

MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE

FROM: ANTHONY FOWLER, INV. *af*

RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
 FATHER FORTIER  
 TELEPHONE CALL WITH ATTNY. LINCOLN SOLDATI

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2002


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Called ATTORNEY LINCOLN SOLDATI regarding his prosecution of FATHER FORTIER and the [REDACTED] case. Asked SOLDATI if he recalled knowing about other victims of FORTIER, and stated he did not have any specific information of prior victims of FORTIER and none were ever identified to him, although information suggested there was.

He explained there was some talk then that FORTIER had been sent to some type of de-programming because of unspecified prior incidents. He could not recall who or how he heard that. He did recall that FORTIER used to go to some homosexual clubs in the south some where, and believed the DIOCESE knew that. SOLDATI explained that there wasn't any hard evidence that he had to suggest the DIOCESE knew about prior sexual problems with FORTIER, other than some talk, and the suggestion (unknown source) that FORTIER went to some type of rehabilitation prior to this case. He again stated he could not recall how he got this information, but believed the rehab occurred somewhere in the south or southwest.

SOLDATI recalled that the DIOCESE pretends to cooperate, but doesn't. HE did not have any memory of a letter from FR. CHRISTIAN regarding FORTIER and the DIOCESE knowledge or lack of, as it pertained to FORTIER'S prior history leading up to his prosecution. Asked if he recalled CHRISTIAN'S information to PPO CARLISLE during the PSI that the DIOCESE had no knowledge of a problem with FORTIER prior to this prosecution, and SOLDATI did not recall that. He also did not recall having any DIOCESE documents during this case.

# Memorandum

**To:** File (Roger Fortier)  
**From:** Detective Peter Favreau; Manchester, NH PD   
**Date:** 11-21-02  
**Re:** Lt. Thomas; Derry, NH Police Department

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At approximately 17:00 hrs this date, I made telephone contact with Lt. Thomas of the Derry Police Department. The purpose of my call was to follow-up on information regarding Father Roger Fortier, about whom Thomas had conducted an investigation back in 1984. More specifically, I had questions regarding [REDACTED] who was named in that investigation as a possible victim of Father Fortier. Since my initial conversation with Lt. Thomas, I conducted an interview with [REDACTED] and learned in that interview that [REDACTED] had testified in the 1997 case involving Father Roger Fortier, which had been prosecuted by the Strafford County Attorney's Office.

My question to Lt. Thomas was whether or not he had been contacted by the Strafford County Attorney's Office in 1997 about their case against Roger Fortier. Lt. Thomas told me that he never had any contact with the Strafford County Attorney's office about Roger Fortier, and knew of the case they had against Fortier only from media reports. As for [REDACTED] Lt. Thomas was not aware that [REDACTED] had testified in that case. Thomas went on to say that he found it odd that Strafford would not make contact with the Derry Police Department, and more specifically him, to back up the information that was to be provided by [REDACTED] prior to having him testify.

With the above information, I thanked Lt. Thomas for his assistance and told him that I would be in contact with him in the near future for further information.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

# Memorandum

**To:** File (Roger Fortier)  
**From:** Detective Peter Favreau; Manchester, NH PD  
**Date:** 11-18-02  
**Re:** Thomas Steinmetz



At approximately 1900 hrs on 11-18-02, I spoke with Thomas Steinmetz by telephone regarding information he might have about Father Roger Fortier. For background information, Thomas Steinmetz was a Police Officer with the Manchester, NH Police Department in 1984 (since retired) and was named at that time as a source of information relating to a Derry, NH Police investigation into Father Roger Fortier. Officer Thomas of the Derry Police Department was looking into allegations of sexual misconduct on the part of Roger Fortier and documented a 1984 conversation he'd had with Officer Thomas Steinmetz of the Manchester Police Department. In that conversation, Steinmetz tells Officer Thomas that Fortier had been a priest at St. John's church in Manchester, NH and had recently been transferred to a parish in Rochester, NH. The transfer was said to be the result of rumored homosexual activity by Roger Fortier and the Manchester Police Department was said to have information that Fortier had actually propositioned a parishioner at St. John's. The purpose of my conversation with Thomas Steinmetz on this date was to confirm the above information and possibly obtain any further information he might have.

Speaking with Thomas Steinmetz this date, I informed him of the above information relating to the 1984 investigation into Roger Fortier by the Derry Police Department. Steinmetz told me immediately that the name Roger Fortier stood out in his mind, but said that he was not completely sure why. As for the information contained in the Derry report, Steinmetz was unable to confirm it because he said that he could not recall the events that took place at that time. What he did remember, he said, was receiving information around that time from a retired Manchester Police Officer by the name of Dan Ledoux that a priest was frequenting the known "gay" parks in Manchester, and appeared to be "trolling for gays". Steinmetz could not remember for sure if the priest was Roger Fortier, but said that it was possible that Fortier was the priest that was being spoken about. The information received related to adult men, however, and no information was given to suggest that Fortier was involving himself with minors. As a result, nothing was documented and Steinmetz resolved the situation by passing on the information to Father Richard Kelly of St. Joseph's Cathedral in Manchester. Steinmetz recalled nothing further relating to Roger Fortier, and my conversation with him ended at that time.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE

FROM: ANTHONY FOWLER, INV. *af*

RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
FR. FORTIER  
TELEPHONE CALL TO ATTORNEY STEVE JEFFCO

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2002

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ATTORNEY STEVE JEFFCO called back and we discussed the possibility of speaking to his client FR. FORTIER, who is currently incarcerated in the NH STATE PRISON. Explained the reason for the interview, and ATTORNEY JEFFCO indicated he would not be inclined to allow an interview with FORTIER. Indicated he would contact FORTIER to see if he would be willing to give us an interview and let me know.

## MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSONS INTERVIEWED: [REDACTED]  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: [REDACTED] NH  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: DECEMBER 3, 2002  
RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
FR. FORTIER  
INTERVIEWED BY: ANTHONY FOWLER, INV.  
ALLISON VACHON, INV.

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Interviewed [REDACTED] at their residence. They reside at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] NH. They are the parents of victim [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Their telephone number is [REDACTED] The entire interview was audiotaped  
with the [REDACTED] permission. Refer to the audiotape and transcript for details.

## [REDACTED] INTERVIEW

AF: Okay, this is Investigator Anthony Fowler of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office. It's December 3, 2002. The time by my watch is 5:55 p.m. We are in the home of ah [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] New Hampshire. That's [REDACTED] Um, before we get started I'm going to ask everybody to introduce themselves, but first off folks [REDACTED] do we have your permission to audio tape this interview?

[REDACTED] Yes you do.

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: Thank you. Okay.

AV: My name is Allison Vachon and I'm an investigator with the Attorney General's Office as well. If you wouldn't mind introducing yourself.

[REDACTED] I'm [REDACTED] Father of [REDACTED]

AF: Could you spell your last name sir?

[REDACTED]

AF: And your address [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AF: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] New Hampshire.

AF: And your phone number here sir?

[REDACTED]

AF: Thank you. That will save you from doing it [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Okay. My name is [REDACTED]

AF: Okay. And you're the mother of?

[REDACTED] Of [REDACTED]

AF: [REDACTED] Okay. Um, [REDACTED] let me ask you first. I want to refresh your memory a little bit, but back in 1982, your son [REDACTED] his birthday is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Huh, huh.

[REDACTED] Yeah.

[REDACTED] Yeah.

AF: Okay. Back in 1982, [REDACTED] would have been in April would have been 17 years old. Um, do you remember at any particular occasion [REDACTED] telling you [REDACTED] that he had been, had some inappropriate contact with a Father Fortier? Did you hear that from [REDACTED] himself?

[REDACTED] No we didn't.

[REDACTED] Never did.

AF: Never did. How did you come to find out that there had been some inappropriate contact between Father Fortier and your son [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] When ah I guess like I say either the Manchester police or the Derry Police came over to the house.

AF: Derry Police or Manchester Police?

[REDACTED] I'm not sure which one and that's the first we ever heard of it.

AF: Okay. So the first time you folks learned that was when a police officer came to your house?

[REDACTED] Huh, huh.

AF: And told you what had happened?

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: Does the name, I'm going to try and refresh your memory. Does the name Officer Thomas ring a bell with you folks? I know it was 20 years ago, but.

[REDACTED] No it doesn't.

AF: Okay.

[REDACTED] Because it might, might have been him. Might not.

AF: Okay.

[REDACTED] I don't recall the name.

AF: All right. Um, what did you find out? Do you recall what Officer Thomas told you had happened to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Yeah. The only thing that I remember he said that he was just questioning [REDACTED] about the whole thing. Where he had been and the place in Derry and so on and so forth. That's it. That's how we found out what was going on.

AF: Okay.

AV: Did he say where he learned about [REDACTED] Any sort of incident that may have occurred?

[REDACTED] He never mentioned anybody or any names.

AV: Okay. How did he come to find you?

[REDACTED] I don't know.

[REDACTED] That's we don't know.

AV: Okay.

[REDACTED] I have no idea because.

[REDACTED] We don't know.

AV: So out of the blue one day he shows up at the house?

[REDACTED] Right. He called and

[REDACTED] He called and said he'd like to speak to us. I says find.

AF: Did you ever talk to your son about it after Officer Thomas left?

[REDACTED] Yes I did.

[REDACTED] Yes.

[REDACTED] And I asked where he was and he said at the camp.



AF: He said at a camp?

█ At a camp in Derry. He didn't remember exactly.

AF: Yep.

█ Must have been on a pond or a lake I guess. It was a camp.

AF: So he, your son confirmed to you that something inappropriate had happened?

█ Well what it was gonna happen. You know he just, he just figured well hey I don't belong here.

AF: Yep.

█ So he just took off.

AF: Did your son tell you what Father Fortier did specifically to him?

█ No.

█ He left before anything happened.

AF: Okay. Okay. Um, once you found out about that and once that officer was here, what if anything did you folks do to tell someone about it? Did you tell anybody about this?

█ Not, not at the, no. Not for a few days and then we learned through somebody else that.

█ I'm gonna say the █ but then I don't know.

█ I think it's the █ they went to see. The parish priest.

AF: Okay. This would be, this would be █

█ I believe so.

AF: Mother and father?

█ Right.

█ I believe so, but I'm not

[REDACTED] We're not sure.

[REDACTED] We're not sure.

AF: Did, did you, did you folks tell the [REDACTED] what happened?

[REDACTED] No.

[REDACTED] No.

AF: Okay. How did you find out that possibly the [REDACTED] went to the parish?

[REDACTED] Because [REDACTED] mentioned some of the names of the guys that have been going to Father Fortier.

AF: Okay. Did you [REDACTED] one at a time, either one of you ever go see a priest or tell anybody in the Diocese of Manchester what had happened to your son with this man?

[REDACTED] No.

[REDACTED] No.

AF: Never reported it? Okay.

AV: Do you have any knowledge of anyone else going and making a report to either the Diocese or a parish?

[REDACTED] Nope.

[REDACTED] No.

AF: Did you ever speak to Father Fortier about this yourself?

[REDACTED] No that was the end of it.

[REDACTED] That was, we just,

AF: Let it end.

[REDACTED] That [REDACTED] was ah said that's it, the end of the whole relationship.

[REDACTED] He has done nothing to me and he, I just walked away and he said that's it.

AF: And that's it?

█ And that was the end of it.

AF: Let me, let me and I don't know this might be, but it sounds like it's inaccurate. Um, in Officer Thomas' police report, he is the Derry Police Officer who investigated this years ago.

█ He is.

AF: Okay. He confirms that he spoke to you.

█ Yes he did.

AF: Okay and in his report he puts, in his police report he puts that █ spoke with a priest in another parish to report Fortier's contact with his son.

█ Not to my knowledge.

AF: That never happened?

█ Not to my knowledge.

AF: And that the priest told you, █ that you spoke to, that Fortier was in counseling through the Diocese for his problem.

█ No.

AF: Didn't, didn't happen?

█ Nope.

AV: Can you bring me back to the, the I'm unclear on how the █ became involved. I know you had mentioned that at one point that someone went and reported it so you guys let it lie.

█ Yeah. How it came about I know like I say █ named a few names of the boys that were there.

AV: Okay.

█ And the █ were one of them.

AV: Okay.

█ And we heard rumors, I'd say rumors.

AV: Okay.

█ That somebody went to the parish and reported this incident.

AF: Okay.

AV: So may have been the █ but could have been someone else?

█ May have been. It could have been someone else.

█ It could have been somebody else too. There was I think, wasn't there someone by the name of █ and he died?

AF: Yes.

█ Okay. Could have been him too.

█ And what's the other one.

█ █ there was another one. █ friend. I don't know. █ mentioned his name.

AF: But, but you, you folks, you folks, you yourself never went to any priest?

█ No.

AF: And you don't know for sure who might have reported it?

█ No.

█ That's right.

AF: When you talk about the parish, are we talking about St. John's?

█ Huh, huh.

█ Yes.

AF: Okay.

AV: Which is right up the street from here?

█ Right.

AF: Okay. Ah, did you folks know Father Fortier personally?

█ Yeah, we knew him because he was a priest in our parish.

AF: Sure.

█ But as far as knowing him personally, no.

█ No, he never came here. I mean we were close to many other priests from the parish that used to come here and have lunch with us, but him, no.

AV: Didn't have any social interaction outside the church?

█ No. No.

AV: Did either of you volunteer at the church aside from going to Sunday mass?

█ She was on the.

█ I was taking care of the altar boys.

█ Altar boys.

█ But I don't know if there was at the time Father Fortier was there.

█ I don't believe so.

█ Because I was involved with what the Cub Scouts too and ah so I'm not sure if he was there. I know there was Father Munsey was there when I started doing all.

█ Father Munsey and Father Pat.

AV: Father Pat?

█ Yeah.

AF: Do you remember Father Lamy?

█ No.

AF: Do you remember Father Lamy?

█ No.

AF: Okay.

█ What's his, do you know his first name?

AF: Ah, you know I don't maam. Ah, I think he was at St. John's um in ah came in 1981. He would have been around in 1982, working with ah Father Fortier.

█ Yeah.

AV: His name doesn't ring a bell at all?

█ Doesn't ring a bell. No.

AF: Okay. Um, since, since this all happened 20 years ago.

█ Huh, huh.

AF: Have, have you folks or █ to your knowledge have you ever, was this ever reported by you folks to any clergy, any priest or anybody at the Diocese of Manchester at the Chancery, was that ever reported?

█ No.

█ No.

AF: Okay.

█ Nothing we can. Sorry about that.

█ inaudible

AF: No it's just ah the only like I said ah some of the information that we have.

█ Doesn't.

AF: Doesn't jive what.

█ Right.

AF: With what um.

█ Ah, it's so strange.

AF: What you folks have ah told us.

[REDACTED] Huh, huh.

AF: And I just want to make this one, one more question. You don't know of anyone who went to a priest in another parish after this happened to [REDACTED] to report Fortier's contact with, with your son?

[REDACTED] Not a person, this was just.

AF: Okay.

[REDACTED] Hearsay from somebody else.

AF: Right.

[REDACTED] And gossip.

AF: Were you ever told that Father Fortier was in counseling for this problem? Did you ever learn that from anyone?

[REDACTED] No.

AF: Okay.

AV: So this is the first time you're hearing that there may have been any sort of counseling?

[REDACTED] Well we had, someone had mentioned that he, he had gone for counseling, but.

[REDACTED] But it was years after that.

[REDACTED] Right.

AV: Years after '82 the incident that may have

[REDACTED] Right.

AV: happened. Um, so as far as you guys hearing about other people you don't have any clear cut information, but it was kind of a gossip or rumor mill?

[REDACTED] Right.

AV: Floating around.

[REDACTED] Exactly.

AV: That someone made a report to either a parish or the Diocese?

[REDACTED] Right.

AV: So today as you guys sit here in front of us you don't have any knowledge of a confirmation of

[REDACTED] No.

AV: Diocese contact or a report?

[REDACTED] No, no we don't.

AV: Okay.

AF: I'm going to end this interview. It's 6:07 p.m. by my watch. This is the end of the interview with [REDACTED]

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NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE  
POSSESSED PROPERTY REPORT

10089

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. CASE NO. <i>AG-021-00103</i>	2. INVESTIGATING TPR. <i>Vicki Fowler</i>	3. ID <i>NHAG</i>	4. TOWN OF CRIME <i>Various</i>	5. TN CD	6. DATE OF REPORT <i>12-3-02</i>
7. OWNER <i>NHAG</i>		8. OWNERS TEL. <i>271-3671</i>	9. OWNERS ADDRESS <i>33 CAPITOL ST. CONCORD, NH 03301</i>		
10. DATE POSSESSED <i>12-3-02</i>		11. RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	12. SEIZED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	13. POSSESSED ABANDONED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	14. EVIDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHECK ONE		15. OTHER (Explain) <input type="checkbox"/>			
CHECK ONE		16. SEIZED WITH A WARRANT <input type="checkbox"/>	17. SEIZED WITHOUT A WARRANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18. NHSP LABORATORY NUMBER (If Applicable)	

PROPERTY

ITEMIZE, DESCRIBE, AND VALUE EACH ITEM		
# OF ITEMS	DESCRIPTION INCLUDING SERIAL NUMBER	VALUE
1	<i>MAXELL C90 Communicator Series AUDIOTAPE [REDACTED] INTERVIEW</i>	<i>UNK.</i>
	<i>END</i>	

CUSTOMER

DATE	RELINQUISHED BY	RECEIVED BY/LOCATION	PURPOSE

PAGE NO. <i>1</i> OF <i>1</i> PAGES	SIGNED (Investigating Trooper) <i>Vicki Fowler</i>	ID NO. <i>NHAG</i>	DATE <i>12-3-02</i>
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## MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSON INTERVIEWED: OFFICER WAYNE BOUCHER  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: NH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: DECEMBER 5, 2002  
RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
FR. FORTIER  
INTERVIEWED BY: ANTHONY FOWLER, INV. *a*  
ALLISON VACHON, INV.  
ATTORNEY JAMES ROSENBERG

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OFFICER BOUCHER was interviewed at the ATTORNEY GENERAL'S office regarding FR. FORTIER. The interview was audiotaped with BOUCHER'S permission. OFF. BOUCHER currently works as a police officer at the PORTSMOUTH PD and can be reached there. Please refer to the audiotape for further details of the interview.

**OFFICER WAYNE BOUCHER INTERVIEW**

AF: This is Investigator Anthony Fowler of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, Criminal Justice Bureau. It's December 5, 2002 at 10:25 a.m. by my watch. Ah, we are at the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office on the second floor in a conference room on the second floor of the Criminal Justice Bureau. This is an interview with ah Officer Wayne Boucher. Um, first what we're going to do is go around the room and have everybody introduce themselves and then Wayne I'm going to ask you some questions ah about your background and then we'll get started. Do you have ah, do you give us permission ah Wayne to ah audio tape this interview?

WB: Yes I do.

AF: Okay. Why don't we go around the room, room and introduce ourselves and then I'll start some questioning.

AV: Great. Allison Vachon, also with the Attorney General's Office.

WB: Wayne Boucher.

AF: Could you spell your last name, please?

WB: BOUCHER.

JR: Ah, Jim Rosenberg of the AG's Office.

AF: Okay. Ah, Wayne could you ah, could you give us a little background as to your law enforcement career. Where you started? How long you were there in each place and lead us right up to the present if you would?

WB: Sure. I started in 1994 with the Farmington Police Department. Ah, I started as a patrolman. After a year on the street um there was some turnover. Ah, I was promoted to Detectives um, where I worked for two years. I left the Farmington Police Department, went to Rochester Police Department. Was a Detective there for three years and then I went to the Portsmouth Police Department where I am today.

AF: Currently at Portsmouth PD?

WB: Yes.

AF: And how long have you been there?

WB: Ah, about a year and a half.

AF: And how long were you in Farmington?

WB: Three years.

AF: Okay. Ah, what is your phone number where you can be reached, Wayne?

WB: Ah, my work number is [REDACTED] or I can be reached at home [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

AF: And your current address, sir?

WB: [REDACTED]

AF: Okay. Um, let's, let's go back to your days in Farmington and specifically talk about an investigation which you conducted pertaining to Father Fortier. Do you recall that?

WB: Yes I do.

AF: Okay. Do you remember what year ah that investigation took place?

WB: I believe it was 1996.

AF: '96?

WB: I think so. '96 or '97.

AF: Okay. And the investigation of Father Fortier can you give us in general terms ah a run down of what that entailed? Why were you looking into Father Fortier?

WB: I ah found I was at home on a weekend night. I think it was a Sunday and I got a call at home from um Sgt. McGowen. He told me that he had a sexual assault case that just came, come into the PD. Um, he told me that it involved Father Fortier from the church, Catholic church in town.

AF: Um, what church was that? Do you recall?

WB: Jeez I don't remember the name of the church.

AF: Okay.

WB: Um, told me to keep any details he gave me under my hat for the time being. Um and to start working on it first thing Monday morning.

AF: Okay.

WB: I asked him if it was something that he wanted, wanted me to come in for um right away and he said ah first thing in the morning we'll get started on it due to the protocols in Strafford County having the victims interviewed by the County Attorney's Office and so forth. Um, so I came in the next day, ah started on the case. Setup the interviews at the County Attorney's Office.

AF: How many victims did you have?

WB: I had one victim at first.

AF: First?

WB: Yes.

AF: Okay. Um, do you remember who that was? Do you remember the names?

WB: I don't.

AF: If you don't that's okay.

WB: I don't remember the names without looking at the reports.

AF: All right.

WB: Ah, it was the younger of the two victims that came forward first. Um, set up the interviews with the County Attorney's Office. Ah, we got those scheduled right away due to the nature of the case.

AF: Sure.

WB: And ah I started working on you know, putting things together as far as the timeline. Um, went to the interviews that same day I believe, in the afternoon. Ah, and once the interview, once we got the interview done um I then had enough from the interviews to um start putting a search warrant together um for stuff that, at the Rectory and um I think we served the search warrant on the Rectory at about nine o'clock that night um, looking for stuff that the victim had told us was in you know the core rated story.

AF: What do you recall you were looking for, just if you remember?

- WB: He told us, the victim told us that he had, that he'd seen video tapes um.
- AF: Pornographic?
- WB: Not pornographic, but sexually explicit. Um, I recall one of them was an Al Pachino movie um, with a homosexual theme where he was a motorcycle rider at and um.
- AF: Let me ask you this. The victims um in this case if you remember. Did they um speak to you or tell you anything about this ah about Father Fortier giving them any alcohol to drink. Was there anything in that investigation did you remember that had to do with the drinking of ah beer by these victims with Fortier?
- WB: Yeah, there was. Ah, that came up I think that came up with ah the older victim, the second victim. Um, he mentioned that he spent, maybe it was the younger one as well. I'm not, I can't remember without looking at the report.
- AF: Okay.
- WB: Ah, but I do remember them talking about ah alcohol at the Rectory um and that Father Fortier had given them some alcohol.
- AF: Okay.
- WB: When they did overnight visits.
- AF: And, and what you recall is there was some sexually explicit and specific homosexual tapes that you were looking for.
- WB: Right.
- AF: As well as the victims divulging to you that ah he, meaning Father Fortier, had supplied alcohol to ah, to these, these victims. Is that correct?
- WB: Right.
- AF: Okay.
- WB: Right.
- AF: Um, a quick question and I'll let everybody else jump in here, but I, if I don't ask it I'm going to forget and so. When you were doing the investigation. First off I want to ask you. Do you remember speaking to a guy at the Diocese of Manchester named Matthew McSorley?

WB: Yes I do.

AF: Okay. Tell me the purpose of that phone call, Wayne?

WB: Um, I spoke to him a couple of different times.

AF: You did.

WB: Ah, the first time I spoke to him I think it was to get some background on Father Fortier. Um, I think, I think I got the information from him that Father Fortier had been ah enrolled in some type of a retreat or program for priests um back when he first start, years before.

AF: What type of program?

WB: I think it was, he said it was in Arizona I think and it was ah can't remember it was alcohol or um or sexual deviance or something like that.

AF: Yep, yep.

WB: Um, but he wouldn't give me a whole lot, he wouldn't give me much background on it.

AF: Okay.

WB: All he would tell me is that he was there and I spoke to him a second time when the second victim came in. Ah, and I asked him where Father Fortier was because he was out on bail for the first one cause I had an arrest warrant for him. I was going to go and pick him up and ah.

AV: For the secondary victim?

WB: Yes. And all, he was very vague. He told me that he was ah that they had him staying at a um, a Rectory with another priest in Nashua. I asked him where it was. He gave me ah, he gave me an address, but I mean he wouldn't, he wasn't very helpful.

AF: So you recall at least part of the conversation of the first phone call was that he told you he had been McSorley told you that Fortier had been in some type of retreat somewhere, possibly Arizona for either alcohol or, or as you put it some type of sexually deviant behavior.

WB: I think so.

AF: Okay.

JR: Was, he, do you um, was do you recall him being specific about whether the nature of the program was for treatment of a sexual problem versus treatment of alcohol?

WB: I wish I remembered. I don't.

JR: No, that's fine.

WB: I don't remember.

AV: How did that, how did that come about? Did he bring it up to you or did you? Like how did that it's kind of a big piece of the puzzle.

WB: I think I, well what I did was I asked him, I was trying to get a timeline of where this guy was. You know where he'd been before. Um, and what I asked him I said can you give me a rundown of where this guy served before and when he started to give me the rundown that's when he told me about that stuff.

JR: Let me show you what's marked for our purposes is page 8529. Ah, does that look familiar to you?

WB: Yep.

JR: And what is that?

WB: That's my report that I wrote um and it's his assignments.

JR: Yeah. And is that report based on conversation you had with Mr. McSorley?

WB: Yes.

JR: Ah, and was Mr. McSorley forth coming with information about Fortier's past? In terms of his specific assignments in various parishes?

WB: Yep for the most part. I mean like I said he was, when I talked to him he was vague. He didn't want to give a whole lot of information. Um, he gave me specific answers to the questions that I asked.

JR: And ah in giving you those assignments it doesn't look by that report there's any mention that he was involved in sexual treatment or even alcohol treatment.



WB: Well the, I think it was a health related leave of absence.

JR: Right. Got ya.

WB: Yeah.

JR: Um, did he, did he tell you um aside from treatment did he give you anymore specific information about whether Fortier, whether he knew that Fortier had ever been involved in sexual misconduct in the past?

WB: I don't remember.

JR: Okay.

WB: I don't remember.

JR: That's, that's fine.

AF: That's fine.

JR: Um, had he, do you recall whether anyone during the course of your investigation in the mid '90's, um anyone from the Diocese told you that they were aware that Father Fortier had been involved in sexual misconduct with kids before the time you guys covered in the Farmington incident?

WB: Did anybody from the Diocese tell me that?

JR: The Diocese tell you that.

WB: No.

JR: No.

WB: No I don't think so.

JR: Um, did you however learn in the course of your investigation that there had been prior victims of Fortier?

WB: Yes.

JR: And do you recall how you learned that?

WB: Ah, well I recall victims coming forward. The second victim came forward from Farmington. Um, and we also had a, kind of strange, we had a walk-in victim, guy come in. Um, I didn't give his story much weight at the time

because he just, he was all over the place you know, he just didn't, he didn't have the exact times, dates, stuff like that.

JR: Sure.

WB: And I sat down with him, the Chief and I and we, we interviewed him, talked to him and he, I don't know he just came off like, like a guy whose is just trying to sort of jump on the band wagon, you know what I mean.

JR: And this, this victim came to you. You said by virtue of a walk-in to the Farmington Police Department.

WB: Right.

JR: And not by information provided to you by the Diocese?

WB: Right, yep.

JR: Um, I'd like to show you what's marked again just for the tape. Page 9216 and 9217 and give you a chance to look over that. Does that appear to be ah one of your reports?

WB: Yep.

JR: And does that report relate to the walk-in victim that you mentioned just a moment ago?

WB: Yes it does.

JR: And what was his name on the report?

WB: [REDACTED]

JR: Okay. And you were saying that there was a victim that had come forward. Was that from, was he describing events with Fortier for some years prior to your investigation in Farmington?

WB: Yes. Ah, he told me 1983 or 1984.

JR: Um, and you said you had a hard time ah with potential credibility's related, credibility issues, was that because it was hard to corroborate what [REDACTED] was saying?

WB: Yeah I mean he, you know he said it was in 1983, 1984. He wasn't sure what the date was. When it was. Um, he was just kind of I don't know if you've ever interviewed somebody who just you know, he's not all there.

JR: Yeah right.

WB: You know and um he was telling me you know he had some issues because of this and you know he hadn't gotten over it yet. That type of stuff so it was, it was kind of I could see that he showed some signs of being a victim, you know, signs that I know of, sexual assault victims, but he was just

JR: All over

WB: He was kind of tough to believe.

JR: Yeah, um and [REDACTED] you said came forward to speak to you um, and as you sit here right now is this your only memory of a prior victim of Roger Fortier's that became aware to you at the time you did your investigation in Farmington?

WB: Yeah, yeah, it is. Um, like I said when I got this, when I got the assignments from the Diocese the intention, the intention was to notify the agencies that he served in.

JR: Huh, huh.

WB: Um, get a list of the people who you know the boys that had been close to him at the parishes, you know altar boys and stuff.

JR: Huh, huh.

WB: And ah, like I said they, they wouldn't give me names of anybody or anything else so you know.

JR: Um.

WB: But yeah this is the only victim that came forward afterwards. Well, besides the two victims that he was prosecuted for.

JR: Um, and did the Diocese ever provide you any information that they had previous in the early '80's talk with Father Fortier about his sexual problems?

WB: Like I said I don't remember. I remember, I remember ah Mr. McSorley saying that ah you know he went somewhere.

JR: Okay.

WB: From the treatment, the sexual, the health. Not sexual, for the health related leave of absence.

JR: Okay let me. I, I just ran onto another one of your reports which is um ah page 9219. Um, and it looks like based upon my reading of it that it's a report that you generated after you received an unidentified phone call from someone reporting incidents related to Father Fortier and his past way back when he was in Manchester at um St. Jean's Church on Kelly Street and there's a line I've underlined. Maybe take a minute and read the entire report, but

WB: Yep.

JR: Ah, look at that line.

WB: Huh, huh.

JR: So is that a report you generated?

WB: I didn't. Officer Messerve did.

JR: Okay, I'm sorry. I didn't, didn't look at the name on the report. Um, and ah does this report reference an unidentified caller that, that contacted Farmington PD?

WB: Huh, huh.

JR: And, and what type of information was the caller providing at that time?

WB: Um, prior sexual assault by Fortier that happened in Manchester. Um, and it references ah Fortier being sent away um to some type of treatment program in Texas.

JR: So when you said before that um you learned through the investigation that Fortier was sent away to a treatment program somewhere maybe Arizona. Is it possible that you were recalling.

WB: It could be.

JR: This report?

WB: It could be.

JR: And not a conversation you had with Mr. McSorley from the Diocese?

WB: Yeah, that's quite possible. Like I said, it was so long ago. I remember, I remember them talking about the sending him away to a program or somebody talking about that.

JR: Sure.

WB: Um, and I thought it was McSorley.

JR: Yep.

WB: But now looking at this I mean, it couldn't have been.

JR: Right. And, and more likely it was information from this unidentified caller.

WB: Right.

JR: That had contacted Farmington.

WB: Yep.

JR: During the time of your investigation.

WB: Right.

JR: Okay, Gotch ya. Um, it had you been provided with, so as you sit here today do you recall whether the Diocese specifically told you that they talked with Fortier, Diocesan personnel talked with Fortier about his prior sexual problems well before anything that occurred in Farmington?

WB: Do I remember them telling me that?

JR: Yeah, yeah.

WB: No.

JR: Do you recall whether the Diocese told you that before your investigation never even started in the '90's as far back as the early '80's that um Fortier had admitted to high Diocesan officials that he engaged in sexual misconduct with minors?

WB: No.

JR: No. You don't recall that?

AF: Did the Diocese or any member of the Diocese ever make a comment to you during your conversations with them that they, they never had a problem with Fortier? Was that ever said?

WB: I don't remember, Tony.

AF: Okay.

WB: I, I don't.

AF: That's all right. And if you don't that's fine. Um, one other quick point I want to make and um this when you, who else did you speak to at the Diocese if you remember Wayne? Who else did you talk to?

WB: I think it was just Mr. McSorley because he was the ah. I forget what he called himself what his title was. Public Relations.

JR: Communications.

AV: Right.

AF: Did you ever get a call from anybody or calls from anybody from the Diocese asking what the progress of the investigation was and whether or not this guy was going to be arrested?

WB: I don't think so. I don't think so because his arrest happened pretty quick.

AF: Okay.

AV: So it wasn't a big time?

WB: No. We did the search and ah based on that I, I think the next day we arrested him.

AF: Did you ever ask for any documents for any reason during the investigation from the Diocese other than what we've already spoken about?

WB: I don't think so, no.

AF: Okay. How in a general sense would you, how would you consider your cooperation that you got at the time from the Diocese as it pertained to Fortier in this investigation?

WB: Like I said there wasn't, there wasn't much cooperation at all. You know.

AF: Okay.

WB: They gave me specific answers to specific questions I asked, but they didn't offer anything.

AF: Okay.

JR: Um, I got a couple more problems I consider that are, I think based on what you said before I already know the answer to. Just want, just want to hear from you. Um, you said before that ah the Diocese never told you about their knowledge that Fortier had a prior sexual problem with minors well before the Farmington investigation even took place.

WB: Huh, huh.

JR: Um, I want to follow-up with some more specific questions. Did, did the Diocese, any Diocesan official ever inform you that Fortier had admitted to them to an incident of soliciting a minor for sexual acts? That's as early as the early '80's.

WB: Did anybody from the Diocese ever?

JR: Correct. Did anyone from the Diocese tell you that?

WB: No.

JR: Did anyone from the Diocese tell you that Fortier had admitted to them that um he had ah provided pornographic movies and alcohol to minors in his rectory room at St. John's the Baptist in Manchester in the early '80's?

WB: No.

JR: Did anyone from the Diocese tell you that he had provided alcohol and pornography to minors at the home of a friend in Derry, New Hampshire in ah '82, '83, '84 time period?

WB: No.

JR: Um, did anyone from the Diocese tell you that there was an allegation that Father Fortier had sexual contact with a minor um in Derry, New Hampshire named [REDACTED]

WB: No.

JR: No, so that information was unknown to you at least in terms of the Diocese providing any information of being forth coming with any information about Fortier's past.

WB: Right.

JR: At the time of your investigation?

WB: Right.

JR: Um, did you um have any contacts during the time period of your investigation, were you contacted at all by um the Derry Police Department and more specifically by a guy named Officer Vernon Thomas?

WB: Might have been. I don't remember.

JR: Right. Um, as you sit here today do you recall any information that was provided to you by Officer Thomas about an investigation by the Derry Police Department in the early '80's related to Father Fortier's conduct?

WB: It's possible. I don't remember without looking at reports I don't.

JR: Okay. Well um I can give you if you want. There's a lot of reports. Go ahead, Tony if you have questions.

AF: Just one other question on Mr. McSorley. Um, when you spoke to McSorley about Fortier's assignments, was it he or how did you, how did you find out, how did you get that information? Was something sent to you or from this document or did he give that to you over the phone?

WB: Over the phone.

AF: He did.

WB: Yep.

AF: Okay. All right.

WB: Yep.

AV: When you asked about different parishes, when he gave you like the list or timeline of where he was.

WB: Huh, huh.



- AV: Did you ask, did you say you asked him a little bit about possible other victims or altar servers in that parish?
- WB: Yep. I asked for a list of altar servers that altar boys that he had the different parishes.
- AV: And what was your intent there in asking for that?
- WB: I, again I was gonna contact those agencies and um find out if they had any contact with this guy. Find out if there are any reports from kids who are on the list.
- AV: And he refused to provide that information?
- WB: He said he didn't have it.
- AV: Okay.
- WB: And you know, and I remember pressing him on it. I said you've got to be kidding me. You don't keep a list. You don't know who serves as altar boys in your parishes. Oh, no, we don't keep that stuff. Parishes might have it, but we don't.
- AF: Okay.
- JR: Okay, I want to show you these first of all. I think what I'm showing you are victim interviews that ah you folks generated at Farmington Police Department with regard to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were the victims in the prosecution at Strafford County.
- WB: Yeah, yeah.
- JR: Um, now I don't think you need to go through every page of those reports, but um would, would, I'm asking an obvious question I think, but um would there be any reason that communications with the Derry Police Department or Officer Vernon be referenced in interviews with victims from Farmington, New Hampshire.
- WB: No.
- JR: Right. Ah, and
- AF: Did you ever speak to and I think you've already answered this, but you spoke to McSorley, Wayne. Do you recall ever having a conversation with um a guy

by the name of ah Father Frank Christian or Bishop Christian? Did you ever have any contact with him that you can recall?

WB: No. I don't think so. I, I think the only contact I had there was with McSorley.

AF: Okay.

WB: And he was like I said he was so reluctant to give information. I don't, I didn't call him back I don't think.

AF: Yeah.

WB: You know, I called him, I had as little contact as possible because he wouldn't give me any info.

AF: Okay.

AV: Did he ever call you or is it the two times that you spoke with him and you reaching out to him both times?

WB: I think so yeah.

AV: Okay. And the second time was to follow up with where he was staying so you could reach him cause you had an arrest warrant?

WB: Yep.

JR: Bear with me here just for a second.

AV: Volumes of reports.

JR: I know it's incredible. This is one I promise you about 15 binders I have in my office. Um, we looked before at a report you generated um when it was generated by the Farmington Police Department related to a walk-in report made by [REDACTED] as well as page 9296, which appears to be a faxed cover sheet. Ah, now I realize it says it's from Lt. McGowen um and that you didn't generate it, but does this appear to be a faxed cover sheet of the Farmington Police Department?

WB: Yep, it's one of their cover sheets.

JR: And ah, and where is this fax directed to?

WB: Ah, Detective Ruggerio of Derry.

JR: Of the Derry Police Department. And it says that there were um three pages \_\_\_\_\_ oh no it's not. Um, these are the next two pages after that faxed cover sheet or right before it. Before you indicated that [REDACTED] was reporting incidents. It says in this report that occurred in Derry, New Hampshire and then there's this fax cover sheet, this is a two page report, the fax cover sheets says including the pages, including the cover sheet there are three pages sent.

WB: Right.

JR: Does it, is it likely that this fax cover sheet was directing the [REDACTED] report to the Derry Police Department for?

WB: Yes.

JR: Their information?

WB: Yep.

JR: Okay.

AV: And that would have been because he was stating that the incident actually occurred in Derry?

WB: Right.

AV: What was his reason for coming into Farmington PD?

WB: Just that we had arrested the guy.

AV: Okay.

WB: He said and he and I'm assuming that's why.

AV: He became aware of an arrest?

WB: I don't remember.

AV: Or the victim coming forward.

WB: Yeah, because he had the ah, he had the clipping from the newspaper with him.

AV: Okay.

JR: Um, had you had contact with Vernon Thomas of the Derry Police Department about a prior investigation of endangering the welfare of minors for sexual misconduct by Fortier, um is it likely that you would have included that information in a report that you generated in Farmington?

WB: I would think I would have.

JR: Okay. I want to give you ah just a chunk of reports.

WB: Yep.

JR: And those are reports that the Farmington Police Department provided us with that relate to your investigation of Roger Fortier. Um, and I want to give you an opportunity to um quickly review those reports and let us know whether there is any indication that ah you had conversations with Detective Thomas or the Derry Police Department. I'm going to add a couple more there.

TAPE ONE, SIDE B

AF: Attorney General's Office. December 5, 2002 at 10:57 a.m. by my watch. Ah, we had to flipped the audio tape over to side B. We are now recording on side B in the continuation, the interview with ah Wayne Boucher and same people are present. Ah, Wayne, I would ask you if you have, do we have your permission to continue to audio tape this interview?

WB: Yes.

JR: And ah, just for the record ah Detective Boucher is continuing to read part of the reports that he and the Farmington Police Department generated in the mid 1990's when he was investigating ah allegations of sex abuse against Roger Fortier to determine if he had any contact with the Derry Police Department about their investigation of endangering the welfare of minors that occurred in the 1983 and the 1984 time period.

WB: I don't see anything.

JR: Okay, so ah based on your review of your reports from the Farmington investigation, does it appear that you had any contact with the Derry Police Department or Officer Thomas about a prior investigation he conducted of Roger Fortier?

WB: It doesn't look like it.

JR: Okay.

WB: Based on the reports.

JR: And based on your memory as you sit here today.

WB: Right.

JR: Okay.

WB: I don't remember talking to him.

AF: All set. Okay, I'm going to end this interview then. Um, it's 11:00 a.m. by my watch. December 5, 2002. End of the interview with ah Officer Wayne Boucher.

201101

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE  
POSSESSED PROPERTY REPORT

10710

1. CASE NO. <b>AG-021-02-00103</b>	2. INVESTIGATING TPR. <b>Vachon Fowler</b>	3. ID <b>NHAG</b>	4. TOWN OF CRIME <b>Various</b>	5. TN CD	6. DATE OF REPORT <b>12-5-02</b>
7. OWNER <b>NHAG</b>		8. OWNERS TEL. <b>271-3671</b>	9. OWNERS ADDRESS <b>33 CAPITAL ST. Concord, NH 03301</b>		
CHECK ONE	11. RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	12. SEIZED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	13. POSSESSED ABANDONED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	14. EVIDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15. OTHER (Explain) <input type="checkbox"/>
CHECK ONE	16. SEIZED WITH A WARRANT <input type="checkbox"/>	17. SEIZED WITHOUT A WARRANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18. NHSP LABORATORY NUMBER (If Applicable)		

CIRCUMSTANCES

ITEMIZE, DESCRIBE, AND VALUE EACH ITEM		
# OF ITEMS	DESCRIPTION INCLUDING SERIAL NUMBER	VALUE
1	Maxell C-60 Communicator Series Audio tape Wayne Boncher Interview	UNK
END		


PROPERTY

DATE	RELINQUISHED BY	RECEIVED BY/LOCATION	PURPOSE



CUSTODY

PAGE NO. <b>1</b> OF <b>1</b> PAGES	SIGNED (Investigating Trooper) <i>[Signature]</i>	ID NO. <b>NHAG</b>	DATE <b>12-5-02</b>
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## MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSON INTERVIEWED: LT. VERN THOMAS  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: NH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: DECEMBER 5, 2002  
RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
FR. FORTIER  
INTERVIEWED BY: ANTHONY FOWLER, INV.   
ALLISON VACHON, INV.  
JAMES ROSENBERG, ATTORNEY

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Interviewed LT. THOMAS at the NH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.  
The interview was audiotaped with LT. THOMAS' permission. LT. THOMAS is  
employed at the DERRY POLICE DEPARTMENT. His telephone number is   
 Refer to the audiotape for details.

## LT. VERN THOMAS INTERVIEW

AF: This in Investigator Anthony Fowler of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, Criminal Justice Bureau. It is December 5, 2002 at 1:17 p.m. by my watch. Ah, we are conducting an interview at the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office in the Criminal Justice Bureau in a conference room there. Ah, we are speaking with ah Lt. Thomas from the Derry PD and ah there are other people present and I will go around and have them introduce themselves once I'm done. Ah, first off, Lieutenant, do you have any problem, or do we have your permission to audio tape this interview?

VT: Yes you do.

AF: Okay. I will, the other thing too as you know, you've probably have dealt with these things for many years. The mike on these are not that great so just if you would speak up. I would appreciate it. All right, why don't we go around the room.

AV: Allison Vachon also with the Attorney General's Office.

JR: Jim Rosenberg with the AG's Office.

VT: Vern Thomas Derry Police Lieutenant.

AF: Um, Lieutenant how, how long have you been a police officer?

VT: Since February of 1981.

AF: Okay. And have you been with Derry PD all your career?

VT: Yes.

AF: Okay. And what's your phone number where you can be reached?

VT: 

AF: And what's your current assignment with the PD?

VT: Detective Lieutenant.

AF: Okay. All right. Just to get us started you had spoken to Det. Favreau a short time ago about an investigation that you conducted ah back in 1984, pertaining to Father Fortier and some other people. Is that correct?



VT: That's correct.

AF: Okay. And at the time you conducted that interview with Detective, well you did that interview with Det. Favreau had you had a chance to refresh your memory by reading the reports that you generated from 1984?

VT: No I hadn't read the report, but we had a couple of communications and the first was, was there such a report and of course there was one and we talked a few times about me trying to locate it. It was kept as an intelligence report. It was difficult for us to find. We had a police station move and so forth. Um, but I put half a dozen people on it and we finally located it. That was the first time we discussed it. Um, the next time ah I had copied the report and I gave it to Favreau. In fact he came down and picked it up and we talked briefly about the general and what I recalled of it. Um, and there most recently that when we talked was about a week ago and he asked me some specific questions out of the report, which I hadn't read so um.

AF: You hadn't read the report?

VT: Right. We agreed that I would go over it because we knew this was coming to maybe to a head at some point with your investigation and I should be up on it so that's where we are.

AF: Okay. And what we'd like to do today is based on that interview or speaking with Favreau and looking at the reports that you generated in 1984 of that investigation. Um, there were some points that we want to try and clear up that may have been somewhat contradictory as it pertained to your reports from 1984 as to what you had said to Favreau and why, a short time ago.

VT: Okay.

AF: Ah, but just for the record I want to say this. The reports that you generated in 1984, okay on this particular investigation. Ah, are those an accurate reflection of what occurred during that investigation in 1984?

VT: Absolutely.

AF: Okay. Good. Um, I'm gonna, I'll start with one and I know Jim and Allison you're going to want to jump in here, but one of the issues I want to talk to you about and I know you have the reports in front of you is in particularly you, during the investigation conducted in 1984. At one particular point you ended up speaking with Father Fortier, is that correct?

VT: Yes.

AF: All right. And during that interview with Father Fortier, do you recall Father Fortier making certain admissions to you during that interview?

VT: Yes.

AF: Okay. If you want to go to your reports you can do that, Vern. Just to make sure that we get it accurate.

JR: And for our record we've ah numbered ah, ah Lt. Thomas' reports ah beginning page 9269 through um 9274 is the report of his interview with ah Father Fortier. We'll strike that through 9272.

VT: Okay.

AF: All right. Are you where you need to be, Vern?

VT: Yes.

AF: Okay. Lets, lets start off first um what's the date that you interviewed Father Fortier?

VT: September 17, 1984.

AF: And I see a form in front of me that you're looking at, can you describe what that form is?

VT: This is a Derry Police Department Miranda Form. It has the Derry Police Department, the name and address on the top of it. It is Miranda Warnings. It asks if you understand each of the rights I've explained. Having these rights in mind, do you wish to talk to us now. This is a form that I read to Roger Fortier when I interviewed him. It's signed by him. It's signed by me. He's acknowledged his understanding of the rights with X. In the box it says yes and he's also agreed to speak to me by marking X in the box that says yes.

AF: And Father Fortier ah agreed to speak to you?

VT: Yes he did.

AF: Okay. Now ah during that interview and I'm going to let you talk about this in your own words.

VT: Sure.

AF: During that interview, Vern, can you describe for us what if any admissions Father Fortier made to you as it pertained to your investigation and um and the

children that he was involved, or the kids, teenagers he was involved with at the time?

VT: Well this investigation was initially was not directed at Roger Fortier. It was directed at another individual. A friend of his by the name of [REDACTED] so the, the nature of my questions when I spoke to him originally were with respect to [REDACTED] Um, and the fact that he may be a homosexual and at some point I asked Fortier if he was a homosexual. Um, both of them had involved with children in Derry and as I, during my investigation I learned that Fortier had a lot to do with kids through the church. Um, Fortier admitted to me and it's in the report. He admitted to me that he provided alcohol to under age people, boys, and that he showed them pornographic films.

AF: Um, okay and in the report and I don't have it in front of me, but does Fortier tell you, when he makes those admissions about the porn and the alcohol for minors, does he tell you where this is occurring? Where he is doing this?

VT: Let me just if I can.

AF: Sure, refresh your memory. Take your time. We have plenty of tape.

JR: Yeah, I was just ah Lt. Thomas, I think your page number 38 for a second, bottom paragraph of that page.

AF: And you can read if it helps you. I mean whatever your report says.

VT: My report says that he would bring different boys from his parish to [REDACTED] house with him. Um, I don't recall him saying specifically that he provided alcohol. The movies should be down there. On my page 40 of my report he also admitted to showing. This is a quote "He also admitted to showing movies to the boys and providing them with beer both at [REDACTED] house also at the St. John's or maybe perhaps St. Jean's Rectory when Fortier lived there."

AF: Okay. All right. Um.

JR: So, so based on that um Fortier admitted to you that he showed pornography and provided beer both at the Rectory at St. Jean's or St. John's. I think St. Jean's is St. John's.

AV: Yeah.

JR: I think it's a friendly name for it and ah as well as [REDACTED] house in Derry.

VT: Yes.

AV: He might have said, did he say specifically that he was providing alcohol to or was it just a general term? Did he name anyone specifically?

VT: Let me if you don't mind go back to the report again.

AF: Take your time.

VT: In the early part of my interview he admitted that he hung around with and brought kids to the Derry, to Derry by the name of [REDACTED] of Manchester, [REDACTED] of Manchester and [REDACTED] of Manchester. Ah, with respect to his comments about who he provided the alcohol to and who watched the movies, he referred to them as the boys, but he also said he had brought boys and I took that to mean other boys besides these three to Derry and invited them to his Rectory or room or whatever he had over there.

JR: Um, you mentioned [REDACTED] there. Um, did Father Fortier make any admissions to you about his conduct specifically with [REDACTED]

VT: Yes.

JR: And um, do you recall, I want, I want to try to get to the bottom of this because I, I had an opportunity to read your report and I was just um I just wanted to clear that up. Do you recall um what the nature, what did, what Father Fortier told you about what occurred with um a boy named [REDACTED]

VT: Well he didn't go into detail with respect to his conduct. Pretty much during this whole interview he was uncooperative in terms of answering my questions. Anything I already knew he'd perhaps admit to so to speak and I had brought up the issue about [REDACTED] being touched. I believe he was touched on the rear end by this guy and he admitted that that happened. He didn't say how he did it. He didn't go into any detail about it. He admitted it when I challenged him with it.

JR: Okay, so um, I'm looking at our page 9271, your page 39.

VT: Yes.

JR: Um, it says. I'm reading your report. Fortier admitted and said that none of the boys he brought to Derry knew of this. He admitted to the incident involving [REDACTED] so, so are you telling us that you described to him the allegation that [REDACTED] had made?

VT: I believe I did. I can't say to exactly what detail, but I would have been on point that he touched him in Derry.

JR: Okay. And when you confronted Father Fortier with that allegation, he admitted that it was correct?

VT: Yes.

JR: Um, and just so we're clear on the nature of that allegation, um, ah I refer to page 36 of your reports ah which is page 9267 of our documents. Um, does this page refer to an interview conducted with um a boy named [REDACTED]

VT: Yes.

JR: Um, and does it indicate in the report how old [REDACTED] was when he had contact with Father Fortier?

VT: Yes it says ah in the early fall of 1982 when he was 17 years of age.

JR: Okay, in the late summer early fall of '82.

VT: Right.

JR: He was 17 and um does in this report it reflect what [REDACTED] alleged occurred between he and Father Fortier?

VT: Yes.

JR: And could you describe for us what [REDACTED] told you?

VT: They had gone to [REDACTED] cottage or a cottage described as a green cottage at the dead end of a road by a lake belonging to Fortier's friend [REDACTED] which I believe to be [REDACTED] cottage on [REDACTED] in Derry. At the cottage the two drank beer and watched the porno movies. They were alone in the cottage. [REDACTED] came home around 11:00 p.m. and went to bed. Fortier and [REDACTED] went to bed after that. They slept in a bedroom adjacent to [REDACTED]. A short time later [REDACTED] awoke to find Fortier with his hand on [REDACTED] buttocks. [REDACTED] grabbed his hand and pulled it off him. No further contact took place verbally or physically after that.

JR: Okay, so based on your interview with [REDACTED] it sounds like [REDACTED] alleged when he was 17 that Fortier touched his buttocks while they were sleeping.

VT: Yes.

JR: Um, and when in your interview with Father Fortier it says that Fortier admitted um to the incident involving [REDACTED] Would that mean that Fortier admitted to placing his hand on [REDACTED] buttocks and the trip to Derry?

VT: Yes.

JR: Okay. Good. Understood. Thank you for your patience.

VT: Thank you for yours.

AF: You all set Jim?

JR: For the moment I am.

AF: Okay. Um, also in, in the statement from Fortier, Vern, you asked him, you asked Fortier if he had any sexual contact with a boy named [REDACTED] okay.

VT: Yes. Yep.

AF: And Fortier responded I'd rather not say.

VT: Right.

AF: Do you recall that? Is that accurate?

VT: That's what he said yes.

AF: Okay and is that reflected in your report?

VT: Yes I put it in quotations in the report.

AF: Okay. Um, and also in your statement, in the statement that Fortier gave you besides the admissions we've talked about.

VT: Huh, huh.

AF: He also talked about other teenagers around the [REDACTED] home when he was there including a [REDACTED] Is that accurate also?

VT: Yes I believe he did.

AF: Yep. Okay. Jim or Allison any other questions on the confession?

JR: I'm good there.

AV: No.

AF: All set Allison?

AV: Yep.

AF: Okay. All right. Another area Vern, very quickly I want to go through with you is at some point during this investigation um, you had a conversation with a person at the Diocese.

VT: Yes.

AF: Do you recall that and, and, and first off let me ask you this. Do you recall who you spoke to at the Diocese?

VT: Yes I do.

AF: What was the name of that person?

VT: Father Christian.

AF: Okay. Was this after or near the completion of the investigation or was it at the start or somewhere in the middle? Do you recall?

VT: I don't recall and what I'll say about that is I had more than one conversation with Christian.

AF: Okay.

VT: And the reason that I can remember that I didn't note it in the report, but he called me at least on the second time I spoke to him he called me about a year after this investigation concluded and was suspended and he wanted to know what we were going to do about this.

AF: Right.

VT: When he called and said this is Father Christian I knew who he was, which you know he spoke to me before. I know I talked to him before.

AF: Okay.

VT: And he described himself as the Bishop's secretary or assistant.

AF: Okay. Do you recall the conversation, and perhaps it might have been the first seemed as I know you just explained how Christian had called you about what was going on with this, what was going to happen. The first time you talked to Christian, do you recall what the substance of that conversation was in and why that conversation took place?

VT: I don't.

AF: Okay.

VT: I do not.

AF: All right. Let me ask you this. Think about this one. During any conversation that you had with Father Christian during this investigation, did Father Christian become aware through you, okay, at any point that Fortier had admitted to soliciting the boy, providing alcohol to minors and watching porno with these minors? Do you recall and think about that one before you.

VT: I don't remember the conversation with him about that, but it was clear when we spoke the second time when he asking about it he knew everything about it because he wanted to know what we were going to do and you know my answer to him was kind of simplistic. I said just as soon as I have enough I'm going to arrest Fortier.

JR: Um, let's do this. Um, I'm going to show you a document that I, I don't believe you've seen before. It's marked 2314 and 2315. Um, it's entitled a confidential memorandum and I'll tell you this a document we secured from the Diocesan in archive um and through the grand jury process. I'd ask you to take a minute and um review this document and see if it doesn't refresh your memory about a conversation that you had with um, ah Father Christian.

VT: That, that, I recall in that conversation that there is some reference in here to them wanting to get Roger Fortier assistance and so forth. I remember having that conversation and it would just make sense. All the rest of this stuff, it's the nature of my investigation. It's the product of my investigation and that's how he would have got the information more than likely. I don't remember specifically saying to him, but it's clear that I must have.

JR: Okay. Um, so just to make it clear. Ah, according to this memo it, it indicates that Father Christian had called you to speak to you about the investigation. Was that likely accurate?

VT: Yes, yes it is.



JR: Um, and that during your discussion um you told him that you'd spoken with Father Fortier directly. Is that also likely accurate?

VT: Yes.

JR: Um, and that during your discussion with Father Fortier, Father Fortier admitted to you that he was a homosexual. Is that probably correct?

VT: Yes.

JR: And that you told Father Christian that Fortier admitted to you to one case of solicitation.

VT: That, that would be his words apparently.

JR: Huh, huh.

VT: But I would suggest that means the touching on the buttocks situation. I could be wrong, but that would be accurate if we had a conversation he might have put it into his own words that way.

JR: Okay. Um, so it's likely you discussed the allegation that [REDACTED] made that Fortier touched um [REDACTED] buttocks.

VT: Yes.

AF: And, and based on what you read here from reading this document concerning Fortier, ah it would, it would seem apparent that Father Christian became aware of some of the particulars of this case based on the conversations he had with you.

VT: Yes.

AF: Okay.

AV: What's the date on that document?

JR: Um, it's September 26 of 1984. Um, and further um if it says in this document that you told Father Christian that Fortier admitted to serving alcohol to minors, showing pornographic films to minors, um would that be consistent with your memory, the discussions with Father Christian at the time?

VT: I would say yes. Everything that's in there is things that I investigated. The only way he'd know that is by conversation with me.

AF: And more importantly what's in that document that we're talking about is accurate information.

VT: Yes.

AF: Okay. Okay, anymore Jim, Allison?

AV: No.

JR: Um, how do you, when you, when you came in today we asked you um, whom at the Diocese you spoke, spoke to you immediately remembered um Father Christian's name. Ah, how is it that you remembered um his name?

VT: Ah, it was just I related Christian and Catholic together.

JR: Huh, huh.

VT: Pretty well when he called because the first time when I first spoke to him and, and it just stuck with me. Um, when I got a call from Manchester Police, Detective Favreau asking if I remembered the conversation with Christian. As soon as he said Christian I said absolutely and that's the guy I talked to.

JR: So as you sit here today there's not a doubt in your mind that you spoke to Father Christian?

VT: Not a doubt, not a doubt in my mind.

AF: Okay. At some point Vern, in the late '90's did you become aware that Farmington PD and the Strafford County Attorney's Office was doing an investigation on Fortier for sexually abusing kids? Did you become aware of that at all?

VT: Not about the investigation. I saw on TV that he'd been arrested for it.

AF: Okay. Did, during that investigation, during the Farmington investigation, which lead to Fortier's arrest and incarceration, at any time during that investigation in Farmington, were you, were you ever contacted by Farmington PD or did you ever have any discussions with Farmington PD or the Strafford County Attorney's Office about what had taken place in Derry um 15 years or 13 years prior?

VT: No.

AF: Never, never, never occurred?

VT: No.

AF: As far as you know to the best of your recollection what you know, were any of your reports ever afforded the Farmington PD or the Strafford County Attorney's Office as it pertained to their investigation?

VT: I don't know.

AF: Did you yourself ever give those reports to Strafford County and Farmington PD?

VT: No.

AF: Okay.

JR: And did you ever have ah I know the answer to this I think based on Tony's questions to you, but um did you ever provide information to Strafford County or to Farmington that Fortier admitted to you certain inappropriate sexual conduct with minors from 1983 or in that time period?

VT: I'm not sure of the question.

JR: Okay, I'm sorry. Did um, did you ever provide Farmington or Strafford with information that Fortier had made admissions to you some years prior.

VT: No I didn't no.

JR: Um, and.

AF: So at least Vern, from what you're saying here now is there wouldn't have been any information that Farmington PD or Strafford County Attorney's would know as it pertained to the prior conduct of Fortier as it pertains to your investigation? At least from your knowledge.

VT: I have no idea.

AF: Okay.

JR: And, and I've got one, one follow-up question to that, which is just kind of a slightly different angle. Um, did you ever provide information to Derry or Strafford, pardon me to Farmington Police Department or Strafford County um Attorney's Office that you had made the Diocese aware of Father Fortier's conduct stemming from your investigation in 1983-84?

- VT: At the time I did this investigation, I notified everybody that I thought needed to know about it. Manchester, Rochester everybody.
- JR: Huh, huh.
- VT: And that was the last that I saw of this investigation. Um, this was filed as intelligence some place and I never saw this report again until Peter Favreau called me about it. As far as specific information that I could recall, no I never, I didn't do anything with that.
- JR: Okay.
- VT: No one asked me for the information so.
- AV: When there in that investigation was going on in Farmington, there was no exchange of information related to the Derry investigation with their PD?
- VT: I can't say for certain there was none with me.
- AV: Yeah.
- VT: But that at the time that that was going on that was not my function of the department
- AF: Right.
- VT: Handling these types of investigations, so they could have communicated with somebody else and I wouldn't know.
- AF: But you personally never turned over that information?
- VT: Right.
- AF: Okay. One other question. When this investigation became closed, yours, and I think I know the answer to this, but I'm going to ask and let you answer it. It appears to me that as a lot of these cases go on that the decision to charge or not charge has a lot to do with victim cooperation and the information in front of you. Would it be fair to say, Vern, that Fortier was never charged with anything out of your investigation based on victim cooperation or am I off base there?
- VT: Well there was two. I looked at it from two different perspectives. The first is that what do we have that we can make just what we have on the surface and do I think something happened with somebody that I needed that cooperation. And on the first thing we had statute of limitations issues that we couldn't

make, you know provide the alcohol to a minor that type of a thing. We couldn't do anything with it because of the timeframe.

AF: Okay.

VT: Um, the only thing I thought we had out of this investigation when I concluded it was that this juvenile [REDACTED] may have been touched by Fortier and I didn't know that happened.

AF: [REDACTED]

VT: [REDACTED]

AF: [REDACTED] okay.

VT: [REDACTED]

AF: Go ahead. I'm sorry.

VT: Um, [REDACTED] had been touched, but I didn't think that was, that would fit the statute of limitation issues at the time we did our interview. Um, the other one I felt [REDACTED] was a victim and I could not get him to tell me the story. Um, he, when I talked to Fortier and he said rather not say so he was definitive when I asked him about other kids and he said no. [REDACTED] he'd say he'd rather not say.

AF: So you, you let me just ask this. From, from my experiences and your experiences as police officers, there were some problems here that you perceived may, that may hinder a prospective conviction with whatever charge you may have brought against this guy. Is that correct?

VT: I guess.

AF: And that, and that based and that had something to do with your decision as it pertained to Fortier on whether to charge or not charge?

VT: If I may paraphrase that I think.

AF: Yep.

VT: I didn't feel we had a charge we could make based on the information that we had.

AF: Okay.

- VT: And I felt there was still a victim there, but he was not cooperating with me so that was the case. I would have liked to have made it if I could.
- AF: Sure.
- VT: And I didn't have enough information.
- JR: And I've got a follow-up question to that and I'm reading again the document that I showed you before ah memorializing your discussion with Father Christian ah on September 26 of 1984. Ah, it says Father Christian also stated, this is in the discussion with you. Father Christian also stated that if he did have these problems, we certainly did want to give him assistance and make sure that he wasn't harming anyone else. So it sounds like the Diocese provided you some assurance that they would um monitor or address Fortier's situation. Do you recall ah any assurances like that be made to you by Father Christian?
- VT: What I recall from it in the conversation is vague as I didn't make notation of it. He said that he would like to provide him assistance, which probably spurred me to tell him a little more about the case, but that isn't satisfactory to me in terms of how we're going to deal with the case. Um, and I told him that. As soon as we had enough we were going to make an arrest.
- JR: Okay. Um, did you feel like he was making an effort to get you to a spot where you were more comfortable and, and, and kind of leaving the Fortier matter alone?
- VT: I can see that he might have been doing that now, but I didn't get that sense then. I was still pretty hot on this case and I wasn't going to be dissuaded and I didn't listen to it that way.
- AF: And your perception was, just to go back was that as the investigating officer here you thought the best case for you would be the [REDACTED] kid if in fact he would divulge what you suspected was going on with Fortier and this kid, but he never did that is that correct?
- VT: Right.
- AF: He never divulged?
- VT: That's correct.
- AF: Okay.

JR: Um, and I have another follow-up question on your conversation with Father Christian. Um, I'm looking at ah, ah Sgt. Favreau's reports of his discussion with you um and it says that Father Christian had explained to you that Fortier had health problems, which are heart related and that your investigation was causing him stress. Is that an accurate um statement of your conversation with Father Christian?

VT: Yes. That, that's a fairly accurate. That's a separate conversation.

JR: Okay. Could you tell us about that conversation?

VT: Yes. Um, when this

TAPE ONE, SIDE B

AF: This is Investigator Anthony Fowler, New Hampshire Attorney General's Office. It's December 5, 2002. The time is 1:48 p.m. by my watch. The side A of the tape, audio tape, ran out. We had to flip the tape over to side B. Same people are present and we're continuing the interview with Lt. Thomas of Derry PD. Lieutenant I'll ask you again do we have your permission to continue to audio tape this interview?

VT: Yes.

AF: Thank you.

JR: Ah, and I, I had just asked ah during one of your conversations with Father Christian had he told you that your investigation was causing Roger Fortier a great deal of stress because of a heart problem.

VT: Yes. And my response was that I had two phone calls. Well the first one was more vague to me, but the second one was more recent and much clearer in my mind and that was the one with respect to his health problems and chronologically so I can describe about the timeframe this occurred we were in our old police station and we moved in June of '85 and I did this investigation while we were in the old police station and I concluded it and suspended the case at the time that I did in about '84. The end of '84. Um, I received a phone call when we were in the new police station, which now puts that past June of '85 from Father Christian. He tried to refresh my memory who he was and of course I remembered him because he was Christian. Um, he said that the Bishop is concerned for Roger Fortier's health problems that flared up again. He may be facing another bypass operation as a result of the stress of my investigation and what were we going to do about this. And my answer was the same as I told him before. As soon we have enough information we're going to arrest him. That's what we're going to do.

JR: How did you take that comment? What, look he's got a health problem. It's because of your investigation, what are we going to do? How did you take, how did you receive a comment like that? What did you take him to mean?

VT: I sensed first that Fortier was probably having health problems and secondly I, I felt the church wanted to know what we were going to do about our investigation.

JR: Did you get the sense the church was kind of nudging you to put an, an early end to your investigation?

VT: No I wouldn't say that. I wouldn't say that. I would say that that ah they wanted to know what we were doing.

JR: Huh, huh.

VT: That's what how I grasped that. I just said you know this is all I can tell you. See you later. It was a very brief conversation.

JR: Huh, huh. And it sounds like you conveyed to Father Christian that his health problems, Fortier's health problems, weren't going to have any influence on the outcome of your investigation.

VT: Right.

AF: I'm all set.

JR: I'm all set. Do you have any questions for us.

AF: Allison?

VT: Maybe off the record I do.

AF: All right. We're going to end this interview. It's ah 1:52 p.m. by my watch. December 5, 2002 and this is the end of the interview with Lt. Thomas from Derry Police Department.



NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE  
POSSESSED PROPERTY REPORT

10729

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. CASE NO. <i>AG- C21-02-00163</i>		2. INVESTIGATING TPR. <i>Vadon Fowler</i>		3. ID <i>NHAG</i>	4. TOWN OF CRIME <i>Various</i>	5. TN CD	6. DATE OF REPORT <i>12-5-02</i>
7. OWNER <i>NHAG</i>				8. OWNERS TEL. <i>271-3671</i>	9. OWNERS ADDRESS <i>33 Capital ST. Concord, NH 03301</i>		
CHECK ONE		11. RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	12. SEIZED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	13. POSSESSED ABANDONED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	14. EVIDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15. OTHER (Explain) <input type="checkbox"/>	
CHECK ONE		16. SEIZED WITH A WARRANT <input type="checkbox"/>	17. SEIZED WITHOUT A WARRANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18. NHSP LABORATORY NUMBER (If Applicable)			

PROPERTY

ITEMIZE, DESCRIBE, AND VALUE EACH ITEM		
# OF ITEMS	DESCRIPTION INCLUDING SERIAL NUMBER	VALUE
1	Maxell C60 Communication Series audiotape LT. V. Thomas Interview	UNK.
END		

CUSTODY

DATE	RELINQUISHED BY	RECEIVED BY/LOCATION	PURPOSE

PAGE NO. <i>1</i> OF <i>1</i> PAGES	SIGNED (Investigating Trooper) <i>[Signature]</i>	ID NO. <i>NHAG</i>	DATE <i>12-5-02</i>
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