

EV [REDACTED] V SALVATION ARMY

SYNOPSIS/OVERVIEW

PLAINTIFF: EV [REDACTED]

D.O.B: REDACT

Background

- Born in Darlinghurst Women's Hospital NSW to Hungarian parent immigrants.
- Has one older sibling EW [REDACTED] - 5 years older.
- 1963 – moved to Revesby NSW. Early years of life were very pleasant. Lived in a cul-de-sac that had a creek and a scout hall at the end of it. Had good friends from the local football team which Plaintiff was a member of. Also had good friends from the street he lived in.
- Attended Revesby South Public School. Was required to repeat grade 1 due to only being able to speak Hungarian.
- Parents were devoted Catholics and the family attended church every Sunday.
- Mother worked as a dressmaker, Father worked for the Water Board.
- Completed 4 years of primary school before being placed in Goulburn Gill home.

Reason for entering Gill Memorial Home

Placed in the home with his older sibling EW [REDACTED] due to separation of parents. As parents were devoted Catholics they viewed the Salvation Army as a caring and charitable organization in which to care for their children during their separation and custody battle. Plaintiff only believed that they would be there for a couple of months, however it was 2 years before they were able to leave the Home.

Period of time in Gill Memorial Home

September 1971- December 1973.

Allegations of Abuse: Sexual, Physical and Psychological.

- Separated from brother immediately after entering the home.
- Was unable to understand the orders and instructions from various officers.
- Plaintiff felt as though Captain Wilson saw him as a weakling, felt as though he didn't like him as he was a slow learner.
- Plaintiff feared for his life around Captain Wilson.
- Became depressed – only wanting to be by self and not talk to anyone.
- Had thoughts of running away but hesitated due to the punishments of being caned and other 'corporal-like' punishments.
- Plaintiff was subjected to listening to other children screaming at nights from being bashed by the officers after trying to escape the Home.
- Sustained injuries to back and shoulder due to physical abuse by Captain Wilson.
- Was lined up naked every evening with the other boys while waiting to shower.
- Made to take a cold shower directly after a hot one.
- Made to use a toilet with no door.
- Had to listen to other children screaming from nightmares.
- Beds had to be made to a military grade standard – complete with hospital folds at the corners. Was caned or hit with an open palm to the face if not properly made.
- Was required to set tables in officers' dining room – clear away dishes, mop and polish the wooden floor boards, clean the brass door knobs and handles.
- Mental torture from witnessing numerous assaults on other children.

Specific instances of abuse by Captain Wilson:

- Body-slammed onto a table where tooth was chipped exposing the nerve.
- Slapped on the face after he Captain Wilson: on floor. Nose bled profuriously.
- Urinated in pants in fear that workstation was not cleaned enough. For this was thrown against the wall so severely shoulder was dislocated. Shoulder pulled back into socket when then jerked by same arm to throw Plaintiff onto floor – injuring ribs.
- Made to stand for lengths of time in one spot in middle of night or squat with a broom handle behind knees, or hold out broom handle in out-stretched arms. Any deviation to these positions lead to caning on hand, buttocks or legs.
- Had ointment removed to treat bleeding chapped hands from not chopping enough wood.
- Sexually assaulted after being injured in playground. Was made undress in communal shower room and had genitals fondled. Was unable to report due to fear of being caned.

Sequela

- Felt he had lost his identity as a child – only being referred to as a number in the home.
- Left the home being a depressed, nervous stuttering child. Felt he had lost his soul. These feelings have remained all his life.
- Hated religion and anything authoritarian.
- Remained very nervous, quiet and depressed during High School. Preferred to be by his self.
- Had to undergo extensive speech therapy to treat stuttering.
- Feels that the Gill Home is with him everywhere he goes.
- Binge drinking as an adult to mask the pain.
- Has been charged with speeding and drink driving offences.
- Has attempted suicide – aiming car to hit power pole.
- Re-occurring nightmares and re-occurring suicidal thoughts.
- Is required to take anti-depressant medication.
- Still suffers from shoulder and back pain – received Chiropractic treatment.
- Is unable to hold a meaningful relationship.
- Thousands of dollars spent repairing chipped tooth.
- Breathing difficulties from being slapped on face causing nose to bleed.
- Arthritis in shoulder – unable to play any sport requiring use of right arm without pain.
- Lack of self-esteem and self-loathing.
- Feels emotionless of the suffering of others.
- Difficulty socializing.
- Fearful and avoiding of fathering children.
- Re-occurring chest and rib pain.

Personal Injury Claim Notification was provided to the Salvation Army on 1 August 2007.

ACT Supreme Court Originating Application and Statement of Claim yet to be filed/served.