

Victors second letter to Ray Hoffman

Jun 28

Ray,

I have elected to write you this follow up letter because I never want to appear to be purposely inaccurate or hurt any cause.

Since I sent you my letter, apparently there have been many phone calls between people discussing my sexual abuse as a child. I was not privy to a single one and those discussing my case were never present. I was asked to retract your and John's name with association to it. I was also asked to retract the story about your own abuse and sharing with others. Extended family members feel these are inaccurate.

I will say that if they are, I am not above humbling myself and apologizing. I was a child. I was not present for any (if any) conversations that occurred after my abuse was brought to light. I had not heard your or John's names (or any workers) associated with the event before the day my husband and I had been sitting at bedside with my father in December 2021. I will agree that Dad was heavily medicated at the time. He desperately wanted to speak to me about how sorry he was that he had not protected me back then. It was an extremely uncomfortable conversation. He once again asked me for deeper details. I think he sensed I was not telling him everything. Frankly, I just didn't want to share everything at the time. I had placed that horrible time and the events that surrounded it in a vault and I just didn't want to remove it. My husband and children were all that knew. (and later a therapist) He mentioned a few things that I have not discussed publicly to date about a couple of people I thought to be Clarence's victims as well. (which Dad had spoken about) I have been told they were actually Clarence's son in laws victims. Seems their family had a lot of issues. I have to trust I am being told the truth and with that being said then have to admit, Dad may have been getting people confused in his stories and comments.

I had been building some anger towards you stewing on this. I just didn't know when or how to address it. It wasn't until the Dean Bruer case that I decided to say my piece. I emailed you directly. I had nothing to be ashamed about or concerned that I was inaccurate at that time.

My extended family says there is no way you and John could have known because it was a "family issue." I was in no way even remotely related to Clarence, so I don't totally understand that blanket comment. I suppose my greatest anger, other than to Clarence, is to a family who clearly cared so little for others that they would cover for someone and allow them to harm others outside their family in the meetings. I find it especially upsetting that

it was one of his very victims that made the comment. Which goes to show just how ill people are when it comes to child sexual abuse and even their response to it.

So for the sake of transparency and accuracy, I am apologizing and retracting my accusations. I, in no way, can offer any proof of anyone's involvement. I have family who are greatly concerned about how they are being perceived within the meeting by my comments and their place within it. I am tired. I am tired of the ugliness and vitriol.

I am placing my story back in the vault, just as it had been for the past 43 years. I wish the subject had never even come up now. It seems to have just caused a big mess when all I wanted to do was get things off my chest once and for all and also help others along the way. I have made attempts to remove the story from any public or private domain.

I'm sorry for any trouble this has caused you. Feel free to share with whomever you wish.

Sincerely,

Theresa Chambers Hensley

WINGS Note: This letter replaces a letter previously posted with the author's approval.