

MAGISTRATES' COURTS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1981

[Article 33; Rule 39]

STATEMENT OF WITNESS TO BE TENDERED IN EVIDENCE
AT PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

Name of Witness: ANDREA LOUISE MCKEE

Age (If over 18 enter "over 18"): OVER 18

I DECLARE that 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 at a preliminary inquiry or at the trial of any person, 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.

Dated this 30TH day of OCTOBER 2002

Signature of person by whom statement was recorded or received

Signature of Witness

I originally met Michael McKee at around 1990 in Wrexham when he had left the Royal Navy. In 1991 I moved to Craigavon with Michael and we married in Craigavon in December 1991. We lived in several addresses around Craigavon, ending up at [REDACTED]. From around 1994 Michael had a full time business running at the Brownstown Business Centre where he carried out instruction classes teaching students Tae Kwon Do. He was qualified as fifth Dan in Tae Kwon Do. When the business was set up, I played a full time role in it looking after the administration of the business and keeping records updated. The business ran well through the years and I was involved in helping Michael to keep it running. At around the beginning of 1999, the business began to fall apart because Michael was beginning to absent himself. On 14 April 1999, Michael separated from me and he went to [REDACTED] in Southern Ireland with another woman. I was left to wind up the

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affairs of the business. I left Northern Ireland in May 1999 and returned to live in Wrexham. We are now divorced. I first met Robert and Eleanor Atkinson quite a few number of years ago when their daughter [REDACTED] attended a class which was run by Michael at the Killycomaine Community Centre in Portadown. I think that [REDACTED] was about [REDACTED] yrs old at the time. Her parents would have delivered and collected her. Robert Atkinson and Michael became friends. As their friendship developed over time, Robert and Eleanor Atkinson began attending weekend tournaments and this is how I became friendly with them. I remember Michael actually got the Unit in Brownstown Business Centre through Robert Atkinson. On occasions we would meet up socially and occasionally we would have gone to their house on the [REDACTED] for drinks Michael did go to football matches with Robert Atkinson and on one occasion we went with Robert and Eleanor Atkinson and a number of other people to a football match in Scotland. Robert Atkinson did do some plumbing and tidying work on the Club premises and Michael did help Robert on renovating a house near Shamrock Park Football Club. I didn't have as much in common with Eleanor although we were friends but Michael and Robert were much closer. Robert Atkinson only ever visited our house in [REDACTED] if they were collecting us to go out for the evening. In terms of the parents of the students, the Atkinson's were the closest friends we had. Alistair Hanvey started to train with Michael from when he was 13 yrs of age. We were friends with his parents Kenneth and Elizabeth but this was not on the same scale as our friendship with the Atkinsons. I met Alistair's parents at various competitions and we were invited up to the Hanvey home at [REDACTED] on a number of occasions while Alistair was still a member of the

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Signature of Witness *A. McKee*.....

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club. I remember many occasions when Robert Atkinson, Alistair Hanvey, Eleanor Atkinson, Michael and myself were together in the same company. This occurred at various tournaments and competitions which we went to and I remember us all together at a BBQ at Robert Atkinson's house. At that time it was through the association of the Tae Kwon Do Club that everyone was brought together. Over the last couple of years of his membership, Alistair was getting older and his commitment to training and attending training was not consistent. He did however always remain friends with Michael. I remember that Tracy Clarke, who is a niece of Michael, attended the Brownstown Club on a number of occasions. It was there that she met Alistair Hanvey and started a relationship with him. As their relationship developed, both Alistair and Tracy would have stayed at our house in [REDACTED]. She lived with her mother and step-father across the square from us and occasionally would have stayed in our house. She had use of one of our bedrooms when she wanted it. Tracy started to train in Tae Kwon Do but was not consistent with the training and eventually gave it up. Robert Atkinson knew Tracy Clarke through the Club and also because she was Michael's niece. I remember when the Omagh Bomb happened in 1998, we were all away at a Tae Kwon Do Training Camp in Lanzarote. Robert and Eleanor Atkinson was there with her two children, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Tracy Clarke was there also. A number of other club members were there but at that time Alistair Hanvey was not there as he was no longer with the club and Tracy was in another relationship. There were a number of occasions prior to 1997 when Robert Atkinson, Eleanor Atkinson, Alistair Hanvey, Tracy Clarke, Michael and myself were together socially but this was generally around Club activities. In early 1997 we had

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the phone service connected to our home address in [REDACTED] because Michael's father was very ill. He eventually died in July 1997. Our telephone number at the house was [REDACTED]. Up until that point of getting the phone connected at the house we did have the telephone at the Club which was [REDACTED] which served our purpose and Michael had his own mobile phone which he carried everywhere with him. Robert Atkinson was always calling in to the Club premises and on occasions when he was on duty, he would call in for coffee. When I vacated the business, I left all our office records in the office. I do not know what has happened to these records which would have included an appointments diary. It has been put to me about a phone call that was made from my home to a Taxi Firm in Portadown at 1.30 am on Sunday 27 April 1997. I recognise the number [REDACTED] as Call-a-Cab in West Street which Michael and myself would have regularly used to go to the Club and return home. Rodney Smith and Joy Kitchen visited our house on the evening of Saturday 26 April 1997 and I called a Call-a-Cab taxi to pick them up and bring them home. I have previously been unsure as to which friends were at our house in [REDACTED] on that particular night. I now remember clearly that it was Rodney Smith and Joy Kitchen. At some point between 11 am and 12 noon on Sunday 27 April 1997 Michael and I were in our house when Tracy Clarke came into our house. She was on her own. Tracey told us that there had been fighting in the middle of the town (Portadown) during the night. In the days that followed Tracy Clarke came and spoke to Michael and myself. On the first occasion that she spoke to me, and I cannot be exactly sure of when and where the conversation occurred, Tracy told me that Alistair Hanvey had been involved in the fighting. She also

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mentioned a number of other names. I remember talking to Robert Atkinson at some point around that time and I remember him telling me that it was just his luck to be on when something like that happens. I did not discuss with Robert Atkinson what Tracy had said about Alistair Hanvey and the other persons she named. I know that Michael was talking to Robert Atkinson continually at that time. I recall Michael ringing Robert Atkinson from home and telling him that Tracy had spoken to him and told him Alistair Hanvey had told her about Robert Atkinson ringing his house on the Sunday morning after he had got home from work and telling him to get rid of his clothes. I remember Michael telling him if he did do this, then he was an idiot, but I was not in a position to hear what Robert was saying on the far end of the phone. When Michael came off the phone he just commented that if he did do it, then he was an idiot and we didn't discuss it further at that time. Around the time that Robert Hamill died which was some days after the fight, I remember being in the Gym one afternoon, it may have been a Thursday, when Tracy was talking about the fight to people in the gym. I cannot recall who was in the gym at the time but I remember a policeman I know called Davy talked to me about it and he asked me who Tracy was and did the police know about what she was saying. As far as I recall, Tracy was talking about the fight and who was involved. I do not recall her talking about what Atkinson had done. Davy would attend our Gym at different times to train and I remember talking to him again after which he then rang Portadown Police Station from our gym. As a result of that phone call, I then accompanied Davy to go and meet two police officers. It was dark when I met the two police officers and I told them that Tracy Clarke knew about the fighting and what she had seen. I do not

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remember mentioning to the officers about what Tracy Clarke had said about Robert Atkinson. On the following day which was a Friday, I was speaking to Tracy Clarke's mother Irene who told me that Tracy had to go to Portadown Police Station to speak to the police. I was not aware that she had been spoken to the previous night. Irene asked Michael to pick Tracy up from her part-time job at the Chinese Restaurant in West Street and take her to the police station. I went with Michael, picked Tracy up and went to the Police Station with her. I remember that it was quite late. I remained with Tracy while she was being interviewed and a police woman called Anne brought Tracy and myself home. Michael had dropped us off and had went on home to sit with Irene and await us coming home. At some point after this, I recall Robert Atkinson telling me that Tracy Clarke had been to the Police Station and had made a statement, this occurred not long after this but I do not know when. In the months that followed, Robert Atkinson never spoke to me about the incident or what he had done at the incident. Later in the year, Michael told me that Robert Atkinson had spoken to him about the incident. This had happened one night when they were both out together. On his return home, Michael told me that Robert had asked him to cover the phone call to the Hanvey's. Michael told me that Robert had made another phone call but that he could cover that phone call himself. Michael told me that he had asked Atkinson about why he had made the phone call. He said that Atkinson told him that he had rang him to try and help him and that he had realised now that he should not have done it. Michael told me that Atkinson had told him that he had made the phone call to tell him to get rid of his clothes. This was the first time that I knew that Atkinson had admitted

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making the call to Hanvey. On the night that this happened Robert and Michael had been out to a pub but I cannot recall the night in question. It was however after he had been interviewed about it. I had been made aware that he had been interviewed about it. Michael said to me that he had agreed to do it for him although he didn't want to. He felt obliged as a close friend to do it and the family relationship with Tracy Clarke was perfect to cover the story. On one occasion after that but before Michael and myself made statements to the police, Michael and myself were over at Robert Atkinson's house. We went there to sort out the cover story for the phone call Robert Atkinson made to Alistair Hanvey the morning after the fighting in Portadown. Robert and Eleanor Atkinson were both present. Robert Atkinson led the discussion and he said that the story would be that Michael and I had been staying at their house overnight and he suggested that the call could be covered by Michael saying that he was ringing because of his concern for Tracy Clarke. It was Robert who thought out this story about Tracy Clarke. Robert Atkinson said to me that I would have to confirm that I had heard Michael on the telephone. Robert Atkinson mentioned about a second phone call that he had made but that he had that covered. I do not know anything about the second phone call, about his reason for making it, or his story to cover it. We were only there that evening to get the story right and we went home again after that. At some point after that, I was aware that Michael and Eleanor went to Portadown Police Station to make statements. I was aware that Robert Atkinson was being interviewed again but I was not asked by Robert to go to the Police Station. Whenever they went the Police Station, I stayed with [REDACTED] Atkinson in Robert's house. When

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Robert, Eleanor and Michael returned Robert told me that I would have to make a statement. I knew what Michael had said because it had been all arranged as to what we would say before it. After that, I cannot recall when but it was some time later, I was contacted by Robert Atkinson and told to go to Sean Hagan's office for 11 am on 29 October 1997 to provide a statement as we originally discussed. I went alone to Mr Hagan's office and I was interviewed by a Police Officer, D/Inspector Irwin and made a statement. The statement I did give was false. I made it because of the arrangement Michael and I had made with Robert and Eleanor Atkinson when we had visited their home to sort out a cover story for Robert. I do not remember where I spoke to Robert Atkinson after that, but he asked me did everything go OK. I said it did. I was present during a conversation after that when Michael spoke to Robert Atkinson about the solicitor's bill and telling him that he hoped that he would not have to pay for it. Robert Atkinson said that he would settle it with the solicitor and pay the bill himself. I heard nothing else about this again and we never did get a bill from the solicitor. On 7 May 2002 at Craigavon Crown Court I pleaded guilty to an offence in relation to giving false information to the police in 1997 about the phone call which I untruthfully said was made by my husband Michael McKee from Robert Atkinson's house on the morning of 27 April 1997. I was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years.

Exhibit No

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