



L902

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

Statement of: Adam WHITWORTH

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation:

This statement (consisting of 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.

Witness Signature: Date:

This statement that I provide to Police is regarding my son, Daniel Whitworth and my recent contact with him.

Daniel was born on the 22nd March 1993 at Gravesend hospital. At the time I was in a relationship with his mother, Penny Jones. However, we were having a difficult time prior to having Daniel and then she got post natal depression afterwards which made it even more difficult. I ended up moving out, mainly due to Penny not being able to look after Daniel due to her depression. We were living in Dartford at the time but I ended up moving out and taking Daniel with me.

Daniel went to Knockhall Primary School and then moved onto Dartford Grammar school. He ended up being excluded from Dartford Grammar school as he was having behavioral problems. I think that some of these problems and insecurities came from him being Gay. He ended up finishing his schooling in the phoenix centre after he was excluded. He then went to college in Denton to study catering before going into the catering profession. Daniel worked for ISS catering in Canary wharf, he was always keen on cooking and he was very good at it. He used to do long hours at work and seemed dedicated to his job. He had been accepted for a new job at Reynolds retreat spa which was in Kent and much closer to his home. He was travelling long distances to work and was looking forward to moving.

I would describe Daniel as being about 6'2" tall, very thin build, about 9.5-10 stone, he had short dark hair with a side parting, he liked to wear casual clothing, he'd usually be dressed in trainers, jeans and often wore light blue colours. Even though he dressed casually he looked smart. Daniel had a very reserved personality. He was a hard worker, often getting up very early, but he had no particular routines that I'm aware of. Daniel liked to drink but drugs weren't his thing, he would usually drink lager or rum and coke. He never had personality switches or any other symptoms that would make me think he was on drugs. Daniel would drink a lot of alcohol and on occasions I was with him when he had drunk too much. He still never became aggressive and his personality didn't change too much.

Daniel struggled with his mental health but he didn't have any clinical problems. He had scars on his arms from self harming. He started self harming approximately 12-13 years ago and I know that he still did it occasionally when he moved out of my house. It is very difficult to know when this started because it's easy to hide.

I knew that Daniel was gay from an early age. I remember that there was a boy from Dartford Grammar school that Daniel got in a bit of trouble for stalking. He was only about 14 years old at the time but even then I thought that he may have been gay. I never spoke to him about it at the time as it didn't concern me in any way.

Witness Signature:

Signature Witnessed by Signature:





Continuation of Statement of:

I don't know what type of phone Daniel had but it was a smartphone that he could get onto facebook etc on. Ricky may know more about it.

I have never heard of Daniel mentioning anyone from Barking or even him going out in Barking before, it was a shock to hear that he had been found there.

I have been asked if I know who Daniel may have been calling from his phone. I confirm that I don't know the name of any of his friends, but he will have been calling Ricky on [DPA]531, my current partner Amanda Pearson, [DPA]583, me on [DPA]349 or [DPA]072 and his Grandmother Barbara Whitworth on [DPA]421 and [DPA]817. I'm not aware of anyone else however, he did have friends at work and I'm sure he may have called some of Ricky's family but I don't have their details.

This incident has had a massive impact on my life and also on the lives all of my family, especially my partner, Amanda, who I have been living with for around 5-6 years. We have been feeling terrible and blaming ourselves for the fact we didn't notice he was feeling bad about anything. Especially the fact he was feeling bad enough about something to take his own life. I didn't believe this would have happened, however the police told me it must have been the case. After being shown the suicide note, myself and Amanda said that Daniel wouldn't have written a suicide note in that way. It would have been more personal, I also said he didn't sign off notes in the way he did and there was a section where he said he didn't tell his family he went out. He wouldn't need to tell us he went out as he didn't live with us. This all seemed very odd to us. We were told by police that we were over thinking it though. We did admit that the writing looked like Daniels but I had assumed wrongly that police had compared the handwriting sample they got from Ricky to the note and that it was Daniels. They had the handwriting sample for a while prior to me looking at the note. When I looked at the note with police I didn't have the sample of Daniels writing to compare it with which would have helped.

To now be told that Daniel has been killed by someone is devastating. I would never get over the loss of my son but we were getting to a stage where we were finding the loss easier to cope with. We now have to deal with the whole situation again which we are very unhappy about. Yes, we are happy that someone has been found responsible for Daniels death, however, we both feel that this should have been picked up earlier. We have also been hounded by press regarding this latest announcement of Stephen Port killing my son. We were not even able to leave the house at the beginning due to them outside my flat. This has calmed down slightly now but I'm still worried I'm being followed to the shops etc. I will give the police a full statement about the impact this has had on another occasion.

Witness Signature:

Signature Witnessed by Signature:

