

Supporting Statement for John Caldwell. Written 04/03/26.

My brother John was taken in to care on the same day as myself. I am John's eldest sister. We were all taken to a children's panel one day in February 1998. Our mum was unable to look after us through addiction issues. And because of this I was left to bring up my sisters and brother. We were placed in a place of safety for what we were told was 22 days. On that day we were taken to a social work office together where the social workers tried to find somewhere for us to stay. They took me with John and my younger sister Clair to a property in Pollock at a foster carer's house and me and my 2 other sisters were placed in a children's home. They would eventually keep us separated for over 20 years. Over that period John and Clair's dad (my step dad) committed suicide because social work wasn't letting him see his kids. Me and my other sister were placed back with my mum and from what I remember John continued to be placed in and out of foster homes. Without my mum (who still had parental rights) being informed. He was moved from Sandra Wright's house (foster carer) due to bruises being found on his body by a scout leader. He would eventually tell me that he was physically abused by John Wright Sandra's husband. He was moved to Perth to live with another foster carer who was physically abusing him also. Social work still wouldn't let my mum see her kids even though she had gone to children's panels and begged social work. I also begged social work to let me see my siblings as I had done nothing wrong. I had no addiction issues or criminal record, so they had no reason to stop visits with my siblings. They eventually told us that John and my sisters didn't want any contact with us then I later found out this wasn't true. I used to write to John and my sisters but the foster carer used to rip up the letters and not give them to my siblings. My mum passed away with cancer when she was only 50 years old on the 31st of January 2012. A social

Worker phoned me and started asking me questions about my mum so she could pass them on to John.

I told the social worker my mum had passed away she didn't know and neither had John that was nearly a year after she had passed away.

John made contact with myself and my sister in 2015 I think it was and in that time, I have witnessed his mental health deteriorate over the years. I had personally taken him to A&E because he was going to kill himself. There have been numerous occasions of John being in and out of hospital due to his mental health and in trouble with the law.

He has struggled to hold down a job or a house over the years and doctors have tried him on so many different medications over the years and I know for a fact that this all stems from trauma of being abused physically and mentally in care and lied to about his

family. But most of all finding out his mum and dad had died before he could get a chance to see them and meet them had really my messed my brother up mentally.

Yours sincerely

Gayle Martin