

Witness Name : [REDACTED]
Statement No : First
Exhibits: [REDACTED] 1 – [REDACTED] 14
Dated :

THE INDEPENDENT JERSEY CARE INQUIRY

EXHIBIT [REDACTED] 9

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS.

Group Home Le Squez - Mr. and Mrs. Maguire.

Discussed the allegations contained in the Record of Notes taken on the 27th April, 1990, with Mr. and Mrs. Maguire, on the 30th April, at Highlands College.

Mr. and Mrs. Maguire denied the degree of physical contact/verbal threats and inappropriate punishment - Mr. Maguire was particularly angry and adamant that the incident of the 20th April witnessed by [REDACTED] had not occurred in the manner described. He alleged that [REDACTED] had grossly exaggerated the details of this incident and that in reality [REDACTED] had slipped when half-pushed toward the area of the playroom he had been asked to tidy up.

The Houseparents admitted that they had employed what they termed 'slaps on the back of the legs' and 'run-a-longs' as means of physical punishment for perceived wrong-doing/naughtiness by the children. They also admitted that they had used washing mouths with soap as a means of punishing the children for using bad language. They maintained that all the methods of punishment they used would be that used to discipline their own children and they considered these punishments appropriate in the rearing of children.

Initially they challenged whether they had been told that it was the Children's Service's policy that corporal punishment was never used as a means of disciplining children in the Care of the Education Committee but later they appeared to retract this statement.

A period of time was spent with Mr. and Mrs. Maguire trying to put these alleged incidents in what they saw as their true perspective set against the years of loyalty and commitment they had demonstrated to the children in their care. The couple also made various criticisms of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attitude to, and care of, the children, although no complaint of any substance was made.

In the final part of that interview and two further interviews which were conducted in May and June the following was agreed:-

- 1) The fact of the use of corporal punishment by Mr. and Mrs. Maguire was admitted although they maintained that only light 'slaps' or 'taps' on the legs were used.
- 2) They accepted that there may have been an over-emphasis on 'controlling' the children and that inappropriate sanctions/threats of removal etc., may have been used.

- 3) It was acknowledged that much of this behaviour reflected the increasing pressures on Mr. and Mrs. Maguire trying to raise children who were emotionally damaged and so exhibited behaviour which they found difficult to cope with. In effect the couple were experiencing the early signs of possible 'burn-out'.
- 4) It was agreed that it would be better for Mr. and Mrs. Maguire to consider 'retiring' from the role of Houseparents before the acknowledged pressures resulted in possible deterioration in their standards of care for the children.

Subsequently a hand-over of responsibility from Mrs. Maguire to [REDACTED] was agreed and was staged during May/June with Mr. and Mrs. Maguire effectively 'retiring' as Houseparents of the Group Home at the end of June. [REDACTED] has now been appointed as Officer in Charge of the Group Home with a staff complement of 4½ to be established as soon as possible. There will be no resident member of staff but staff will provide the sleep-in cover required for the Home.

Jane Maguire has now taken up [REDACTED] within the Family Centre Service as Family Centre Assistant and Development Officer, this effectively a [REDACTED]



A.J. Skinner,
Children's Officer.

AJS/SJR
6.8.90.