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MG11(P)

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WITNESS STATEMENT			
(Criminal Procedure Rules R16.2, Criminal Justice Act 1967 S9)			
		URN	
Statement of	Laetitia Muzayire		
Age if under 18	OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')	Occupation	BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST
This statement (consisting of page(s)) 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 	L. MUZAYIRE		Date 31/07/2024
Name / Rank / No	N/A		

I am Laetitia MUZAYIRE and I live at an address known to Merseyside Police.

I was born in Rwanda and arrived in England in 2002 moving to Cardiff where I met my husband Alphonse RUDAKUBANA through friends.

Alphonse and I had two children Dion Mwiza RUDAKUBANA born in 2004 and then Axel Muganwa RUDAKUBANA born later in 2006. We lived in Cardiff where Alphonse and I studied for degrees as mature students at Cardiff University; I studied Biomedical Sciences and Alphonse Accountancy. We graduated in 2010 when Dion was 6 and Axel 3. It was difficult to secure jobs in Cardiff so we applied countrywide on the understanding that whoever secured a job first we would move to be near their place of work.

I obtained a job in the laboratory at Southport Hospital in 2013 and the family moved to a rented flat in Southport. Dion was in Y4 and Axel Y2 when we left Cardiff.

In 2017 we moved to an address in Banks and in 2018 I moved to my current role as a Biomedical Scientist at The Royal Preston Hospital in Lancashire.

Dion and Axel attended St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Southport.

Axel was happy there; he was popular and had many friends. One friend was a boy called

DPA whose dad was a police officer he went on holiday with DPA and his dad in Y6 to a caravan in Leeds. He also went to sleepovers at his friends' houses.

Dion left primary school and started at Christ the King Secondary School, his mobility began to fail and the school was unable to accommodate him so he moved to The Range in Formby.

Axel followed him in Y7 in September 2017.

By this time Axel was playing hockey in a club, he played Tennis in North Meol's Tennis Club and gymnastics at a club in Stanley High School, Southport.

In Summer 2016 or 2017, Axel and I were involved in a car crash on the Coastal Road, Southport; another car driver drove towards us and hit us , they ended up in a field. We were both injured, Axel was taken to Ormskirk Hospital and I went to Southport Hospital. We were both burnt by the air bags I had back pains and Axel developed tinnitus which lasted a while. Axel started at The Range in Year 7 , he was the only from his primary school so he had to make new friends, which he did; but they weren't close enough to come back to our house for tea.

Axel started year 8 and in changed from being a happy child into a confused one complaining of being bullied at school. It was either one or two boys that were bullying him, but I can't remember their names.

Alphonse dealt with the school, I didn't feel like anything was done about it ; certainly nothing formal was done about it.

Axel took a kitchen knife to school, a small one, the school found it and Axel was expelled early in year 8.

Axel then attended the ACORNS School, being taken to and from the unit by taxi daily. He liked going there at first but then stopped wanting to go and not doing the work either in the classroom or what they set for him to do at home. Some days he refused to get into the taxi. When the COVID lockdown came, his lessons were on line and he did a bit in the beginning , but then stopped altogether. I tried pushing him a bit, but it didn't work.

On one occasion he booked a taxi on his own, even though there was one coming for him anyway to take him to the unit, he had the taxi take him to The Range High School. He took with

him a kitchen knife and a hockey stick, he hit a couple of children with the stick and when the gates were closed (as school began) he tried to climb over the fence and the police were called.

He was arrested and taken to the Police Station, I attended at the Police Station leaving Alphonse at home looking after Dion. Our house was searched and we were asked to collect Axel from the station later that night.

He was referred to Mental Health services through the police, he had meetings that were held in Preston and Alphonse would take him.

He also had a social worker, who was very nice and came to the house to see Axel, he talked to Axel about what he done, about carrying knives and how it can impact on other people. Axel wouldn't allow me or Alphonse to be present at these sessions.

Around this time Axel was diagnosed with autism, coupled with not attending school, being in lockdown and spending all his time inside the house he developed anxiety and a fear of going out.

Axel has seen a psychiatrist from Alder Hey Hospital- Dr Anthony Molyneux . He has telephone appointments with Dr Molyneux, sometimes Axel wouldn't speak to him and would just throw the phone down. On occasions Dr Molyneux would visit the house Axel hid in his room so the Dr went upstairs to him. Another time he refused to attend an appointment with Dr Molyneux and hid under the bedcovers.

Dr Molyneux prescribed him sertraline, he looked well on this medication, he had no side effects but Axel didn't feel it was working as he wanted to go outside so he stopped taking it. Probably too soon.

Axel asked to change his medication, he didn't like the taste of the medicine and preferred tablets. He got side effects with the second medication; he had no appetite and stopped taking it abruptly leaving him very anxious.

Axel hasn't taken any medication for a while.

Axel was allocated a female caseworker who was to teach him coping strategies. Axel wouldn't engage so he never met her.

Whilst he under Dr Molyneux, we dealt with him directly and not the GP although the clinic letters would be sent to our GP Christian Hartley at his surgery.

By this time Axel had stopped all his sports activities,

Axel used to be so clean , he showered twice a day and put clean clothes on. He wouldn't wait for me to wash his clothes , he'd put a wash on himself.

He started growing his hair after covid, before then we would take the boys to the hairdressers and get their hair cut and afterwards we'd go and get something to eat.

Once he started growing his hair, on occasions he would ask me to help him to wash it. He has always looked after his teeth, he brushes them repeatedly and uses mouth wash. He doesn't like people seeing his mouth, I don't know why.

Around Easter 2023 he stopped being so clean, he stopped showering sometimes he would change his clothes but other times I would have to ask him to change. I would be careful how I asked him, I would have to be tactful about it. If I didn't get it right he would throw something on the floor, if he was eating, it could be the plate. The plate would smash and he would say " Go away". On other occasions he threw the remote control.

Alphonse works as a taxi driver, even though he has a Accountancy qualification he needed a job that he could work around the boys especially when Dion lost his mobility.

We work as a team, a good team, and Alphonse being at home more has had more to deal with. Axel has thrown water at Alphonse, he has poured water and milk on our bed. We have a mattress protector on our bed for this reason. He poured mouthwash on it. There are ketchup and other food stains on our walls and when we brought a decorator in to have a look, he told us we would be wasting our money whilst this could still happen.

On one occasion Axel put the food he was eating on Alphonse's head, it was chicken tikka and rice, we called the police and they came and had a word with Axel, he didn't do it again that night and went to bed.

Depending on how he is feeling, depends where he sleeps. Sometimes it's in his bed, which is in the smaller bedroom upstairs on the bottom bunk, he likes there being a top bunk but he always sleeps on the bottom one. When I go up to bed I go into his room and give him a hug goodnight. I like to keep engaging with him so he doesn't get too distant.

Other times Axel sleeps on the sofa in the living room with his computer and his tablet. He used to have an iphone which broke, Axel told me not to buy an expensive phone to replace it, he would rather have a tablet. I bought a tablet from Argos, I can't remember the make of it, but Axel would watch gogglebox on it. I don't know his passwords or anything as no one is allowed to touch it.

I bought him a nokia phone from a tiny shop in Southport, I can't remember if it came with a SIM card.

He has gradually stopped answering my calls as well as everyone elses, he doesn't trust anyone and so won't answer his phone; he is too cautious.

When Axel is tired he will sleep, although it might be upstairs or downstairs. Sometimes he will sleep a few hours upstairs and then move downstairs there's no pattern to it. Sometimes he will sleep all day and stay awake all night, I have tried to get him into a pattern but if he sleeps one or two nights, he might not stay in that routine . There's no pattern .

Axel has always been a picky eater, he will eat McDonald's, pizza and chicken nuggets. The only food he will eat at home is ham and cheese paninis and sometimes spaghetti bolognaise.

He has recently started having milk on his cereals, he got drinks from the nutritionist, they have vitamins in them, he gets them on a prescription and he likes them. He has these as supplements as he won't eat fruit or vegetables, he has started having milk so he gets his calcium.

Axel spends his days reading online, he likes history and reads journals. He doesn't like anyone making a noise when he is reading, he reads economics; he will pick a country and find out about about their GDP, the language spoken etc. He can talk about politics, religions and where people originated from in particular countries and their cultures; what food they eat .

He taught himself German during lockdown and my mother tongue - Kinyarwanda.

Once he's eaten he will walk up and down the living room and into the kitchen, sometimes he'll do this whilst still reading his tablet.

If someone passes him whilst he is reading and he doesn't want any noise he will put a blanket over his head, I don't think this is to stop us seeing what he has on his tablet as where he sits we can't see his tablet anyway.

Axel will ignore me, if he doesn't want something he will react with a shake of his head and a "mm mm". I know not to push it so he won't react .

When he was younger Axel liked the clothes I bought him, but as he's got worse he will only wear jeans for appointments, like the dentist, opticians or psychiatrist. When he started missing a shower a week, once he knew he was going to an appointment he would have a shower and put clean clothes on. Recently he doesn't attend appointments and so there's no point in having a shower.

When Axel was 16 we opened a bank account for him, this contained money that he got for his birthdays, it was so he could buy things without asking us for money. He doesn't need to buy clothes as I buy them, he doesn't want a watch or wear aftershave so he doesn't spend money on that.

I like to clean the house, but it's been over a year since I've been able to clean Axel's room.

When I last cleaned it over a year ago, he told me off saying "Why did you clean it? Why did you change the bed?"

I think this is because he didn't want me to see something, I didn't go in because I didn't want to make him mad and cause chaos in the house. I am aware that Dion would not be able to run

away if there was a problem, also I didn't want to Axel to hit Alphonse, which he has done before or cause damage to the house again he has done this before. Besides throwing things at the wall he has turned the taps on upstairs and downstairs flooding the house.

He has been receiving Amazon parcels, I don't believe they are from my account as I have not received any emails regarding any orders, I presume that he has his own account. When any parcels are being delivered he jumps up to the door to get there before anyone else.

Axel likes to win verbal arguments, he will argue with Alphonse whereas I try to keep the peace. He has no relationship with Dion, they don't argue; they just don't have anything in common.

A couple of weeks ago Axel asked me for a mask so he could go out. I was pleased about this as I thought he was getting better, there was a mask in the kitchen but I don't know if he took this one.

On 22nd July 2024, I was in work when Alphonse texted me around 11am, I didn't see my phone until lunchtime as we're not allowed them in work. The text asked me to call him when I had the chance. I rang him and Alphonse calmly told me that he was outside the house and that he was waiting to see if Axel would let him back in. I managed to get time off to go home, when I got there Alphonse was sat in his car. he told me that Axel had ordered a taxi to pick him up. Alphonse had seen this and ran outside and spoke to the driver asking him not to take Axel. Alphonse said that Axel had a black rucksack with him, and was sat in the car wearing a mask. Alphonse said, "You're not taking my son."

The taxi driver asked "Why?" and Alphonse said, " Because he's my son."

The taxi driver asked for five pounds as he'd come for nothing, which Alphonse gave him and Axel got out the taxi, went in the house and shut the door behind on his dad.

We waited outside for ages, I think it was about 6 o'clock before we got in, even though I had my key we were trying to think of a way to get in safely without causing any chaos. We were lucky that it was just me and Alphonse as Dion was still at university.

We made it look like I was coming home from work at the usual time and knew nothing. We went in and everything was back to normal, Axel had got changed and Alphonse made him something to eat. He was acting as nothing had happened and was watching the Olympics. He asked for a McDonald's so I went and got him one.

I took two half days on Tuesday and Wednesday to make sure everything was okay, which it was.

Dion came home on Friday, Alphonse drove and got him, I stayed at home. Axel didn't say anything to him when he arrived, he was watching something on his tablet. Dion wanted a shower so we helped him upstairs.

We had a normal weekend, on Sunday 28th July 2024 I noticed how happy Axel was looking, he looked nice not grumpy at all, it was a good day. He even high fived me and gave me a hug. On Monday 29th July I had to go for a blood test at 8am, I saw Axel before my blood test , he looked fine. When I returned I asked if he wanted any cereal or anything. He was wearing a green hoodie and dark trousers and trainers. I offered him panini bread but he didn't want anything . I had some breakfast then told Axel that I was going to bed as I was on a night shift that night. He said "Okay.". This was after 9am, Dion was showering and Alphonse was helping him.

Alphonse said "I think Axel is going for a walk" . This was because he had put a mask on in the house. I heard the front door bang, I looked out of Dion's window and saw Axel walking out of the close at a normal pace. I started feeling my stomach, but thought "let him go" as I thought he was going for a walk.

Dion left the house to go ut with his friends.

A short while later I heard helicopters overhead, Aphonse heard them too and then the Police knocked on the door and led us out.

I have not been back to my house since.

This is an awful situation and I will assist Merseyside Police with any further enquiries.

L. Muzayire