

## MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSON INTERVIEWED: JEANNETTE GAGNON

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: New Hampshire Attorney General's Office  
Concord, NH

INTERVIEWED BY: <sup>ML</sup> Brooke Lemoine, Detective  
<sup>5/11/03</sup> Brenda M. Blonigen, Sergeant

DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 24, 2002

RE: GORDON JAMES MACRAE

BL: This is an audio taped statement taking place at the Attorney General's Office in Concord. The date is the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2002. The time is 10:22 a.m. This is Detective Brooke Lemoine. Also in the interview conference room is Sgt. Brenda Blonigen and we're conducting the interview, statement of Jeanette Gagnon. Jeanette, could you spell your last name for me please.

JG: GAGNON.

BL: And could you please tell me where you live please, ma'am?

JG: I currently live in [REDACTED], New Hampshire.

BL: Okay. Could you give me your address?

JG: [REDACTED]

BL: And could I have your date of birth, please, ma'am?

JG: [REDACTED]

BL: Okay. I know we've been speaking with you for several minutes and we are, we received some information from you and we also told you that we are conducting an investigation relative to the Diocese of Manchester. Is that correct?

JG: Yes it's correct.

BL: And ah we've been sharing some information ah specifically ah with you regarding ah a case involving a Gordon Macrae, correct?

JG: Correct.

BL: Whose Gordon Macrae to you?

JG: Gordon Macrae was um a priest of the Catholic church. He was assigned to the church, St. Bernard's, in Keene, New Hampshire.

BL: Okay. And ah just I want you to, to go back to either the early 1980's. What was your position in ah the early '80's? Where were you employed?

JG: I was employed in the Division of Welfare. I was the Administrator of the Office of Child and Family Services.

BL: Okay. When did you first start with the Division of Welfare?

JG: I started with the Division of Welfare in July, 1964.

BL: Okay. And I understand that you are now retired from the Division of Welfare?

JG: I'm retired from. I retired from the Division of Elderly & Adult Services. After the children services we were separated from the um the Adult Services were separated from the children services. I became the Administrator in the Elderly Service Division.

BL: Okay. And I think you explained that you retired in 1999.

JG: I did.

BL: Okay. And ah when you were speaking about your career with the Division of Welfare, that became DCYF correct?

JG: That's correct.

BL: Um, you were a social worker, a supervisor and ah finally Chief Administrator?

JG: Chief, Chief Administrator, yes.

BL: Okay. And where were you primarily headquartered ah Jeanette?

JG: Well in the earlier days when I began my work I was headquartered in Manchester and then when I became ah Chief of the Bureau Child & Family Services I was assigned to ah the Concord State Office.

- BL: Okay. Now, ah turning your attention to um 1983. I believe it's the month of November, um did you receive some information relative to ah Father Gordon Macrae, a priest that you'd mentioned. Did you receive any information?
- JG: I received the information ah that had originally been made known to the ah Welfare Director, Richard Chevifields at that time.
- BL: Okay, Richard Chevifields. Whose he?
- JG: He was the Director of ah the Division of Welfare.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: In '83.
- BL: He would have been your boss?
- JG: My boss.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: He was my boss.
- BL: And who would have been his boss?
- JG: His boss at that time was Sylvia Dupre.
- BL: Okay. She would, she was the Commissioner, okay.
- JG: Commissioner.
- BL: She received some information um from your boss Mr. Cheversfield. What did you receive for information that you can recall back then?
- JG: Ah, there was a report of an alleged, suspected child sexual abuse um on a then teenager. I think he was 15 years old, [REDACTED]
- BL: Okay.
- JG: Who was um, who was living with Reverend Gordon Macrae in Hampton, New Hampshire
- BL: Yeah.

JG: And had been transferred, Gordon Macrae had been transferred to Keene, New Hampshire.

BL: Okay. So you received some information that a 15 year old boy by the name of [REDACTED] had been sexually abused by Father Gordon Macrae. Okay, and you got this information from Mr. Cheversfield?

JG: Correct.

BL: And what did Mr. Cheversfield tell you that he wanted you to do?

JG: He wanted me to um review this matter and to conduct a, an investigation to see um what were the facts and make a determination.

BL: Okay. Ah, did Mr. Cheversfield do you recall tell you that he received the information from a source initially? Did he tell you that he received the information from somebody before passing it on to you?

JG: Yes.

BL: Who did he say he received the information from?

JG: He, he received the information from Father John Quinn.

BL: Okay.

JG: Who was an Administrator of Catholic Social Services in Manchester.

BL: Is this a name that you recognize, Father Quinn?

JG: I do.

BL: Okay.

JG: I do recognize that name.

BL: Okay. And we'll get more into Father Quinn as we, as we go along. Um, so your first step after receiving the information regarding [REDACTED] ah being the victim of abuse. Do you recall what, what was the next thing that you did ah after receiving the information? Did you make any contact with anyone? Did you ah make an appointment to see anyone?

JG: My recollection is that I met with Father Quinn.

BL: Okay. Um, were you, did you meet Father Quinn alone or?

JG: No, I was at the meeting I recall in Manchester I was, when I got there the Commissioner was present.

BL: Okay.

JG: Commissioner, Dupre was also there at this particular meeting.

BL: Okay. So you, you met with Monsignor Quinn along with your boss, your bosses boss at the Commissioner of Welfare, ah yourself and, and ah Monsignor Quinn. Was there anybody else there that you can recall?

JG: There might have been other people there. I, I um don't really recollect at that point if Father Christian was there, but

BL: Okay.

JG: I don't know for sure.

BL: Was Gordon Macrae there?

JG: Ah, no.

BL: Okay. Had you spoken at all with [REDACTED] up to that point?

JG: No I had not.

BL: Okay. And when do you recall this meeting taking place from the time you received the initial report to the time this meeting took place? Was it close? I mean I'm not asking you to put a date stamp on it, but your best recollection.

JG: I think it was close. \_\_\_\_\_

BL: Closer to the time of the report?

JG: Yes.

BL: Okay. Ah, let me ask you this. Is it unusual that the ah Chief Administrator or the Director or the Commissioner of Welfare and yourself at that time being an administrator would handle this particular abuse complaint?

JG: It was unusual. Ah, most of the reports, all of the other reports would be assigned to social workers within each district office.

BL: Yep.

- JG: At times the supervisors in the district office would be assigning the investigation, but this was an unusual situation.
- BL: Distracted from the norm?
- JG: It did distract from the norm and I, my understanding of it and I accepted it is was because we were dealing with someone and the alleged perpetrator who was a Catholic priest.
- BL: Okay. Um, I think you had mentioned earlier that ah, ah Mr. Dupre had somewhat of a closer relationship with Catholic Charities and ah was very familiar with their operation and so forth. Can you maybe give me some insight as to what you believe to be the relationship that Mr. Dupre has with the Catholic Charities?
- JG: Well I think that um, Dr Dupre and the Commissioner was very involved in, in ah manners of the Catholic church. Um, and that his relationship ah with people within the system, with the Bishop and with the administrative staff of Catholic Charities was close. They had worked together on a number of ah programs directed by the Catholic church.
- BL: Do you recall if Mr. Dupre told you anything relative to how this investigation was going to be conducted?
- JG: Um, no he didn't tell me, but I told him that ah that I was very committed to the law and rules that we operated in and that this report and any report would be conducted as every other one.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: Ah, and that there was to be no special considerations because that was important had to be done as it would with any other ah report.
- BL: Okay. Did um Commissioner Dupre ask for any special considerations or did anyone that you had contact with at the Diocese have, ask you or insinuate that some special consideration would be made to them on this matter?
- JG: No, I don't think anyone was direct, but you know I just felt that they ah expected that ah, that um they would be um granted some consideration because it was important that they be um seen being as cooperating with this investigation, wanting to get to the bottom of this and that it involved a Catholic priest and they were not really looking for, for any publicity and they would have wanted this to be something um that they would be involved in and that they could handle it and it would be quiet.

- BL: Okay. That information that you said about it being quiet and having the appearance of, of doing a proper conducted investigation, getting to the bottom of it, was that something that was communicated to you by ah Father Quinn?
- JG: Yeah, I remember Father Quinn mentioning that um you know very specifically that I would understand that this was a very serious matter and that it could um, perhaps people wouldn't understand.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: Um, but again I think, I recall having a conversation back and forth with him, but he had to understand that we were very committed to the law and to the rules that we had relative to any investigations.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: And that again the focus was on the alleged victim and ah so you know he would, we would expect your cooperation.
- BL: Okay. I just want to get a flavor of this conversation. I think you had mentioned earlier when we were discussing the meeting with Quinn and Dupre over this that you felt that you had to get ah very forward kirt almost with them, um with Father Quinn regarding this allegation, abuse. Maybe you can give me a little bit more information as to how you felt, that you had to be very forward them about ah the allegations here and how they were going to be handled.
- JG: Well not that it was something that was explicit that they came right out and told me what they wanted some very special consideration as they moved through the investigation because, because of the status of those people involved. Ah, and that this could be um a um difficult time if this became known that they had these, this priest was um allegedly molesting children and that over time and if and ah if they had known and had first not made a report according to the law or they hadn't done anything about it it would be difficult for them and embarrassing.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: But I must say that they seems to me as I recall they understood that there was a law and there was a process and the had to cooperate and that the focus was again on the child who was then originally molested and after some discussion there seemed to be some understanding about it.
- BL: Okay. Um, did ah Father Quinn tell you anything about ah what the Diocese was going to be doing with ah Father Macrae now that these allegations have come to life?

JG: If I recall there's some degree that they had made, they made statements that they would, would um would be getting the appropriate counseling and for Father Macrae and um that they were confident that um they could, that he would understand that, that that was not to be tolerated.

BL: Okay.

JG: To remain a priest.

BL: But I know that ah when you're telling me this information I can see you looking down at ah a report that we showed you that um, that you authored and signed dated 27 December 1983, is that correct?

JG: That's correct.

BL: Okay. And this report was authored by you?

JG: It was authored by me.

BL: Okay. And you recall the ah circumstances that ah I know we went through the ah report line by line um and that this particular child abuse ah investigation resulted in a founded abuse ah situation. Is that correct?

JG: That's correct.

BL: Okay. And um ah is it my understanding that in your report you indicated Reverend Macrae has admitted the incident to his superiors. You wrote there on that line, correct?

JG: Yes I did.

BL: Okay. Um, did Monsignor Quinn tell you that Macrae admitted to this incident?

JG: I don't recall that he directly um, um told me that. Um.

BL: Okay.

JG: Look at my notes here, but um it would be, it would be consistent with other um, um Father

BL: Macrae?

JG: No. Quinn.

BL: Quinn.



JG: Assurance that they would, they would ah

BL: Okay.

JG: Would not impede with standing in the way of this investigation.

BL: Ah, did you have the occasion to interview Father Macrae? No?

JG: No.

BL: Okay. Is that something that in a normal investigation ah such as this that the perpetrator would be interviewed by a worker?

JG: Yes.

BL: Okay. So by you not interviewing ah Reverend Macrae was that sort of a detraction from the norm?

JG: Yes it would have been a detraction from the norm.

BL: Um, I'm just speculating and maybe you can clear this up. Is it, is it possible that Reverend Macrae was not interviewed by you because you were told that he already admitted to it and that there was no reason to interview him?

JG: That sounds reasonable.

BL: Okay. Um, were you given any information relative to ah Reverend Macrae ah seeking any psychological help or assistance um because of ah this admitted child abuse?

JG: Yes.

BL: Okay. What were you told?

JG: Um, that he had agreed to counseling and he was involved in counseling and that it was successful.

BL: Okay. They told you that he was in counseling and that ah they were confident that the counseling was successful?

JG: Yes.

BL: And I think you admitted, you indicated in your report that ah Reverend Macrae is currently in active regular therapy with a Dr. Henry Geurton Ouellette. They feel

very confident ah or Dr. Ouellette feels very confident that therapy is positive, that Reverend Macrae is now self-controlled enough to give some meaningful assurance that he is not likely to engage in deviant behavior.

JG: That's correct. That is part of my report.

BL: Okay. Did you have ah a conversation with Dr. Ouellette at all?

JG: No.

BL: Okay. Um

JG: Would that have been information that ah possibly came from Monsignor Quinn also?

BB: Yes.

JG: Most likely because they, they have selected the particular therapist and so the information would have gone to them.

BL: Okay, it's a therapist that they indicated that they use?

JG: I'm not sure. I don't remember that detail. Most likely. Most likely.

BL: Okay.

JG: They had other agencies to have a counselor

BL: Do you have any um, do you have any independent knowledge of this particular therapist?

JG: No, I had never, I have never met nor had I discussed this particular case with the therapist.

BL: So is it probably that ah your recollection that, that the name Henry Gurdon Ouellette would have been supplied to you by the Diocese.

JG: Yes he is.

BL: Okay. Okay. And ah you submitted this report and um ah was there any further follow-up with ah the Diocese relative to this matter after you filed your report on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1983?

JG: December, yes on January 26<sup>th</sup> um, 1984, I sent a letter to Father Quinn.

BL: Okay.

JG: At the request of social services.

BL: Okay. Um, I just wanted to back up one second. Um, I'm just looking for the reports from the County Attorney's Office that we showed you. After the ah, the ah, I just want to back up a little bit, excuse me. Um, after you completed your report ah um as far as the Macrae sexual assault on [REDACTED] as a matter of protocol did you have any contact with the ah Cheshire County Attorney's Office in regards to that ah report?

JG: Yes.

BL: Okay.

JG: Um, I um called the ah, I called the County Attorney.

BL: Okay. Is that something that ah is protocol? That once you complete a report and that is certainly founded that you would have to have contact with law enforcement ah specifically the County Attorney's Office? Is that normal protocol?

JG: In some, in some situations. Obviously founded is important to do so in the particular case.

BL: Okay. And ah judging by this letter I showed you dated January 13, 1984, ah it appears you had contact with a man with the name of Edward J. O'Brien. Does that ring a bell with you at all?

JG: Um, I recall that he was a County Attorney. I don't recall the details of the conversation with him, but it is clear that um I um advised someone that I had called to discuss um, um his letter.

BL: Okay. Ah, when we showed you this letter, do you recognize um the name, Edward O'Brien?

JG: I recognize the name.

BL: Okay.

JG: As a County Attorney.

BL: Okay. That would have been someone you would have, recalled that you had ah spoken with?

- JG: I, I could have spoken with him. Ah, recall, I don't recall the direct conversation, but um we were trying to work closely with the County Attorneys and I think in this particular, it would have been um, part of the procedure to contact him.
- BL: Ah, and he indicates ah is Cheshire County I'm not very good with the counties in the state. Ah, is Cheshire County the County in which ah this incident involving [REDACTED] occurred in?
- JG: No.
- BL: Okay. Ah, I believe that it occurred in another county.
- BB: Is it unusual Jeannette for a county attorney. I mean Cheshire County is where Keene is located and that's where Gordon Macrae had been transferred.
- JG: Right.
- BB: Is it unusual for the County Attorney in the county that the perpetrator is in to respond as opposed to the county attorney in the county where the incident occurred?
- JG: Well, it would be unusual, but not you know cant recall circumstances whether or not there were conversations with the two or one of the county attorney was um.
- BL: This, this man would have been your local contact because of where you are at. Is that the way I understand it?
- JG: No, he ah he would not have been, we were in Concord. I just don't recall the details of how um the reason why I contacted him at that time.
- BB: Do you think it's a possibility because that's where Macrae was actually, physically living?
- JG: That would have been the reason that was the reason I would have contacted him because that's where Reverend Macrae was stationed at that time.
- BB: So he was practicing in the Keene area at that time?
- JG: Right.
- BB: So
- JG: Exactly. Exactly.
- BL: I'm just reviewing the letter and I know we've gone over the letter indicating in the letter by Attorney O'Brien, he received some information from you and he indicates

that ah you called him and ah to discuss ah this particular [REDACTED] matter and that the incident occurred in Hampton, New Hampshire.

JG: Huh, huh.

BL: Okay. That seems to be factual, right?

JG: Yes.

BL: Ah, Rockingham County and subsequently Father Macrae transferred to Keene Ms. Gagnon informed me that she has been in touch with Reverend Quinn, Father Macrae's superior and that the incident has been admitted to by Father Macrae. Apparently, appropriate counseling and other actions are being taken to monitor Father Macrae in the event that there are any other incidents of child sexual abuse reported, appropriate action would be taken and reports would be filed with this office and/or the appropriate county attorney's office. Ah, then it goes on to state since this incident occurred in Rockingham County and not in Cheshire County and since Father Macrae is receiving counseling and is being strictly monitored, I do not plan to take any further action at this time unless I hear further from Mrs. Gagnon or Reverend Quinn. Um, do you recall ah informing Attorney O'Brien these circumstances?

JG: I directly or had someone contact him to tell him um, that again insurance's that the matter had been um, was being um resolved.

BL: Okay. And ah that ah Reverend Macrae was going to strictly monitored?

JG: That's what we, must have understood because that's what I had related to ah the county attorney.

BL: Let me ask you this, Mrs. Gagnon. When your investigation was concluded and the county attorney's office was notified of this, did you feel comfortable that the Diocese and its people, specifically Reverend Quinn, cause that seems to be the only person you had contact with made assurances to you that ah Father Macrae was going to be monitored and supervised in regarding his behavior?

JG: Yes, I recall that would be assurance that we were given.

BL: Okay. Now, now we can go over to these other two documents if we can here. Um, after you completed your report, did you have any other occasion or receive any other information relative to Father Macrae?

JG: Yes.

BL: Okay, can you tell me what information you received?

JG: I was advised on ah on 12/23/83, that [REDACTED] a minor child was picked up in Boston by Debbie Corenis [REDACTED] Lynn, Massachusetts. Debbie is the sister of Gordon Macrae.

BL: Okay. I know you're reading right off the ah a memo.

JG: Huh, huh.

BL: That you authored um do you remember receiving some information relative to a [REDACTED]

JG: Yes I am reading from that letter I did and as I said um we were advised that that's Macrae's sister.

BL: Okay.

JG: That um this um minor child had been picked up in Boston, Massachusetts.

BL: Okay. Um, now when you got this information, can you tell me what your recollection is as far as this, was this information ah viewed as a alarming?

JG: It was alarming.

BL: Okay.

JG: And I was sending a notice to Father Quinn.

BL: Okay.

JG: Because Father Quinn because we had had obviously prior conversations relative to child sexual abuse that involved Father Macrae.

BL: Okay. So you authored this letter and you sent it to Quinn?

JG: I did. I sent it to him on January 26<sup>th</sup> and indicated to him based on the information that I received I was concerned with that investigation needed to be conducted relative to Father Macrae's relationship with [REDACTED] because I recall that we had gotten assurance from the Diocese that they would be closely monitoring Father Macrae.

BL: Okay.

JG: And I asked him to review the matter and to advise how the investigation was going to be conducted and I would call him early the next week.

- BL: Do you recall if ah Commissioner Dupre or ah Dick Cheverfields was involved at all in this newest piece of information? If you can recall or not.
- JG: Um it would have been, it would have been my practice to advise ah the director Dick Cheverfields and he most likely would have advised the Commissioner that there was another incidence involved Gordon Macrae.
- BL: Okay. I know we talked about it so, would this more than likely have produced another investigation?
- JG: Yes.
- BL: Okay. Do you know of any investigation that you completed or anyone else completed regarding [REDACTED] Do you know if any other investigation was done specifically involving [REDACTED] similar to the one that was done with ah [REDACTED] You don't remember that?
- JG: I don't remember that, no.
- BL: Okay. Ah, I think you said perhaps the ah the group home where ah [REDACTED] was living may have some information ah relative to his stay there.
- JG: If he was living at the Dover Children's Home they most likely would have had some, they might have, still have some communication.
- BL: Okay. But you do remember communicating this information to Reverend Quinn?
- JG: Absolutely.
- BL: Do you remember what he told you he was going to do about it?
- JG: I recall as he had previously done that he said he would look into it.
- BL: Okay. Do you recall if he ever got back to you as far as what was going to be done about it?
- JG: Well I see here because it's um it was noted that um, ah Father Quinn told Father Christian that he had received my communication, my that he had I had communicated with him and that um I expressed again the concern that ah Father Macrae had a relationship with the minor.
- BL: Okay. I know, I know we used a ah this particular memo to try and jog your memory a little bit. Do you recall telling Father Quinn ah about this [REDACTED] personally or face to face or by telephone?

JG: I recall telling him about it because.

BL: Okay, how? By telephone?

JG: I believe it was by phone.

BL: Okay.

JG: I called him and said we had um another incident, a report that involved Father Macrae and a minor.

BL: Okay. Um, and you also sent this letter?

JG: And I sent the letter.

BL: Okay. Do you recall at all if you've heard any additional information from the Diocese regarding [REDACTED] after that?

JG: Um, I think um they gave me the assurance that they would look into it and that um they would again um become involved with Father Macrae to see if he was um if it was founded that he had been involved with this other young man or not.

BL: Okay. Um, did you generate any other letters or any other correspondence with the Diocese after receiving this information? Ah, I think you indicated there wasn't a formal investigation of [REDACTED] but ah was there any other additional correspondence with the Diocese regarding [REDACTED]? Did it ever get back to you in any way?

JG: I don't, I don't recall.

BL: Okay.

JG: If they did.

BL: All right. Um, I don't think I have anymore questions, do you?

BB: Jeannette, do you remember whether or not law enforcement was ever notified of this particular incident?

JG: Well ah from the material that I've been showing we notified the County Attorney.

BB: But as far as, did you ever speak with anyone from the Hampton Police regarding this?



JG: I don't know if. I know that I did not. I'm not sure if anyone else in the local district office might have done that.

BB: Do you remember ever speaking with Judith Patterson, which was the counselor for [REDACTED] at the time?

JG: Um, I don't recall. Maybe I did. It's a long time ago and maybe I did have some contact with her um, but I do recall based on also the material that I've been looking at that she was involved as a counselor.

BB: But you don't remember specifically speaking with her?

JG: No. No. And also counselors frequently were not willing to really disclose the therapeutic conversations that they had and we at that time did respect that.

BB: Okay. Do you remember ever speaking with [REDACTED] parents?

JG: No I don't think I ever spoke with [REDACTED] parents

BB: That's all I have.

BL: Unless you have anything else to add Mrs. Gagnon, I'll conclude your statement.

JG: No I don't.

BL: Okay. This will conclude the audio taped statement. The time is 10:55.