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Date : 21st Dec 2010. Version 2 with dates or/and ages to help place the incidents.

To Whom It May Concern.

Regarding: Aurora Dobbie, Orion Dobbie, Tom Dobbie and Avril Dobbie.

Introduction.

I am the son of Tom Dobbie. Aurora and Orion are my younger sister and brother. Avril Dobbie is my stepmother.

I was three years old when my father married Avril. I grew up living at their house on most weekends and some holidays.

I stayed full time at the house when Aurora was born and left when she was three to attend college in Plymouth (where my mother then lived).

I stayed full time during January to April 2008.

Over the time that I lived in the house I have suffered abuse from Avril, both physical and mental. Over the later periods when Orion and Aurora were present I witnessed both physical and mental abuse to both of them from their mother. I have also witnessed Avril regularly giving verbal abuse to my father, and on a number of occasions physically attacking him.

Avril's behavior to people outside of the home is completely different to her behavior to people inside the home.

I am willing to testify to all of these matters primarily to help my sister and brother.

Some notes on things that have happened (not exhaustive).

1. As a child between the ages of 4 and 11, Avril frequently tried to get us all doing things. However, she had a short fuse which frequently turned her into a bully.
2. Avril would get very angry if she lost at a sport or a game. She once threw a chess board across the living room because she kept losing to Tom.
3. Avril argued often with Tom. A lot of times it was about me. She often told me she didn't want me there.
4. While I was at primary school, Tom had to take me on business trips with him during the school holidays because Avril refused to look after me.
5. Avril refused to go on summer holidays with all of us. She insisted that she would only go on holiday with Tom if I was not present. On a number of occasions Tom had to drive me to Scotland and leave me with relatives so he could continue working. On some occasions he would book babysitters local to where he needed to visit (England, Wales and Ireland) and check me in and out.
6. All through the times I have known her, Avril was quite physical and often started play fights. This usually ended when she would lash out and retaliate over aggressively
7. While at primary school, Avril would sometimes try to help me with school work after Tom had asked her to make an effort with me, but often got confused and angry. This would end with shouting abuse at me.

8. As a younger child, 5 to 8 years old, when Avril did not like a book or graphic novel I was reading she would tear it up or throw it away in front of me.
9. Tom would often ask me to try and talk to her in a quiet manner to avoid confrontation. Avril would frequently accuse me of talking back and I would be shouted at with swear words and abuse.
10. Over the years, I have witnessed many occasions when Avril would attack Tom physically, generally resulting in him having to run out of the house to avoid further attack or on some occasions he would restrain her from hitting him and try to talk her down. One time she back head butted him and burst his nose – I was about 9 at the time.
11. When other people were in the house Avril would boast to people about kicking, kneeing and hitting Tom at night while he was asleep because he was snoring. She would go on to laugh about him then having to sleep on the floor. Age 8 to 12.
12. There was an incident when we were driving to Scotland when Avril became upset and threw a cup of just poured boiling hot coffee over Tom's face while he was still driving on the motorway. It was really scary and we ended up stopped on the hard shoulder to calm things down. Age 12.
13. There was an incident when Avril started one of her fights with Tom and attacked him viciously with her nails, leaving cuts on his face. Tom's main concern was that he had to go to a board meeting looking like he had been attacked. Age 8.
14. When Aurora was born, it was almost every night that Aurora was crying in the room with Avril. Aurora's crying was often accompanied by bangs and thuds from Avril who could be heard cursing in frustration. When Tom attempted to intervene he would be shouted and cursed at also, usually leading to Aurora crying more.
15. On one occasion, Avril had an argument with Tom about the best way to do something with Aurora. Avril got really angry, locked Aurora in the car and ran off with the keys. She came back some time later and apologized. Aurora was a small baby.
16. I frequently waited in another room in the mornings to avoid the fights between Avril and Aurora. On one occasion, when I did venture out into the hallway, Avril was sitting on top of Aurora holding her down while Aurora crying, screaming and struggling to escape.
17. When Avril wanted to brush Aurora's hair she somehow always managed to get Aurora crying lots. On some occasions Tom would successfully negotiate getting the brush from Avril and finishing the hair brushing so that Aurora wouldn't be hurt and stop crying. Avril would often talk about how she resented this. Aurora 3 onwards.
18. Another time when Avril would become very aggressive was when changing Orion's or Aurora's nappy. This was particularly a problem between Avril and Orion that would usually end up with Orion being spanked while she was changing his nappy. It was generally accepted that Tom would have to change Orion's nappy if it was more than wet.
19. Tom would be either verbally or physically attacked when he tried to intervene with Avril mistreating the children. Aurora 1 onwards.
20. During my stay in 2008, Avril apologized to me for her previous behavior. She said she had learned a lot since having her own children. It didn't stop her fighting with Aurora and Orion during that period
21. I asked my dad on numerous occasions to call the police or report Avril to social services. My dad defended her frequently saying that she needed help, not punishing.

If I can be of further assistance, then please contact me.

Graham Dean.