

WITNESS STATEMENT



(Criminal Procedure Rules 2015 R16.2, Criminal Justice Act 1967 S9, Magistrates Court Act 1980 S5B)

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Statement of: **DION MWIZA RUDAKUBANA**

Age if under 18: **OVER 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: **STUDENT**

This statement (consisting of 7 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:

Signature

Date: 31st July 2024

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am Dion Mwiza RUDAKUBANA and I reside at an address know to the Police. I have agreed to attend today and provide a statement to Police regarding my brother Axel.

I was born in Cardiff but the family moved to the Southport area early in 2013. We intially moved to **DPA**

DPA

My family consists of my father Alphonse RUDAKUBANA, my mother Laetitia MUZAYARE and my brother Axel Muganwa RUDAKUBANA. Axel was born on 7th August 2006.

I have been asked to give an account of what happened on 29th July 2024. I came back to stay with my parents on Friday 26th July 2024, having been at the University **DPA**

The day I got back, I was brought home by my father. I got the impression from my dad that my brother was on a shorter fuse than usual. He was warning me not to engage too much with Axel. I havent spoken to Axel much for about a year, just hello. If you annoyed him he would be likely to throw something at you or make some kind of threat. He can be quite obsessive. If you do something against him or slight him, he would do something back to you. An example in the past would be that he previously poured orange juice in my

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parents bed after an argument. Axel was previously expelled from Range High School in Formby. Someone was bullying him. They had quite a fight. He had a knife in his bag and he was later expelled. That was 2019, year 9. He then went back to the school with a hockey stick. I think he was very frustrated that he'd been expelled. He also called childline, the night before telling them that he had a knife and he was thinking about using it as he was scared of the guy. The guy was called [DPA], I don't really know him. Axel struggled with friends in school. He was chased around the school. He hit another pupil with the stick and was later arrested. Afterwards he was moved to a referral school. He didn't enjoy that. He is an intelligent guy but I think he was frustrated being at the referral unit and separated from friends. At that time he stopped engaging with friends, stopped on line games and started to cut himself off.

Around covid time he stopped going out and engaging. He didn't leave the house for anything. He blamed my parents for his fear of going outside, probably more to justify his own decisions. He refused to go out with family. The last time we went out was 2022. Since then he hardly goes out. Back then when he was expelled he became very violent. He started to calm down eventually. He would watch the news on tv and read. He was very interested in History and Politics. He was interested in injustice and corruption, and African Politics as a result of my familys background. I think he researched a lot on line about Rwanda. He was also interested in Economics and bought books and ebooks on that subject. He essentially lived in the living room. He previously stayed in his bedroom but then would stay for long periods in the living room. He had trouble sleeping and would often sleep in the daytime. He would watch tv, read, talk to himself for long periods. If you didn't know Axel it would sound like a conversation with someone else. He would sound emotional and therefore conversational. Being in the house with Axel was often unsettling. There would be fights and my dad would leave the house until Axel calmed down. Axel would cause holes in the wall and door, which I didn't see but were likely caused by Axel throwing things.

He left the house once, my dad had picked me up from school. It would have been around 2021. He had a knife. My parents called the Police immediately. They found Axel walking the streets a few miles away and

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he told the Police he had gone out to stab someone, to get rid of his social media account. That doesn't sound logical but in Axel's mind it would. It would not have been anyone specific, just a random person. That's how he would think. The officers spoke to him and brought him home. Following that he was angry at having been stopped. He was violent around the house for a while. He was diagnosed with autism and my parents managed to get him into a new school. It seemed positive, he kind of trusted them but he stopped going. He had been having one to one work and they were trying to integrate him back with others. He was more productive at home, learning languages. He learnt Rwandan and German. He taught himself.

This time, when I came home last week, it felt like it used to do. Axel was unpredictable. My dad had gone into the room to try and connect my phone to the tv box and Axel woke and smashed the remote on the floor. My dad left him and took the remote to fix it. Axel dominated the living room. I didn't go in there at all. He was talking to himself a lot at the weekend and it sounded like he was arguing. I was nervous the entire time. Many a time he threatened my dad. We had hidden all of the knives, after the incident in 2021. A sharp knife was hidden that he would not have been able to find. That was for vegetables. It was usually hidden in the kitchen.

This time he had bought knives. He had parcels delivered. Big boxes we couldn't touch. He didn't open them. There were boxes that were open but I didn't look in them, I think they were amazon boxes which I presume had the knives in them. Every birthday he would flare up, it was always bad. If you said happy birthday he would lose his temper. I worried the parcels had something bad in them. He had money because he had previously had a Genealogy business he started himself. He created a website and charged people to research, write a report and a family tree. He earned a few thousand pounds at least. He bought a gaming PC costing over £3k. He made quite a lot of money. That funded things he was buying online. That was probably from around 2021. Boxes were in the living room unopened. Some boxes that have been there for a long time are still in the house unopened as far as I'm aware. I was sometimes there when boxes were delivered. He would go to the door accept parcels and put them in the living room. This was unusual as he

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wouldn't normally answer the door to anyone. I believe the accounts he used were ones he created himself. I suspect he may have used a name other than his own. He may have used my dads name. There were times when a lot of things were delivered, but I didn't know what they were and we werent allowed to touch them. He wouldn't tell anyone what they were. More recently there were boxes that had been delivered. The boxes behind the door were closed and covered with a blanket or towel. I think he would have told my parents to cover them, or done it himself and told them not to touch. There were other boxes when you entered the living room that had been opened. Those boxes were not there when I arrived home on the Friday. On the Monday 29th July, at about 11:15 am Axel had left the house. My mum told me she had found the wrappings of a knife, it said chefs knife on the packet. Axel was paranoid and scared. My dad told me that recently Axel had booked a taxi and tried to get in. My dad had stopped him leaving. My brother then threatened my dad and said if you stop me again there will be consequences. Axel was depressed and wasn't eating. In the few days before the 29th Axel seemed a little better, not as bad as he had been before the previous taxi had been called. My father told me this, and that seemed to suggest there wasn't as much reason to be concerned about him leaving the house. That was my parents thoughts. I was still worried.. When he left the house my parents thought he may have gone for a walk. My dad was more apprehensive but my mum thought Axel had just gone for a walk. I left the house midday to get a bus to meet friends and **DPA**

DPA We were going to go for a walk in Ainsdale. I was worried that Axel might do something bad. By the time I got to **DPA** I ran into a friend and someone mentioned there had been stabbings in town. I then started to worry it might be about my brother. We went for something to eat and it started to become apparent something really bad had happened. The Police helicopter was overhead. I hadn't heard from my parents which worried me. I was concerned he may have harmed them. I went to Ainsdale to get away from people with my friend. I hadn't eaten anything that day. I think my parents were worried as they would normally make me eat. I was later messaged by my dad and we spoke on the phone. The Police were with my parents. They told me to carry on with my friends and we did. My dad later called me and they told me

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not to go too far. We avoided people. I had been told that someone had gone to a place with young people and stabbed lots of people. I was told about five people had been killed. I belived by now that it was my brother who was responsible. I wasn't told directly but I knew it was him. I subsequently got a train from Southport to Ainsdale. People were talking about what had happened. We went into the woods and sat around the pond. My dad rang me and talked about collecting me. An officer with my dad said they would pick me up at some point. We continued to walk towards Freshfields and to a friends house. I realised around this time that things were very serious. We waited at my friends house until I was collected by a Police van. They took me to meet with my parents at a hotel.

My brother had previously been seeing someone to do with anger management, after the hockey stick incident where he injured someone at the school. It was to do with Social services and CAMHS but that was only over 10 months. I don't think people realised how bad Axel had become. Axel had said when bad things happened, like the hockey stick incident, he blacks out and doesn't remember anything. That also applied to fights he had prior to that. There were a lot of trouble causers in the school and I think Axel trusted no one and was bullied. He was smaller that others and picked on. In his year [DPA] was a bully but there werent many others. There were other bullies but [DPA] seemed to be the worst.

My parents are catholic and we were both brought up Catholic. My parents got involved in Christianity but went away from Catholicism. Myself and my brother had to go to church but not now. We didn't like going. They prayed for me to try and help me walk again. My brother sat looking at a tablet and withdrew. I would say my brother is not religeous now and never really was. He may even be anti religion but its not really a major issue.

Axel had been diagnosed with autism. Axel didn't accept that initially. He thought he had ADHD. He eventually got medication for things. He usually had bad anxiety. He took meds but eventually stopped taking them. I don't think he has taken medication for about a year or longer. He looked depressed on meds and he didn't like taking them. I have previously seen a movie called 'No Country for Old Men'. When I saw

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that the main character he very much reminded me of my brother. The character was a sociopath. It was really close to how my brother was. Most arguments with Axel would arise out of inaccuracies or inconsistencies. His response didn't necessarily match the issue. He would over react.

Axel's last friends were from school in 2019. He probably hasn't spoken to someone his own age since. He kept up to date by watching the news. He would occasionally watch sports, loose women etc. He had previously watched game shows like the Chase, but then went to just watching News. He liked Ed Sheeran but then got interested in popular music and rap. I don't know exactly what. He would sometimes ramble words to rap songs.

In terms of on line games he used to play in year 9. My parents were against violent games. He used to play 'dead by daylight', which is an over 18 game, he also played fortnight. Around covid time he completely stopped gaming.

In terms of Politics Axel wasn't extreme, more mainstream. He was really against corruption. Because he watch mainstream news mostly his views would be shaped by that.

My brother would pace around and talk to himself a lot. My brother wouldn't show any empathy. This had progressively got worse. In primary school he thrived. After moving from Cardiff he was at the centre of friendship groups. After moving schools he struggled. He still had empathy then. After he was expelled there was steady decline. The extent of his empathy was from watching the news. He refused to engage and showed no empathy. He may have been able to debate facts but show no empathy. In his eyes any response he made would be justified, even if it seemed to others like an over reaction, or an under reaction. His behaviour sometimes confused me.

I think there were times when things happened with Axel that could have been taken more seriously. I think four years ago he could have been taken out of the house and had intensive mental health support. He refused help and things got worse. I think more could have been done. He wasn't capable of understanding his own issues. He stopped eating and had supplements. I was so surprised in 2021 when Axel was brought

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home by the Police and had a knife, as mentioned earlier. I think more could have been done then. He was only helped with things he acknowledged as issues. With things we saw he wouldn't have accepted any help or support. We wouldn't be able to talk to him about things. He would get angry.

I am happy to assist the Police in any way I can and will provide a further statement if requested.

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