

Name: Andrew Murray

DOB: 19/09/1980

Name of Care Home/s: Foster Placement.

Reason for going into care: Abuse from Stepfather

Age in care: Approximately 13-16

Personal Statement

Foster Placements

When I was younger, I experienced abuse from my stepfather, which led to the decision for me to enter care. I was about 14 at that time, and this decision was made by a panel from Perth social services. I was placed at Woodside Avenue in Perth, where I stayed for approximately 6 to 7 months. After that, I was moved to a foster home with Willie and Jackie, though I don't remember their last name. Willie was the caretaker at Glenalmond College, and the house I lived in with them was located on the college grounds; I was there for about 6 to 7 months. Subsequently, I transitioned to another foster placement with a single Irish man named Paul Martin when I was around 14 or 15 years old. He resided near the Perth football ground, and I stayed with him for roughly 8 months. My final placement was in the centre of Perth; I can't recall its name, but I was there as I approached 16 and stayed for a few months. My negative experiences primarily occurred during my time with Paul Martin. He was also known as Paul Mairthini, He was physically abusive towards me, often slapping me weekly, typically when he was under the influence of alcohol. I suspect he may have drugged me, as I would sometimes wake up with no memory of the previous night. While living there, I would wet the bed and was made to feel humiliated and ashamed for it. He would slap me for this and then throw me into a freezing cold shower. I often faced starvation as a form of punishment, where I would simply not be given any meals, and this was a frequent occurrence. There were times when he would lock me outside as a form of punishment, but sometimes it was just for his amusement. I would find myself locked out, often in freezing cold weather conditions. I did run away from this place on several occasions, and there were times when the police would bring me back. Upon returning to Paul's house, I would be beaten by him. Bruises. Scratches cut. No medical treatment. When I was taking a shower, I was never allowed privacy; he would always enter the room while I was washing. There was another boy, whom I believe was named Kale, foster brother who would also come in while I was in the shower. I also witnessed Kale being slapped; I felt he was favoured, so he didn't experience this as frequently as I did. At bedtime, there were times when I had to sleep in bed with him. He sexually abused and raped me on multiple occasions.

Later in life, when I was in my 20s, the police contacted me after others came forward about being sexually abused by Paul. I did share some information with the police, but at that time, I was too ashamed to talk about the sexual abuse I endured. There was a court case, and Paul received an 8-year custodial sentence. I was denied visits with my own family and spent my time in care, separated from my siblings.

My experience in care has impacted every aspect of my life; I feel it has ruined my life. I struggle with poor mental health and suffer from flashbacks and nightmares constantly. It has affected my relationships with others throughout. It has destroyed my life.

Client added: 13/11/2025. I remember the areas that Paul Martin stayed in Perth I first moved to Letham in Perth and then I'm sure I got taken from him and then I went back to him and the last

place I stayed with him was Tulloch in Perth not sure of the street names. I've somehow remembered it was Alison Crescent in Letham and Ashgrove in Tulloch Perth.