

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSON INTERVIEWED: JUDITH K. PATTERSON

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: [REDACTED]

INTERVIEWED BY: Brooke Lemoine, Detective *BC*

DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 07, 2002

RE: GORDAN JAMES MACRAE

BL: This will be an audio taped statement. The date is the 7th of October 2002. The time is 2:30 p.m. This is Detective Brooke Lemoine and I'm conducting the interview on taking a statement from Judith, middle initial K, last name of Paterson, PATERSON. The location of the interview will be at [REDACTED] Ah, this would be Judith Paterson's office where she is a counselor. Okay, ah, Mrs. Paterson, ah can you tell me how long you've been a counselor here?

JP: At this location or I've been in practice overall?

BL: Why don't we start with how long you've been in practice as a counselor.

JP: About 20 years.

BL: 20 years. Okay. And your present position is what?

JP: Ah, my, my license ah title is License Independent Clinical Social Worker and I am in private practice in Exeter, New Hampshire.

BL: Okay.

JP: I also work for Boston University. I don't know whether you want that.

BL: That's fine. I'm just looking to get a little background on yourself.

JP: Okay.

BL: Um, do you have any specialties, interviewing specifically young people? Is your practice involved in the younger persons?

JP: Ah, currently it does not. As I have gotten older I have restricted my current practice to working with adults:

BL: Okay.

JP: When, at the time that I was at Catholic Charities and for much of the younger years of my career, I did work a lot with children and families and as such of course talked with a lot of kids, both very young and adolescent. In terms of interviewing ah, ah there was not a formal interview like an investigation. Um, but it would be more the initially getting to know and getting a sense of what's going on in the kids life that is giving them difficulties, so that's, that's the psychological interview so to speak.

BL: Okay. You indicated that you worked for Catholic Charities, correct?

JP: Right.

BL: Okay, when was that?

JP: I worked for Catholic Charities from 1980 to, to 1984.

BL: Okay.

JP: Those dates aren't quite right because I think I was there more than two years, but in any case

BL: So approximately two years?

JP: It's approximately two years.

BL: Okay. Where was your office located when you worked for Catholic Charities?

JP: It was on Main Street in Salem, New Hampshire. I don't remember the number.

BL: Main Street in Salem?

JP: In Salem, yes.

BL: Okay. And ah what were, what were your duties as a counselor for Catholic Charities back in 1982 to 1984?

JP: I was called a Generalist Therapist, so which means that I worked with a whole wide range of ah ages and concerns from. I think my youngest kid

while I was there was four and oldest client might have been 70 something, something like that. Ah, we saw just about everybody there.

BL: Okay. And would these be persons that were referred to you by the church?

JP: Some, ah some were simply members of the parish who if there was something going on in a family that concerned them they would Catholic Charities. Ah, and or it might be a referral from somebody that had been to Catholic Charities and told a neighbor, somebody, it was non sectarian. It was restricted just to people within the church.

BL: Okay. Who was your supervisor that you would ah that was in charge of you?

JP: Ah, Janet O'Connell.

BL: Janet O'Connell.

JP: And that's CONNELL and she was the district office supervisor.

BL: Okay. Ah, back in 1982 to 1984, when you were a therapist working for Catholic Charities, um if you received a complaint or information regarding abuse whether it be sexual or physical abuse, um what would be your standard operating procedure handling those type of reports?

JP: Standard procedure would be to make a formal report to ah what is now called DCYF. It was just a division of welfare at that time. If it were in the Salem _____ area it would go to the Salem District Office. If it were in the greater Seacoast area it would go to the Portsmouth District Office.

BL: Okay. And during the time when you were working for Catholic Charities did you ever have to make any ah telephone calls to the Division of Welfare regarding any abuse allegations?

JP: I didn't.

BL: Okay.

JP: In the time that I was there the only sexual abuse disclosure was with [REDACTED]

BL: Okay. Now I just want to draw your attention around the fall of 1983. Ah, did you have the occasion to meet with a [REDACTED]

JP: Yes.

BL: Okay. When you first met um we'll call him [REDACTED] ah how old was [REDACTED] if you can recall?

JP: He was either 13 or 14. I think maybe he was 13 and at the time of the disclosure I think he might have been 14.

BL: Okay.

JP: To the best of my recollection.

BL: Where was [REDACTED] from, do you remember?

JP: Hampton.

BL: Okay. And do you recall what church he attended?

JP: I think it's our Lady of Sacred Heart.

BL: Okay. And that's located in Hampton?

JP: That's in Hampton.

BL: Okay.

JP: He also went to Sacred Heart School.

BL: Okay. Ah, when you first met with [REDACTED], was this for an appointment for you to see him in a counseling capacity?

JP: Yes.

BL: Okay. Ah, did you meet with [REDACTED] parents at all?

JP: Yes I did.

BL: Okay. What were their concerns?

JP: They were concerned about um ah behavior at home. They were concerned about his relationship with his dad especially.

BL: Okay.

JP: Ah, they did talk about concerns that [REDACTED] had expressed that he was missing Father MacRae terribly. Ah, [REDACTED] wanted to be a priest. He was very close to MacRae I was told at the time MacRae was in our Lady of the church.

BL: Do you remember if ah [REDACTED] had mentioned to you at all any, any suspicions that they may have had regarding the relationship their son was having with Father MacRae?

JP: No.

BL: Okay.

JP: No, that never came up.

BL: Okay. Um, did you see [REDACTED] alone that day?

JP: Yes.

BL: Okay.

JP: I think I saw [REDACTED] initially alone and then asked the parents to come in. We did some, some work with the family, with the four of us.

BL: Okay. Um, can you describe to me when you first began treating [REDACTED] ah what was his demeanor? What did you talk about? Did he make a disclosure of sexual assault at the very beginning or how did it evolve?

JP: Is, that no, it took a while as it generally does with adolescents for him to get comfortable with me and to see me as a trusted person and we talked a lot about his loneliness. He was, he was, I felt he was depressed from ah the early stages of my contact with him and he was clearly grieving ah the loss of ah the priest. Ah, couldn't understand why the priest wouldn't write to him or, or talk to him by telephone. Ah, he was very lonely in his peer group. Kind of teased by other kids. Ah, tall slender boy. Very handsome. Ah, a touch of feminine and he just never fit in with ah the kids at that school.

BL: Okay. Um, so it sounds like there were several visits with, with [REDACTED] before he made a disclosure of abuse.

JP: There were. I, I have no way of knowing how many, but there were.

BL: He eventually did disclose that he was abused by Father MacRae?

JP: Yes.

BL: Okay. Where did [REDACTED] if you can recall, indicate that the abuse took place?

JP: I think two places. I think there was some at the church or the Rectory and then I think some of it was in [REDACTED] home when MacRae had taken [REDACTED] home from a church thing.

BL: Okay. Um, did he indicate to you what the abuse consisted of?

JP: Yes.

BL: Okay.

JP: And.

BL: Can you tell me what he told you?

JP: Yeah. He said that MacRae asked him to sit in his lap, that he fondled him. That what [REDACTED] told me is that he couldn't remember whether MacRae touched his genitalia. He said that MacRae ah wanted to kiss him and ah what [REDACTED] was confused about and how this initially came up in our discussion he asked me if it was a normal thing for a priest to want to kiss a boy on the mouth.

BL: Okay.

JP: This he was very confused by what this meant and then as he was talking I opened up as much as I could in terms of what he was willing to disclose and I always felt there was more abuse than that.

BL: Okay.

JP: Whether it was repressed and he didn't remember at all or it whether he went as far as he could in terms of disclosing I was never sure.

BL: Okay. So it does, it does sound that the information that he gave you that day ah was ah absolutely a case of physical abuse. You said he touched, he indicated that Father MacRae touched his genitalia?

JP: Ah, ah, no I, I, I that's what I was trying to get at and if, if he did and [REDACTED] wasn't quite sure. He was always a little ah equivocal ah about that.

BL: Okay.

JP: And I always felt that he did, but whether he didn't remember or whether he couldn't bring himself to say it, I was never sure.

BL: Okay.

JP: Ah, but it was a clear cut sexual abuse because of the fondling because of the kissing, because of the pulling of him on his lap a violation of that sexual boundaries.

BL: Okay. Ah, did you take any notes of what um [REDACTED] had told you? Where you taking notes at that time?

JP: I, I had some notes in the record. I have to say that I was so shocked ah by what he had said that ah I can't remember exactly what I put in the note, but I ah put in something about [REDACTED] had talked um about Father MacRae molesting him and I had just sort of made a mental thing to myself. I need to go to Janet with this immediately.

BL: Okay.

JP: And ah.

BL: Janet being O'Connell.

JP: Janet being O'Connell whose a district supervisor.

BL: Okay.

JP: And ah talk with her about it.

BL: Okay. Um, when, when [REDACTED] was giving you these details about this abuse was [REDACTED] emotional?

JP: Actually um, he was pretty flat. There is a ah one of the symptoms of PTSD is a numbing so that a survivor can talk about an extremely emotional event, talk about the sexual abuse, but the pre-flat affect it's a numbing of emotions.

BL: Okay. Did you believe [REDACTED] when he was telling you these things?

JP: I believed him absolutely. I knew he was telling the truth.

BL: Okay. Um, following these disclosures that received from [REDACTED] um did you speak with [REDACTED] parents?

JP: Yes.

BL: Tell them what [REDACTED] told you?

JP: Yes, we had talked about that.

BL: Okay. What did you suggest to [REDACTED] that be done?

JP: I told them that ah it had to be reported and that um ah that it was going to be very important for [REDACTED] to continue to ah receive therapy.

BL: Okay. Um, did you inform your supervisor, Janet O'Connell, that [REDACTED] made a disclosure of sexual assault at the hands of Father Gordon MacRae?

JP: Absolutely.

BL: Okay.

JP: Maybe, that day actually.

BL: Okay and what did she tell you?

JP: Is that she said that she ah wanted to report it to Father Quinn.

BL: Okay.

JP: And ah Quinn was the at that time the director of NH Catholic Charities, which would be the state wide organization and then find out exactly what to do from that point. Ah, there was no question in her mind either that it needed to be legally reported.

BL: Okay.

JP: But she wasn't quite sure what the church protocol was.

BL: Okay. Where you at all armed with any protocol as far as who the next reporting person was suppose to be after I guess Janet?

JP: I wasn't. Um, you know my understanding was that I would have to report to the Portsmouth District Office.

BL: Okay.

JP: And she didn't know otherwise. That's why she wanted to talk with Quinn because I told her that that's what I had to do. That there had to be an official report filed.

BL: Do you know if ah Ms. O'Connell spoke with Father Quinn?

JP: Yes he did.

BL: Okay.

JP: She did.

BL: How do you know that?

JP: She told me.

BL: Okay.

JP: And ah Quinn called me.

BL: Was it the same day?

JP: I don't remember.

BL: Okay. Ah, Father Quinn did get in touch with you?

JP: Huh, huh.

BL: On the telephone or in person?

JP: On the telephone.

BL: Okay. And um can you tell me what you talked about with Father Quinn?

JP: He described a protocol for ah, ah any church disclosures of sexual abuse or any, anything by a priest that involved ah the Bishop of the Diocese, who at that time was ah Bishop Gendron and that Bishop Gendron would then be making the report personally to the Commissioner of Welfare.

BL: Okay. I just want to back up a little bit.

JP: Sure.

BL: Um, when Father Quinn was on the telephone with you ah did you articulate to Father Quinn what [REDACTED] disclosures were?

JP: Yes.

BL: Okay. You gave Father Quinn specifics of these disclosures were?

JP: I did.

BL: Okay.

JP: I did.

BL: Ah, what was Father Quinn's reaction to ah what [REDACTED] disclosed to you that happened to him?

JP: Ah, initially he was very doubtful. He wasn't sure that [REDACTED] was telling the truth. He asked me several times whether I believed him and you know did I need to talk with [REDACTED] some more, to make sure that he was telling the truth and ah what I told him was that I knew that [REDACTED] was absolutely telling the truth and that ah this was a clear, this constituted legal sexual abuse and it was a mandated report to the authorities.

BL: Was there anything that, that occurred during your interview with um [REDACTED] that would lead you to believe that he would be lying?

JP: Absolutely nothing.

BL: Okay. Was there anything that Father Quinn indicated that he had any information that would, would suggest that [REDACTED] could be lying? Did he offer you any information?

JP: No. No.

BL: Okay. Um, I think, I think you had mentioned earlier that Father Quinn ah did not want you to report this matter to anyone.

JP: He didn't want it reported and um I really, I really pressed him on it because I felt very strongly about it and that it absolutely had to be reported and ah then he sort of softened his approach, said that he was going to talk with Bishop Gendron.

BL: Okay.

JP: And that um Bishop Gendron would take it from there and actually he did talk with me later and I can't remember what the time interval was, but ah to tell me that Gendron had talked to the Commissioner of Welfare.

BL: Okay.

JP: And that ah that there had been a disclosure. I mean a report.

BL: Let me just, I just want to cover ah this protocol um is it my understanding that if it was a disclosure of sexual assault not involving a priest, then you would

have called DCYF and made or at that time would have been the Division of Welfare.

JP: Yes.

BL: And made a report ah with them directly. You would have called them. Because it was involving a priest um Father Quinn would speak with the Bishop and they would make a report to the Director himself. Is that my understanding? It would be a report to the Director of Welfare?

JP: The Commissioner.

BL: The Commissioner, excuse me. The Commissioner of Welfare.

JP: That's okay. That's okay. It was my understanding that if anything involving a priest went to the Bishop up through channels.

BL: Okay.

JP: And from the Bishop directly to the Commissioner of Welfare and how it was explained to me was because it was a delicate issue that it was handled at the highest level.

BL: Okay.

JP: And that phrase I do remember.

BL: Okay.

JP: From Quinn.

BL: Although you recalled ah Father Quinn um telling you that you should not report the matter to the Division of Welfare.

JP: I'm, I'm not sure he put it exactly like that. He didn't say you should not report it. He said, what he said was that we have a different procedure then the church and this is how we handle these things.

BL: Okay. Um, I'm sorry I didn't mean to cut you off.

JP: No, that's, no that's okay. It's okay.

BL: Um, did Father Quinn give you any information or share with you any information regarding ah any other accusations involving Father MacRae?

JP: No.

BL: Any other people? Okay. Did he, did he tell you at all um what was going to happen with Father MacRae now that these allegations at been brought to light?

JP: Yes he did. He called me back. We had several phone conversations so I'm a little.

BL: Okay.

JP: Iffy on the timeframe here, but ah I did talk with him later.

BL: Okay.

JP: He said that he had talked with the Bishop, that the Bishop did file a report with the Commissioner and that they had worked out an arrangement that ah MacRae would be in on-going therapy.

BL: Okay.

JP: Ah, ah for this. That he would be removed from parish work any contact with children and families so that um kids would be protected and that his function would be basically administrative only.

BL: Okay. Do you recall approximately how long after your initial conversation with Father Quinn did he get back to you and tell you this information?

JP: Boy I, I wish I could. I don't remember that it was long time.

BL: Okay.

JP: It might have been a week or two. Um, but I really don't remember.

BL: Okay. In between the time that um you had a conversation, you're initial conversation with Father Quinn and he telling you what he was going to do. Ah, did anyone, anybody from the Division of Welfare get in touch with you ah regarding the information received from [REDACTED] ah, did anyone ah speak with you from that, from that

JP: No. No. And I didn't think a lot about it because I think my understanding was that the ah because I took it face value what he said about the highest levels.

BL: Okay.

- JP: And so ah my assumption was that it was never reported to the DO, but the Commissioner had made an arrangement with the Bishop um, so the district offices were not involved.
- BL: Okay, so this was, this it was your understanding that an arrangement was made between the Bishop and
- JP: The Commissioner.
- BL: The Commissioner and it was never investigated?
- JP: That's, that was my understanding.
- BL: Okay. Um, did Father Quinn ah ever ask you to um document in writing any reports as far as what [REDACTED] divulged to you?
- JP: No he didn't.
- BL: Okay. Ah, and you continued seeing [REDACTED]
- JP: I did.
- BL: Okay. For approximately how long?
- JP: I think I saw him until I left in um actually I think I left in 1985.
- BL: Okay.
- JP: Um, that's when I went to ah, ah a committee in Mental Health Center down in the Newburyport, Haverhill area.
- BL: Do you know if ah.
- JP: I think it was '85 so I worked with him until I left the agency and then tried to ah connect him with another therapist.
- BL: Do you know if [REDACTED] ever had to be hospitalized?
- JP: Yes. He was acutely suicidal for a long time.
- BL: Okay.
- JP: He also had want he called a "hit list." Ah, he was very, very angry. Ah, I mean it was really severe PTST that he was dealing with and he had a hit list

of kids at school he was going to kill. Um, ah teachers that he was going to kill. Ah, he had trashed his room a number of times. We were all very afraid for him and ah I talked with the people. I talked with his parents. I talked with the people over at Hampstead Hospital. Um, and he was there for maybe two or three weeks. Talked with the psychiatrist that worked with him and attended family meetings over there. Visited him there and they were informed of the sexual abuse.

BL: Okay. You answered several more questions

JP: Oh, sorry.

BL: That I had when you were just explaining that, thank you. They were definitely notified that um that [REDACTED] um had made the disclosure of sexual abuse?

JP: Yep.

BL: Okay. Okay. I don't have any other questions Mrs. Paterson unless you can think of anything else you'd like to add. Um, you left Catholic Charities you said in 1985?

JP: 1985.

BL: Okay. Ah, after I guess I have another question. After the [REDACTED] incident and the investigation of that incident in your report of it. Any changes or any other ah information that you were armed with regarding should another allegation be brought forth regarding abuse involving a priest?

JP: It is the only other information I had was later and I don't know exactly when it was, but when the ah abuse allegations ah for the Keene boy surfaced then I did receive a call from a DCYF worker who had my name and had asked me about my involvement initially.

BL: Okay.

JP: The disclosure for [REDACTED] and ah.

BL: This was much later?

JP: This, this was much later. This was whenever these allegations became public and then I had another contact when there was some statement made by a Representative of the Diocese who made a statement that it may have been in defense of the, the ah Keene allegations that there was nothing reported in the Diocese prior to '87 or whenever that was. I can't quite remember.

BL: Okay.

JP: And um, when I read that statement I knew it was lie and um I think it was right around that time that there was a paper ah, a local paper carrying the story of [REDACTED] saying that he was molested in '83 or prior to that.

BL: How long after the initial disclosure came out that you continued to see [REDACTED] For how long afterward? Was it after you were no longer with Catholic Charities did you continue seeing [REDACTED]?

JP: No, no I couldn't. I couldn't.

BL: Okay.

JP: I left the agency.

BL: So it was up to approximately 1985?

JP: Yep.

BL: Okay. Did the Diocese or Father Quinn ah have any other contact with you about [REDACTED] or any additional disclosures or how his treatment was going um with you?

JP: Yes, actually. Ah, Quinn wanted to meet with the parents.

BL: Okay.

JP: And they refused. Um, they were very angry at the church. Angry at how this whole thing was, was handled and I certainly couldn't blame them and um no they didn't want to have anything to do with any of it at that point. Ah, [REDACTED] um went into um Winnacunnet in Hampton and he was having a terrible time. Went from a very small parochial school into a large cooperative high school and he was, oh he was, he was a mess and um so what I did was I called Quinn and said to him at the very least the Diocese can fund him for um what's the Catholic High School over in Dover?

BL: Oh.

JP: Um, St. Thomas Aquinas.

BL: Right.

JP: Sorry.

BL: St. Thomas.

JP: And I, I felt cause it's a smaller school and I felt that he might be able to manage there ah a little better and.

BL: Okay. And who, who would have paid for that? The Diocese?

JP: Diocese.

BL: Okay. Um, and just one more question. And I don't know if I asked you so I'm just going through my notes.

JP: Yeah.

BL: Um, did the I keep calling him the Director, the head person for the Division of Welfare. The.

JP: Commissioner.

BL: Commissioner. Thank you. Ah, did the Commissioner ever call you?

JP: Never.

BL: Speak with you directly?

JP: Never.

BL: About, about [REDACTED]

JP: Never.

BL: And, and I think you indicated no one, no investigator did either.

JP: Never.

BL: Okay. I don't have any other questions. Unless you have anything I'll conclude your statement.

JP: If there is anything else I can do, then I would be happy to do that and I think I mentioned to you earlier and I will say it again somebody lied to me. There's no way of knowing who it was or what happened, but I was told that ah MacRae was removed from contact with children and that was not true because he was doing parish work in Keene and somebody must have known that.

BL: Okay. That will conclude the audio tape statement. The time is 3:04 p.m.

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