthony, I told him of my concerns and Father Anthony's reply to this was "it's a personality clash - it happens in all walks of life, even on the factory floor."

We then had further problems with RC-A594, he was playing truant, not motivated to work for his exams, eventually leading to his leaving the school. He worked, all types of jobs, never shirking but unable to settle. He had a girlfriend whose father was a police officer who, when they first met, said there was a "dark side" to RC-A594. He then married a girl called Name Redacted who was a DPA and they had a daughter, whom RC-A594 adored - however the marriage broke down which devastated RC-A594

At this stage RC-A594 started taking drugs which eventually came to a head when his relationship with his then girlfriend broke down - this lead to a suicide attempt. We brought RC-A594 home, he was a shivering wreck of a young man who was extremely distressed and he then blurted out to me and his father that he had been abused by Father David. We ended up taking him to our local mental health unit where he was voluntarily admitted for two days.

Signature: DPA Signature witnessed by: []

Continuation of Statement of Mother of RC-A594

The impact of all this trauma affected not only me and my husband but our other children who loved him dearly and never left him alone if possible.

RC-A594 kept his secret for so many years before being able to tell anybody, fear of not being believed and shame that it had happened, which spilled out to destroy his early childhood and adulthood.

Luckily he is now happily married and has DPA children and is running his own successful business. However, he is still very emotional and will cry when anything is discussed re the abuse. He has an inner sadness in him and hopefully this will gradually fade when Father David is sentenced.

His father and I live with the guilt of sending him to St Benedicts, trusting a priest in his care and the guilt of not realising why the change in our son was not more evident to us. If there is a heaven and a hell, I hope *he* rots in Hell for all his devious wickedness.

Signature:

DPA

Signature witnessed by:

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