



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



QP 0125
01/06
Δ13

Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: 1 Date: 18/11/2010

Statement of

Name of witness: STAATZ, Peta-Lee

Date of birth: 11/04/1982 Age: 28 Occupation: Administrative officer

Police officer taking statement

Name of police officer: ALLAN, Jodie

Rank: Det Senior Constable Reg. no.: 11939

Region/Command/Division: North Coast Station: Maroochydore CIB

Statement:

Peta-Lee STAATZ states:-

I am a single lady residing at an address known to the police.

I was employed with financial Advisers Australia from May 2006 - October 2009. This company is situated in Maroochydore. John HEHIR is the manager of this company.

In that time I had a various amount of duties including the following roles:

Personal Assistant and Administration

I provided administration support to 10 consultants including managing all diaries

Distribution of outgoing letters and emails

Petty cash, banking, operation and reconciliation of EFTPOS machine

I had my own corporate card for business expenses

Arranging social days and events for special occasions for staff and management

Managing and arranging of all correspondence of John HEHIR's business and personal affairs

Constant reviewing of Electricity Policies, Insurance Policies, Phone Contracts, Office and Stationary supplies etc to make sure we were receiving the best deals available in order to keep office expenditure at a minimum

I prepared Wills, Enduring Power of Attorney's, Executors Dossiers and Advanced Health Directives.

Marketing and Events

Full organisation of Public Seminars, Qld Government Salary Packaging Seminars, Expo Events and Corporate Events

Responsible for organising Travel Itineraries - Flights, Car Hire, Bus, Trains, Accommodation etc

Organisation of Venue bookings and catering

Hiring of Qld Government conference rooms for presentations

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **STAATZ, Peta-Lee**

Creation and implementation of all Seminar attendee material and literature including Flyers, Corporate Profiles and Advertising

Direct marketing and post marketing follow ups to client base via phone, email and post

My employment at Financial Advisers Australia.

I honestly do not know why or how I stayed as long as I did at Financial Advisers Australia, but then again John HEHIR is very manipulative and when I would want to leave he would talk me into staying time and time again.

Examples of the unbelievable and demoralising behaviour I witness from John HEHIR starting from the earlier days to years later when I knew a lot more and witnessed a lot more.

John would constantly abuse staff with yelling and extreme mood swings including myself to the point of me crying on a weekly basis when I first started. He would constantly tell staff lies about other staff members just to stir the pot. John did this in order to make himself more money through their competitive behaviour. At the staff weekly meetings it was run like a dictatorship with John speaking almost the entire time and brainwashing (I mean teaching us) to manipulate clients/people into doing what we wanted them to do.

While I was employed by Financial Advisors Australia I knew John HEHIR would mostly use his own computer which was in his office but he would also from time to time use other people's computer, but it was mostly his computer in his office that he worked from. I knew that John used a USB stick all the time. I remember that John use to carry this USB stick around with him on his key ring. I remember that John had about 3 USB sticks in the time that I worked for him. Each USB stick was different and I actually had to go out and buy one for him. Some of them held more data than the others but he always had them with him. I also remember that John had a lap top and he kept in his office in a bag, but I believe that he used this computer mainly for the power point presentations at seminars.

All the computers within the office were all linked together and if you wanted to go outside the office you could access this system externally. You just to have a log in and you'd get straight in you just had to go through a website which was the link. John set them up this way mainly for him to spy on employees as he could go in and see if you had used the internet or what items you had been working on or deleted. This I believe was another controlling and intimidating process that John used to keep the staff on their toes.

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **STAATZ, Peta-Lee**

I remember while I was employed at this company John HEHIR cheated on his wife with a client - Dr Karen MAHLO. I can't exactly remember when John and Karen first got together but I do remember that we had an office Christmas party where Karen was invited and at this Christmas party John was already living with Karen MAHLO at her Moffat Beach house. I know that John left his wife Jenny HEHIR and his 2 children to live with Karen MAHLO.

Whilst John HEHIR was living with Karen he employed Karen's daughter, Anna. I believe John employed Anna so as to keep control over as much as he could with Karen and her daughter.

During Anna's employment with Financial Advisers Australia, I became close with Anna and she confided in me quite a bit in relation to what life at home was like for her mother with John. Anna told me that her and her mother would go for drinks and John would stalk them in the gardens behind where they were sitting so he could listen to what they were talking about. I got the impression that Anna didn't like John all that much.

During the time that John and Karen were together I could see that he had major paranoia that Karen was going to leave him. John was increasingly anxious about not having control over Karen. I could see that Karen was an extremely strong woman and would not give in easily to his manipulation so this unnerved John because this is not how he likes to control his and other people's lives.

I remember that whilst I was working at this company I received Dr Karen MAHLO's Will Questionnaire from John HEHIR. Doing Will for clients was one of my duties within the company. When I received the questionnaire I entered that data into the Will Template that was created by John HEHIR. Once I completed this task I gave the completed Will to John and I know that he took the Will Draft home to Karen MAHLO to get her to sign it. At the time I completed this Will John and Karen were living together in her house at Moffat Beach.

I was not present when this Will was signed by Karen MAHLO, so therefore I can't be sure if the will was actually signed by Karen herself or if she was under the influence of anything at the time of signing it. All I got back from John HEHIR was the signed copy of the Will, which I filed accordingly in Dr MAHLO's file which was in John's office.

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I noticed when I typed up this Will I saw that John was the executor and also was a beneficiary. I couldn't believe this and I thought it was very strange and unprofessional. I was more in shock with the fact that he was a beneficiary. I remember that John changed the date for which Karen's children could access the money as beneficiary from 25 years to 35 years in the end. I just couldn't believe this either. I remember having a conversation with him how he had convinced Karen that she had made the right decision in relation to her Will. When I heard this I thought oh well everything was alright with her and I didn't expect her to die in the next week.

I still have a copy of the Will template that I used when I worked at Financial Advisers Australia. This template was designed by John HEHIR.

I knew a couple of things through work that Karen wasn't well. I remember Anna telling me that her mother wasn't well and I at the time I just thought she drank a lot. I knew that Karen had been stood down from her employment at the Nambour Hospital and I thought she was just suffering because she had worked her whole life and at that time she wasn't working so I thought this might have been upsetting her. I also knew that she was drinking more alcohol than she normally did and this might have been contributing to her bad health.

I remember one day when I came to work I noticed that Veronica wasn't at work which was strange. I remember asking another staff member where Veronica was and they told me that she had been called in the early hours of the morning because John needed her to be with him because Karen has passed away.

I vaguely remember that later in the day John came back to the office but I know he didn't stay the whole day. I remember that when John came back to the office I got the impression that he was behaving like a spoilt brat like "a poor me" attitude. John wanted everybody's attention because what had happened to Karen.

I remember at the Karen MAHLO's funeral John persisted in attending along with his staff (myself included). It was all very pathetic, he cried as he spoke about Karen and it was obvious that no one wanted him there.

I also noticed at the funeral that Anna and Ben (Karen's children) missed the end of the funeral because of John's speech. I remember that while John was speaking Ben and Anna got up and walked out so they didn't have to listen to his lies and exaggeration about his relationship with their mother.

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After the funeral John had organised Karen's Wake at the Caloundra RSL. I know that John ordering a lot of food at this wake and I was aware that all this was being paid for out of Karen's Estates. I found this strange as I was aware that John had been notified that Anna was having a Wake for her mother at the home she lived in with her mother at Moffat Beach, so why would John also organise a wake - but that's another example of his pigheaded nature.

John knew no one would attend his wake except his staff and it was all very embarrassing. I think this was nasty thing to do to Karen's children. I just couldn't understand why John couldn't just let the kids have the Wake for Karen and we all go back to the office. But no that's not John's nature he had to be spiteful, and this is another example of how vindictive this man can be even in a time of great sadness.

After the wake at the Caloundra RSL I heard John saying things like "I can't believe anybody turned up we ordered all this food and everything." This was really embarrassing because John knew that Karen's children were holding a wake for their mother and that people wouldn't turn up to his wake. I remember that John got the RSL to box up the food from the wake and he bought all the food back to work and it was like a party at work with all the food from the wake being eaten by staff.

Within the month of Karen dying I know that John was dating another woman who lived in Brisbane. I know this because I had to go and purchase an etoll pass for his car so that he could drive down to Brisbane to visit her. I know that the new lady in John's life was Jill HAYES.

As soon as John began dating Jill the whole process started all over again. By this I mean that John moved Jill in with him at his Cotton Tree unit in order to keep control of her. I know that John kicked Jill's son and daughter out of their home in Brisbane in order for him to be able to sell that house and buy a house with Jill on the Sunshine Coast.

I noticed that John once again tried to get involved in Jill's kids lives so they would depend on him. An example of this is in the first few months when they were dating he would get Jill's son into the office and John would spend hours and hours getting his resume sorted and he would make numerous phone calls to try and get him a job. John was taking control over what employment Jill's son got.

In my time of knowing John he always seemed to get attached to women that were fragile and within those relationships he controlled the women's children in order to come across as some sort of saviour to them.

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Whilst I worked at Financial Advisers Australia I found John's work ethic to be completely amazing to see in action. By this I mean that I saw on a regular occasion John would get clients into his office and once they decided to use the company's facilities to grow their wealth, John would then pass the client onto a consultant to free up his time to get more and more fresh clients.

I also found John HEHIR to be a money hungry, evil, manipulative, lonely little man. John would put pressure on staff mainly in the finance department to play with figures in order for clients to get finance, some of which would quite obviously not be approved by banks and other financial institutes due to their current monetary situation. Many staff that worked there that were put in this situation would often come to me expressing their moral dilemmas about operating in such a way. I am certain that if these staff members were to say no or to make a fuss then their job definitely would have been on the line. John HEHIR would regularly play down this fraudulent behaviour and made out like it was no big deal to fiddle with the figures so that clients could obtain loans.

In the 4 years that I worked for this company I came to the conclusion that John is a very lonely man. He can not be alone and always has to be in a relationship. John chooses people that he can find a weakness in so that he can have total control over them. I would call him a predator because of the way he behaves particular with women.

There is nothing I believe that John HEHIR wouldn't do in order for him to gain money as everything in this world is money to him. In the last month I was there John sat all the staff down and gave us all a lecture saying that if we don't make him money then we'd be fired this is just how this man thinks.

I believe that any documents that John HEHIR had in relation to Karen MAHLO would definitely be stored in a filing cabinet within his room. Other documents relating to Karen MAHLO could have also been stored with Veronica WENT as she was Karen's consultant.

P. STAATZ

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Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated **20/11/2010** and contained in the pages numbered 1 to **5** is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

.....Signature

Signed atNambour.....this.....20th.....day of.....November.....2010....

(Witness's signature)

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