

Witness Name : [REDACTED]
Statement No : First
Exhibits: [REDACTED]
Dated :

THE INDEPENDENT JERSEY CARE INQUIRY

EXHIBIT [REDACTED] 2

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

Date

cont...

_____ agreed with this but said that perhaps if she could just have _____ back until the end of the summer but I again pointed out that I felt that it was unfair to expect _____ to move back into her grandparents house and then to move into a foster home later in the year.

Later in the day, a phone call was received from Rev. Halliwell of St. Aubins who asked Mr. Smith, Children's Officer, to let _____ return to her grandparents. I discussed the situation with Mr. Smith and explained that _____ did not support his wife in her wish to care for _____ and also that deep down I felt that _____ realised that caring for _____ was too much for her but feels that if she admits this, she will be thought badly off by the _____ family.

8.7.77.

Joint visit with Mr. Elliott, Child Care Officer, to talk to _____ about fostering _____. Unfortunately _____ was at work but I was able to have a long chat to _____ who was very keen on the idea of fostering _____. We arranged that I would take her and her husband to meet _____ at Brig y Don next week.

12.7.77.

I took _____ down to Brig y Don where they met _____. They both took to her instantly and _____ chatted away to them quite freely. _____ also seemed to take to _____ own little boy. It was arranged that _____ would start taking _____ out during the day and would work up to taking her home for the day when she felt _____ was ready for this. We all agreed that the transfer to the foster home would have to be done gradually but that there was no point in dragging out the process longer than necessary.

13.7.77.

I at last managed to get _____ up to the Office to discuss the future of his daughter. I explained to _____ our plans for _____ and he was whole-heartedly in support of this. He told me that for some time he had felt that perhaps looking after _____ was going to prove too much for _____ and that he was well aware that _____ was not too keen on having to look after _____. He therefore had often thought it would be a good idea for _____ to live with a younger family but had not wanted to suggest this to _____ himself as he did not want to hurt her after all she had done. I told _____ about _____ and it was arranged that I would pick him up next week and take him to meet the couple.

19.7.77.

I took _____ to meet _____. This introductory visit went very well and _____ seemed to like _____. As it happened, _____ had gone home to spend the day with _____ and _____ car had broken down and so she was unable to take _____ back to Brig y Don. It was therefore agreed that as fate had intervened, that _____ would stay the night with _____. It was agreed that it would perhaps be unwise for _____ to see her father on her first night at _____ as she might conclude that she was going to go out with him and be upset when he left without her.



NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

Date

cont...

_____ was in full support of _____ staying the night and said that he would be very happy for her to move in with _____ as soon as possible.

20.7.77.

I phoned _____ who told me that _____ had slept well and not shown any signs of being homesick. We agreed that perhaps it would now be best for _____ to stay with the _____ and not to move back into Brig y Don.

I rang Brig y Don who also agreed that it would seem best for _____ to stay at _____ now that she has already slept one night there and they said they would get her clothes and belongings packed for _____ to collect later in the day.

22.7.77.

I took _____ to meet _____. Fortunately _____ was at work but _____ had a long talk to _____ and seemed very relaxed in her company. _____ played happily with _____ whilst we talked and _____ was obviously impressed by the homely atmosphere in the _____ house. I was glad that _____ did not cry when we left as this would have undoubtedly upset _____. I then took _____ back home to St. Aubins and on the way she told me that she thought that _____ would be very happy with _____ and felt much easier about the whole idea now that she had actually seen the home that _____ would be living in. She told me that she would get _____ bike and chair and some more of her clothes ready and I agreed to pick them up next Tuesday morning on my way to work.

26.7.77.

I collected some of _____ belongings from _____ and took them to _____. _____ was delighted to see her bike and proudly showed me how she could ride it. She has settled in extremely well but has started calling _____ Mummy and Daddy, even though they have been referring themselves as Auntie and Uncle. _____ is rather worried about this as she does not want to upset _____ but I told her that I felt this was rather inevitable in the case of a child as young as _____ and that I felt _____ would appreciate this and not be too upset.

5.8.77.

I visited _____ and took with me her fostering fees for the last few weeks. We have agreed that I will get her fostering fees collected from the Treasury by our Office every few weeks and deliver it to her which will save her from having to make a special journey down to town.

_____ seems to be blossoming in her foster home and is much more open and chatty. She went out with her father on Saturday and with _____ on Sunday and enjoyed both days but readily returned to _____ in the evening. There were no tears on either occasion and in fact she seemed quite happy to be back.

12.8.77.

Visited _____ with her Boarding Out Allowance and also with some pretty dresses that I had recently been given. We tried these dresses on _____ and about eight fitted her perfectly. _____ was absolutely delighted with them as she has found that _____ wardrobe is slightly old fashioned.

A. Ferguson
C.S.O.