CLANN: IRELAND'S UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN: GATHERING THE DATA

Statement of Witness 86a

Reference Code:	CLANN/WIT86a
Status:	Adopted person
Institution(s)/Agencies:	Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home, Tuam, Galway; Poor Clare's Convent, Nun's Island, Galway; Western Health Board
Date:	16th November 2018
Transcript:	4 pages
Records/Papers included:	Yes
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WITNESS STATEMENT OF [redacted]

I, [redacted] of [redacted] WILL SAY:

1. I make this statement for the purpose of providing evidence to the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation established by the Irish Government pursuant to Section 3 of the Commissions of Investigations Act 2004.

2. Attached to this statement is an exhibit marked "[redacted]1" which contains various copy documents. References to page numbers in this statement are to pages in [redacted]1.

3. I make this statement as an adopted person.

Circumstances of my Birth and Early Life

4. I was born on [redacted] 1929 at Galway Central Maternity Hospital, County Galway. After I was born, I was taken to the Tuam Childrens' Home, otherwise known as Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home ("**Bon Secours**"). My birth was registered in my original name, which is [redacted]. I am now 89 years old [redacted]**1/Page 1]**.

5. I was in Bon Secours from [redacted] 1929 until [redacted] 1933. I was told that a lady took me from the home and then brought me back. I returned to Bon Secours shortly after on [redacted] 1933. I have no recollection of this and I have never been given an explanation about this period of time that I was not living at the home. A few months later I was boarded out on [redacted] 1933 [redacted]**1/Pages 3-8]**. I have no recollection of this either. I was then returned to the home before I was taken out again by my adopted family.

6. I lived in Bon Secours for four years and ten months until I was adopted. I understand that I was baptised at the Galway Central Maternity Hospital and my sponsor was [redacted]. I do not know if [redacted] was a relation to my birth family or not. I was also baptised in my birth name.

7. I have no information about the time my birth mother spent at Bon Secours, as unfortunately she passed away before we could meet. I do not know when she entered the home or when she left, whether they treated her well or not. I have no information about any tests, vaccinations or any treatment of me while I was in the home. I only have one memory of Bon Secours and that is sitting alone on the floor.

The adoption process and my life with my adoptive family

8. I understand that it was Poor Clare's Convent in Nun's Island, Galway that arranged my adoption. I am not entirely sure of the process of adoption, as I have not been able to obtain any information about how my adoptive parents applied to adopt me or any follow-up they had with the convent afterwards.

9. I was adopted by [redacted] of [redacted] I was placed with my adoptive parents at the age of four years and ten months. I was never told as a child that I was adopted and only discovered this when I was in hospital at age 11 [redacted]. This was a difficult time for me.

10. I had a very good upbringing and was brought up very well. I had one adoptive sister called [redacted] I had a very good relationship with my adoptive parents, in particular I had a fantastic relationship with my adoptive mother.

11. I have no real information about my early childhood, as I have not been able to obtain any records or speak to anyone who would have known me or my mother before my adoption.

Information and Finding Out about my Birth Parents

12. I waited until my adoptive parents passed before I began my search. A friend helped me with the search. Despite significant efforts I have not been able to find out any information about the time my mother and I spent in Bon Secours and no one has been able to tell me anything either. It has been incredibly frustrating, as there must be records of our stay somewhere.

13. I do not have any information about my birth father, as he was unknown and none of the records that I have been able to obtain refer to him by name or at all.

14. I had two birth siblings who died in Bon Secours, one sister and one brother. My birth sister's name was [redacted] who was born on [redacted] 1937 and died on [redacted] 1938. My birth brother's name was [redacted] was born on [redacted] 1939 and died on [redacted] 1940. I understand that he died of meningitis.

15. I visited one of the villages called [redacted] in [redacted] where I understand my birth mother lived. I found a man called [redacted] who I later discovered was my cousin. He didn't know much about my birth mother, other than the fact she had died and was buried in the local village with her still born baby. [redacted] did not know any more about my birth mother and he has since passed away.

Access to Information

16. It is clear from the story set out above that it was difficult to obtain the requisite information about my mother. I have only been able to obtain limited information, most of which I have found in the few documents provided to me further to a Freedom of Information Request from the Western Health Board.

I believe that the contents of this statement are true.

Signed [redacted] .....

[redacted]

Date 16 November 2018

EXHIBIT [redacted]1

UM [redacted]

ÉIRE IRELAND

Deimhniú breithe ar na h-éisiúint de bhun na hAchta um Chlárú Breitheanna agus Básanna 1863 go 1972.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE issued in pursuance of Births and Deaths Registration Acts 1863 to 1972.

Breitheanna a Cláraíodh i gCeantar Births Registered in the District of Galway No. 2. *i gCeantar an Chláraitheora Maoirseachta do in the Superintendent Registrar's District of Galway

Uimh. No. (1)	Dáta agus Ionad Breithe Date and Place of Birth (2)	Ainm (má tugadh) Name (if any) (3)	Gnéas Sex (4)	Ainm, Sloinne agus Ionad Chónaithe an Athar Name and Surname and Dwelling Place of Father (5)	Ainm agus Sloinne na Máthar agus a Sloinne roimh Phósadh di Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother (6)	Céim nó Gairm Bheatha an Athar Rank or Profession of Father (7)	Síniú, Cáilíocht agus Ionad Chónaithe an Fháisnéiseora Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant (8)	An Clá Reg
[redacted]	1929 [redacted] Central Maternity Hospital Galway	[redacted]	M		[redacted] Inion ~~Formerly~~		[redacted] Occupier Central Hospital Galway	[redacted]

Deimhním le seo gur thiomsaíodh na sonraí thuasluaithe ó Chlár-leabhar atá faoi mo chúram.
I hereby certify that the foregoing particulars have been compiled from a Register in my custody.

[redacted]

Is é Bliain na Breithe sa Deimhniú thuas ná
The Year of Birth shown in the above Certificate is

Mîle One Thousand Nine gCéad Hundred and Twenty-Nine

Cláraitheoir *(Maoirseachta) na mBreitheanna agus na mBásanna
*(Superintendent) Registrar of Births and Deaths.

Oifig Office 49 SUPT REG of B. D. & M. -6 HEALTH BOARD OFFICES 2 NEWCASTLE RD GALWAY CITY

*Scrios amach an focal idir lúibíní más neamhchuí. *Strike out words in brackets if not applicable.

Is cion trom é an teastas seo a athrú nó é a úsáid taréis a athraithe

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ÉIRE IRELAND

Deimhniú breithe ar na h-éisiúint de bhun na hAchta um Chlárú Breitheanna agus Básanna 1863 go 1972.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE issued in pursuance of Births and Deaths Registration Acts 1863 to 1972.

way No. 2. i gCeantar an Chláraitheora Maoirseachta do in the Superintendent Registrar's District of Galway i gContae in the County of Galway

	Gnéas Sex (4)	Ainm, Sloinne agus Ionad Chónaithe an Athar Name and Surname and Dwelling Place of Father (5)	Ainm agus Sloinne na Máthar agus a Sloinne roimh Phósadh di Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother (6)	Céim nó Gairm Bheatha 'an Athar Rank or Profession of Father (7)	Síniú, Cáilíocht agus Ionad Chónaithe an Fháisnéiseora Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant (8)	An Dáta a Cláraíodh When Registered (9)	Síniú an Chláraitheora Signature of Registrar (10)	Ainm Baiste, má tugadh é taréis Chlárú na Breithe agus an Dáta Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth, and Date (11)
	M		[redacted]		[redacted] Central Hospital Galway	[redacted] 1929	[redacted] Cláraitheoir Registrar	

e ó Chlár-leabhar atá faoi mo chúram.
compiled from a Register in my custody.

[redacted]

Cláraitheoir *(Maoirseachta) na mBreitheanna agus na mBásanna
(Superintendent) Registrar of Births and Deaths.

Oifig
Office 49 SUPT REG of B. D. & M. -6 HEALTH BOARD OFFICES 25 NEWCASTLE RD GALWAY TY

*Scrios amach an focal idir lúibíní murab ionann é. *Strike out words in brackets if not applicable.

Is cion trom é an teastas seo a athrú nó a úsáid taréis a athraithe

I gCeantar
For the District of Galway

Dáta
Date [redacted] 94

ty-Nine

ALTER THIS DOCUMENT OR TO UTTER IT SO ALTERED IS A SERIOUS OFFENCE

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SCHEDULE – Thomas Joseph Reilly

Page	Description	Date	Decision	Comment
1	Information contained in the **Tuam Home Register of Admissions & Discharges, dated Jan 1930 – Jan 1928.** Entry in **Tuam Home Register, of Admissions, page 71**, of [redacted] D.O. B. [redacted] 1929, aged [redacted]	[redacted]	Granted	
2	Entry in **Tuam Home Register of Discharge, page 46**, of [redacted] aged 4yrs and 9mts being discharged	[redacted] 1933	Granted	
3	Entry in **Tuam Home Register of Admissions, page 47**, on the 21st October 1933, of [redacted], aged 5 ½yrs.	21st October 1933	Granted	
4	Entry of **Tuam Home Register of Discharge, page 49**, on the 8th December 1933 of [redacted] being discharged aged 5 ½yrs.	8th December 1933	Granted	

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County of Galway.

REGISTER OF ADMISSIONS.

Register Number	Date of Admission.	NAME (Surname first.)	Age	State in case of a Child.	
				Place of Birth	Date of Birth
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	Galway Hospital	[redacted] 1927

OF GALWAY.

r Admission

CHILDREN'S HOME, TUAM.

and Discharge Book,

Month of [redacted] 1933

DISCHARGED.

If born in Institution Name of Mother.	Date of Discharge or Death	Name	Register No.	Age	The figure 1 to be entered in the column of the Class to which Inmate belongs						Insert word "died" in case of death in Institution
					Mothers		Children				
					Married	Unmarried	Legitimate		Illegitimate		
							M.	F.	M.	F.	
	[redacted] 33	[redacted]	[redacted]	4 5/12					1		

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FORM 32.

COUNTY OF GALWAY.

Indoor Admission

Half-Year Ending the last day of March 19 4

ADMITTED.

Date of Admission or Birth	Name	Register No.	Age	The figure 1 to be entered in the column of the Class to which Inmate belongs						If born in Institution Name of Mother.
				MOTHERS		CHILDREN				
				Married	Unmarried	Legitimate		Illegitimate		
						M.	F.	M.	F.	

[redacted]

6

OF GALWAY.

oor Admission

CHILDREN'S HOME, TUAM.

and Discharge Book.

3

Month of December 1934

DISCHARGED.

If born in Institution Name of Mother.	Date of Discharge or Death	Name	Register No.	Age	The figure 1 to be entered in the column of the Class to which Inmate belongs						Insert word "died" in case of death in Institution
					Mothers		Children				
					Married	Unmarried	Legitimate		Illegitimate		
							M.	F.	M.	F.	
		[redacted]	[redacted]	4 5 2							

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