

Victim Impact Statement

We and the parents of would like to inform the court about how the crime has affected and our family.

Our son is now 26 years of age. This crime has had a direct impact on him in many ways. Before it happened his level of intellectual and physical functioning was quite good. He was able to count to ten and recognise and say his name. He was very easygoing and cooperative as a child and would do anything for you.

Soon after it all happened became very clingy and withdrawn. He didn't want to leave the house or yard without his mother and was very wary of people he didn't know. We virtually had to move away from the area because he obviously did not feel safe there. Whenever someone came to the door he would run and hide. He wouldn't smile, muck around and play anymore and became very quiet. His verbal communication deteriorated and he has reverted to shortened sentences with us. He became fussy and picky with food and isn't as cooperative anymore. He became more stubborn and needed a lot of prompting to do tasks. He has no pride in himself or the way he looks anymore. He used to enjoy woodwork, cooking and horse riding but he hates all these things now.

He hated Father Christmas because he was scared of him. We think it reminded him of the accused. hates crowds now and will freak out sometimes and not move. He would often isolate himself at family functions and sit on his own away from everyone. This was difficult and embarrassing for us socially and put a dampener on things. We need advance notice about family functions now to help build him up to it.

It has been a difficult time for our other children. The older kids couldn't have their friends or boyfriends over because of behaviour problems with . They had to take time to develop trust and a rapport with . Our other children became protective of him and didn't enjoy much freedom at home. We can see that it caused fights amongst them as the focus and attention was often on . They had to put their own feelings to one side which caused a lot of stress and tension at home.

We were not in a position to work regularly because we had to be available to care for . We also felt that we were not able to concentrate and cope with study commitments and work. This has had a huge impact on our finances and has really kept us in poverty because we put and our kids first. We couldn't afford for our kids to be involved in extra curricular activities and their opportunities have been restricted in so many ways. We weren't even able to attend their school activities and felt we couldn't support them as we wanted to. We are still living in accommodation and are forced to live in difficult conditions paying a high rent because we can't get a loan.

After this happened we arranged respite care because things got on top of us and we needed a break especially to spend time with the other children. It was a very difficult thing to do as we had never put in respite care before as we had always been very protective of him. He went through a lot of carers but he has been with a man called the longest and gets on really well with him.

He has been through a lot of schools and placements for work experience but he wouldn't communicate with them and only used macheton (basic) sign language.

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This is very frustrating as we feel that [LB] could have been trained and employed in a workshop by now if this had not have happened to him.

The long term impact on us is very hard because [LB] is an adult male with a disability. He is so vulnerable to abuse and we are left trying to help him deal with it. We don't know what the future will hold for him.

This statement is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

LL

29/8/2003

LK