



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of: LK Age: over 18 years

This statement, consisting of 4 page(s) signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I know that this statement is to be used for the purpose of a prosecution and that if it contains material which I know to be false or misleading, I will be guilty of an offence.

Dated the 1st of November, 2002

Signed: LK

Witnessed by (name): N. Conte of (address): C.E.I.S.

Signature of Witness: [Handwritten Signature]

I provide this declaration to Detective Senior Constable Wally Conte of the Child Exploitation Investigation Section at about 10.40 a.m. on Friday 1st November 2002, at level 2, 60 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, in the presence of my husband LL

I am the REDACTED mother of LB. He was born at the REDACTED REDACTED on the REDACTED 1977. I was then married to LB's biological father, REDACTED. There were R other children as a result of the marriage, RED older and RE younger, REDACTED respectively. LB name at birth was LB. LB was born with Down's Syndrome. He was very sick during the first 3 to 4 years of his life as he suffered the complications which often accompany Down's Syndrome.

When LB was about 1 year old we moved to Adelaide as REDACTED was a REDACTED and had been transferred.

Signed: LK Signature witnessed by: [Handwritten Signature]

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

P.D. 166

Continuation of statement of: LK

Page 2 of 4

We remained living in Adelaide until REDACTED 1978. I recall that date because that is when RED and I separated and it took place one day before our REDACTED REDACTED were born. I was in hospital for about 1 month before RED birth and about six weeks after. During this time, LB was initially with my mother but this became too much for her therefore REDACTED took over his daily care.

I initially met my current husband LL on REDACTED 1981. A relationship developed and we began residing together as defacto husband and wife in about 1982. Although we moved to several different places we remained living in the Adelaide metropolitan area, generally in the southwestern suburbs ever since.

On REDACTED 1989 LL and I were married in the REDACTED REDACTED. About one year before that, the girls asked LL to be their dad and asked to adopt the Family 5 surname. It was as a result of this that we arranged to change all the childrens' surnames including LB's to Family 5. This was actually done through Court and LB became LB LB

LB commenced attending St Ann's Special School in 1982 when he was 5 years of age. He remained at that school until the end of 1992.

During the time that LB attended at St Ann's Special School we resided at various addresses. Initially we resided in a flat in REDACTED REDACTED. In 1985 or 1986 we were moved by the Housing Trust as we had outgrown the flat, to a house in REDACTED. In 1988 we moved to REDACTED and we remained there until LB left St Ann's Special School in 1992.

Sometime during the period that we resided at REDACTED REDACTED, I became aware of Brian Perkins. LB was involved in woodwork at the school and we noticed that the items he was bringing home were improving in quality. During a conversation with one of the school teachers I asked about the improvement in the woodwork and I was told that they were being helped by a person named Brian Perkins, an elderly man who later became the new school bus driver. I knew the male bus driver before him as Eugene who was aged in his forties. He was a great big guy, tall and solid. Eugene left the school and this older man took over the role. Initially he drove the school bus on the odd occasion but this eventuated to more regular occasions.

During one of the school swimming carnivals which was being held at an indoor swimming pool on Morphett Road, one of the other parents pointed out Brian Perkins to me. He would often assist at school activities such as the swimming carnivals, little athletics and horse riding for the disabled.

Whilst we were living at REDACTED the bus was late on several occasions. Each time the bus was late it was being driven by Brian Perkins. The bus was about

Signed LK

Signature witnessed by: 

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

P.D. 166

Continuation of statement of LK

Page 3 of 4

30 to 40 minutes late on each occasion. Sometimes LB would be collected by the female driver in the mornings but he was dropped off by Brian Perkins in the afternoons.

It was normal practice for LB to be collected and dropped off at the home address. I distinctly recall that whenever the bus was very late, it was always Brian Perkins who was the driver.

I recall the first time that Brian Perkins asked to have LB stay with him overnight. We were residing in REDACTED . It was on one of the occasions that the bus was late arriving at our house. I recall Brian Perkins apologising for being so late. The bus was over one hour late. During the conversation at our home address between my husband, Brian Perkins and me, Brian asked if we would allow LB to go on a sleep-over which was supposed to take place at the school living-skills area. I was going to say no outright but he then explained that LB would not be the only boy and that he had use of the school bus. He was convincing, saying that the kid's had such a good time and that he had organised other similar sleepovers successfully in the past. We allowed LB to go. The actual sleepover was the following weekend and Brian Perkins picked him up from home late on the Friday evening with one of the school buses. There was another student in the bus at the time. There were no other adults in the bus.

On the Saturday afternoon Brian Perkins returned LB to our home address. I cannot recall if anyone else was on the bus on that occasion. Brian Perkins told us that the kids all had a great time and that they had a late night. He also told us that there were no bath facilities, only shower facilities. He said LB was alright with that.

When LB came back to us after that first occasion I noticed that he was much quieter than usual, not as playful or outgoing as his usual self. We put it down to him being tired after the sleepover. LB did not talk to us about the sleepover. His communication was beginning to go backwards during that period. His skills were decreasing. LB also became very clingy during that period; very 'mummy'.

The second time that Brian Perkins asked if LB could stay with him overnight was approximately three or four weeks after the sleepover. Brian did the same thing as on the first occasion. The bus was late again, perhaps not as late as the time mentioned above. It had also been late since the sleepover on more than one occasion. He asked me and my husband if we would allow LB to go on a camp with him. I cannot recall the place but it was some place that involved bushwalking. He told us again that he had use of the school bus and that LB would not be the only boy attending.

The following weekend, Brian Perkins collected LB on the Friday night from our home address in the school bus. He returned him on the Sunday afternoon. When he returned him I saw that he was not in the school bus but rather in an old van. Another student was in the van when he dropped off LB . He told us that he had

Signed: LK

Signature witnessed by: 

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

P.D. 166

Continuation of statement of

LK

Page 4 of 4

to return the school bus and made reference to fuel. He said they had a wonderful time and had been busy all weekend and would probably be very tired.

LB was again very quiet and generally not as sociable and outgoing as he usually was around other people. He had also been in hospital with ear problems around that period and we also put it down to that.

The third and last time that I recall LB staying in Brian Perkins' care was about 4 weeks after the camp. Brian Perkins approached me at the school when my husband LL and I attended to collect something or for some other official reason. Brian said that there was a sleepover at the school on the Friday night approaching and asked if LB was going to be part of it. Because I thought it was going to be at the school I gave LB permission to go. The following Friday LB did not come home on the bus as normal. We understood that he was staying at the school.

My husband and I collected LB from the school. He was waiting outside the gate and we got the impression that he was the last to be collected. It was on a Saturday morning and we thought we were late perhaps. No other person was around.

To my recollection these were the only occasions that LB was in the care of Brian Perkins overnight.

After this third occasion, LB got worse. His behaviour changed dramatically after this. He became self-abusive, punching and hitting himself in the legs. Whenever someone came to the door he would run and hide. On one occasion my husband tried to take LB to an ear appointment on public transport. As he and LB walked to the bus stop which was very close, LB grasped a fence post and wouldn't let go. LL had to come and get me to help.

In mid to late 1991 my husband LL and I were called by the school Principal at the time, Claude Hamam to attend a meeting at the school. As a result of that meeting we removed LB from that school and placed him into REDACTED REDACTED

Signed:

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