

STATEMENT

This is a statement by [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] expressing our concerns, which respect to the sexual abuse incidents, which occurred at Saint Ann's special school when our son [LX] was in attendance.

We gave a statement to the police via the phone however we are not part of any ongoing police investigation.

Background

Our son [LX] was born on the [REDACTED] 1979. He is diagnosed as cerebral palsy with spasticity in lower limbs and is non-verbal.

He attended:

- [REDACTED] Spastic Centre from 5 to 8 years of age.
- [REDACTED] School for one year
- Saint Ann's from 1988 to 1998.

At St Ann's school [LX] attended overnight school camps and participated in woodwork classes.

Behavioural problems manifested at St Ann's during that time and since include:

- High degree of anxiety
- Pinching and biting to self and to others
- Non participation in group/class activities
- Exposing himself in public
- Showing fear when assisting him with certain activities of daily living such as drying him after his bath.
- Rocking and other inappropriate behaviour including whilst travelling in school bus.

Concerns

The very first time we became aware of the matter of sexual abuse within St Ann's school at the time when [LX] was there was when we had the letter from the archbishop's office hand delivered to our home. We are very upset to think that our son [LX] may well have been molested and as a result suffered emotional and behaviour trauma.

We believe that such inappropriate behaviour could be related to sexual abuse or witnessing of such abuse. We believe issues our son has to this day could have stemmed from access and contact he had with the alleged offender. Our son [LX] cannot cope like he used to and in fact has regressed. He had certain speech capabilities, which he has now lost completely.

Considering his condition and inability to deal with any abuse, this could have life long ramifications.

We believe it to be extremely unacceptable that we as parents were not notified of the full extent and proceedings at the time when this issue of sexual abuse was revealed, both by St Ann's principal, school board and the catholic diocese.

We believe this violated the complete and utter trust that we as parents of a severely disabled child put in St Ann's school and catholic system.

As a result we are doomed to a life sentence of uncertainty, doubts and unanswered questions.

Expected outcomes of our statement

1. To be kept fully informed of every stage of all investigations.
2. Support for as the need arises.

REDACTED

May 8th, 2002

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