

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Kelly Prowse
Date of Birth: 16/02/1989
Care Setting: MARGARET AND GORDON- FOSTER FAMILY
Dates: 2002
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

After there, I was then placed in another home at around 10 years old. The abuse continued and, in many ways, became worse. From the beginning, we were singled out and separated from others. We were spoken to in a very harsh and degrading way, and this period stands out to me as one of the worst times of my life.

Although me and my siblings were supposed to stay together, the way we were treated caused division between us. The carers made it very clear that they did not want me or my sister Laura. They would openly say that the only reason they had us there was for the money. They would repeatedly call me and my sister Laura over just to tell us that we were not wanted. Hearing this constantly as a child had a deep emotional impact on me and affected the relationship between me and my siblings, as it created tension, hurt, and confusion within us all.

They made sure we knew that we had no real family and that they were not our parents. We were treated differently from one another, and it was very unfair. I was bullied and tormented regularly. I also had to witness my brother being punished in extremely distressing ways. They would call him names linked to my dad's past, as my dad was a sexual abuser, and they would use this against my brother. They would beat him and call him the same names, expecting us to stand there and watch. This was extremely traumatic for me, and it is something I will never forget.

I was treated very badly. I remember feeling like we were treated more like animals than children. I was only around 10 years old, and all I wanted was to feel part of a family. After my sisters had left, I had no choice but to stay. I remember desperately wanting a happy and loving home, but instead I experienced cruelty and rejection.

One memory that has stayed with me very clearly is when I tried to show kindness. I bought flowers for Mother's Day because I wanted to feel like I belonged and to show appreciation. Instead of kindness, she reacted angrily. She embarrassed me in front of others, made it clear that she was not my mum, and called me names while laughing at me. That moment was deeply humiliating and hurtful. It made me feel completely rejected and unwanted, and it has stayed with me ever since.

They had no interest in our wellbeing and showed no care towards us. I was sent to different respite placements without any say or choice, which made me feel unsettled and as though I did not belong

anywhere. I never felt secure or stable.

At the same time, I was expected to do all the chores in the house. I had to get up and complete everything that was expected of me, and if I did not, I would be punished and left in my room all day. This isolation was extremely damaging to me. I felt trapped, controlled, and completely uncared for.

I was also forced to attend church, and my beliefs and feelings were not taken into account. They regularly used nasty and degrading names towards me. There were also situations where I was wrongly accused of things I had not done, which led to further punishment. This made me feel powerless and as though I was constantly being targeted.

I was at Margaret and Gordon's for around two years, until I turned 12, when me and my sister Laura finally left. By that point, the damage to my mental health had already been done. The way I was treated during that time has had a lasting impact on me.

As a result of these experiences, I continue to suffer from anxiety, PTSD, and depression. I struggle with trust, relationships, and feelings of self-worth. The abuse, neglect, and emotional harm I experienced during this time have affected my entire life, and I still carry that trauma with me today. I suffer with very bad depression and anxiety and PTSD and I have suffered my whole life also. I was forced to wear insoles and other medical aids during my time in care. I was born with kidney issues and twisted hips, and I needed proper medical support, guidance, and care. However, I did not receive the correct help or attention from any of the places I was in. My medical needs were not properly understood or managed, and I was left without the support I required as a child.

This had a significant impact on me, both physically and mentally. Physically, my condition was not properly treated, which has led to ongoing health problems that I still suffer from to this day. I believe that if I had received the right care, guidance, and medical attention at the time, my health would not be as affected as it is now.

Mentally, this also had a deep impact on me. As a child, I did not understand why I was in pain or why I was different, and I was not given the reassurance or support I needed. I felt neglected and overlooked, as my health concerns were not taken seriously. This added to the overall trauma I was already experiencing in care.

I feel that I was failed in terms of my medical care throughout those years. The lack of proper support and intervention has left me with long-term health problems that continue to affect my daily life. This is something I have had to live with ever since, and it has added to both my physical suffering and my mental health struggles. This has ruined me mentally and physically and changed my whole life.