

IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

Living With a Person Affected by Historical Abuse

Purpose:

This questionnaire is intended to support the claimant's witness statement by describing the impact that their past abuse has had on their daily life, relationships and family. Please answer only what you feel able to. Give specific examples where possible.

1. About You

Full name: Alice McClymont

Relationship to the claimant: Wife

How long have you known or lived with the claimant? Married 53 Years, Known 56 Years.

How often do you currently see or support them? Everyday

2. Your Knowledge of the Abuse

When did you first become aware that the claimant had experienced abuse in childhood or while in care? After 15 Years of Marriage (1973)

How did you become aware of it? Decided to leave Gavin Because of the abuse she received. This is when she was first told about it. Unsure of the full depth but dealt with parts of it as he struggles to open up fully.

Has the claimant spoken to you about what happened? If so, how difficult do they find it to discuss? Yes but not fully, difficult as Gavin has always been an introvert, not social. A loner. Happy to stay in the house. Emotional, didn't know why she was receiving abuse so it felt like she was paying for whatever these people did. Resentful, made her feel if she had known earlier he could've gotten help or had an understanding.

3. Changes You Have Observed

What emotional or behavioural difficulties have you observed in the claimant?

For example:

- Anxiety, depression or low mood
- Anger, irritability or emotional withdrawal
- Difficulty trusting others
- Shame, guilt or low self-worth
- Flashbacks, nightmares or disturbed sleep
- Panic, fear or becoming overwhelmed
- Self-harm, suicidal thoughts or comments about not wanting to live
- Alcohol, substance use or other addictive behaviours

Please describe any specific examples.

- Gavin was always worse after a drink, reserved until he drank and abuse would occur. Alice would run out the house due to physical abuse. 2 Small children.
- Irritable and anger episodes with physical anger - coped with aggression and intimidation
- Anti Depressants which calmed him down. I dont know if they have helped
- hes very emotional as of recent. I try to get him to talk to me and he won't
- He had nightmares where he would hit me and lash out in his sleep. hes broke multiple lamps from this.

4. Day-to-Day Impact

How does the claimant's past affect their everyday life? **He prefers staying in the house unless I suggest going somewhere.**

Do they struggle with ordinary activities such as sleeping, leaving the house, attending appointments, socialising, managing money or caring for themselves? **Yes. He could sit in the house 24/7. He is not a sociable person. He doesn't have a great personality. Yes, he would lash out in his sleep and hit me and break lamps and other items. I always worked, Gavin couldn't keep a job. Never dealt with money. The only thing we never argued over was money.**

Are there particular places, dates, people, smells, sounds or situations that trigger a strong reaction? **He doesn't like being told he is wrong. He can be intimidating after a drink but he acts stranger now in situations with people.**

What happens when the claimant is triggered or distressed? **He copes with aggression and intimidation. He won't speak about his emotions. I have never truly seen him smile. He gets emotional and shows more emotion through crying. I haven't seen a tear in his eye until his son died in 2012. After this he shows more emotion. He doesn't like to show vulnerability.**

5. Impact on Relationships and Family Life

How has the claimant's trauma affected your relationship with them? **He abused me. I would go to work black and blue, my children would see me. He told me i made him do it. i tried to leave him. I was walking on egg shells, i still am.**

Has it affected communication, affection, intimacy, trust or the ability to resolve disagreements? **I have to force him to give my oldest son some affection.**

Has the claimant ever become emotionally distant, angry, fearful or difficult to reassure? **Yes, he can be angry and difficult to reassure. He can get very aggressive**

How has this affected children, relatives or other people living in the household? **He was never bad to his children but he was bad to me and so the kids would see the abuse i received. He would be intimidating towards them but would never hit them. he showed a lot of affection to Scott before he died but blames my eldest for his death. he had a close bond with his grandchild (scotts son). They held resentment towards him and turned to drugs because they were scared of him because they knew how bad he could get.**

6. Support You Provide

What support do you provide to the claimant?

For example:

- Reassurance during periods of anxiety or distress
- Attending appointments
- Managing medication or practical responsibilities
- Supporting them after nightmares, flashbacks or panic

How often is this support required? **24 hours a day, Gavin needs me to be there for him. He would encourage them to leave the house or socialise keep me here everyday all day if he could.**

- Monitoring their safety or wellbeing

Have there been occasions when you were concerned that the claimant might harm themselves, misuse substances or be unable to keep themselves safe? **Yes, i think if i left him he would kill himself. i couldn't have that on my conscious**

Has the claimant's past affected their education, employment, finances, housing or ability to maintain friendships? **Friendships no. He only has 1 friend and doesn't see him. Money wise he is fine. Tighter with money now. Doesn't effect housekeeping. He doesn't buy anything unless i confirm its okay to wear and he wont go to the shop by himself. He hasn't got confidence to choose for himself. Worked for 30+ years.**

Has the claimant avoided opportunities or activities because of fear, low confidence or poor mental health? **Yes, he wont shop by himself. he had arguments at work and would leave. He has no confidence to buy himself anything. He has always had poor mental health.**

Has the claimant required medication, counselling, therapy or other support?

Yes, he

tried counselling and was on antidepressants. i preferred when he was on them as it kept him calm.

8. Impact on You

How has living with and supporting the claimant affected you emotionally, physically or financially? Emotionally and physically. He abused me for years, i would go to work with my face black and blue. I was always walking on eggshells and still feel like i am. He doesn't smile and doesn't want to do anything with me. We lost our son to drugs. We don't speak to our daughter. I feel like i am just existing in my marriage and waiting to die.

Have you experienced worry, stress, exhaustion, disrupted sleep, isolation or difficulties in your own relationships or employment? Yes. Always. If he has a drink i go upstairs. If he puts his hand on me i freeze and remove his hand because everything comes back to me. I sleep in a different room to avoid his nightmares.

What has been the most difficult part of supporting the claimant? The abuse i received. The emotional and physical abuse. I can't trust him or believe his apologies because of what i went through. i have depression and tried to kill myself.

9. Overall Impact

In your own words, how would you describe the effect that the historical abuse continues to have on the claimant's life? it has effected his social life, married life, his siblings didn't have a close relationship. its sad he wouldn't have anyone if he didn't have me. it has effected his whole life. Touched and Tainted through this experience. k with my face black

What do you believe the claimant's life may have been like had the abuse not occurred? I think he would've had a better life in the sense that he would have been more open. he would have cared more about his parents. he would've had more of a bond and a lot more friendships in his life. 74 years of his life he has only ever had his 1 friend. he wouldn't have been as vulnerable. our marriage would have been more sustainable. He would have been more approachable and loving.

Is there one particular incident or example that best demonstrates the lasting impact of the abuse? I can't just pick one. every day with Gavin has been a misery because of the abuse. He has been an uncaring and numb person. I met him when i was 14 and he has never cared about anything. I think he cares about me. he keeps apologising but i dont believe his apology. I feel if that was the case it would have stopped. All the hurt would have stopped.

Declaration

I believe that the information provided in this supporting statement is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Name:

Signature:

Date: