

Statement of John Doe 187

I am the person identified in the court documents as John Doe 187 who recently settled a case against the Archdiocese involving abuse by Fr. Ayers. I am preparing this statement to express that the settlement will help me and my family in getting additional therapy in my own recovery. It is also important to let other survivors know that they can come forward like I did and take action and in the end know that the community is safer when secrets are revealed through the courts.

Fr. Ayers had abused me as a youth. I have only spoken about the matter with a very small number of family, close friends, and professionals. I was so afraid of having more people know and I was so ashamed and feeling extremely dirty and guilty. I was deep in depression and struggled with daily thoughts of suicide for years. Disclosing it to my lawyers helped me deal with the dark anger that was suffocating my soul. After having disclosed it to my lawyers, I continued to struggle with the shame, guilt, anger, anxiety and depression, but the more I worked and talked about it and shared it with my family, who have supported me throughout this struggle, the more the intensity of the emotions diminished. I then came to realize that I needed to do something more and so my case got ready for trial. I was required to give testimony and prepare many items as required to do in a court case. The case did settle right before trial, but I am making this statement because my hope is that other survivors like myself, people who've been abused by authority figures, other priests, or by Fr. Ayers can know that there is hope, there is healing, that we do get better by sharing the secret and taking action. I hope that with this action, others like me who have been hurt will take action. It was extremely hard for me to share this secret and I am making this statement to encourage survivors to come forward. Your privacy can be protected the way my privacy is and continues to be protected.

Someday I may make a statement using my name but for today I want people to know that Fr. Ayers is now in Guatemala and I am concerned about him hurting other kids the way he hurt me. He was never punished or jailed as a criminal should. I don't think he can control himself even though he's out of the Archdiocese and been taken out of the priesthood.

I want people to know that through revealing the truth there is hope and there is healing and I want other survivors to know that I would be happy to discuss this journey with them by contacting my lawyers Jeff Anderson at 651-227-9990 & Dan Monahan at 610-363-3888. I am grateful to all the survivors and victims who came before me that inspired me to share the secret and now walk a path that has a brighter future. I am grateful to Jeff, Dan, and team for walking with me the last few years. It is still a painful struggle, but I am now looking ahead instead of back. I now have hope for a better future.