

In the California Supreme Court

BENJAMIN LEE BATHEN,
Petitioner on Habeas Corpus

Case No. SCS 294342
Related Court of Appeal No. D074538

Declaration of Katinka Blackford Newman

1. I am the author of a book *The Pill That Steals Lives* and run a campaigning website to warn people about the potential dangers of antidepressants. The research from the book and this campaign was made into a 1-hour BBC Panorama Special, *A Prescription for Murder* (July 2017). Any attorney investigating a defense based on this medication should be able to discover it.
2. In 2012 I suffered sleepless nights following a difficult marital separation. I was prescribed the antidepressant Escitalopram and after just three doses I went into a toxic delirium that lasted four days. In that time, I had intensely violent visual and aural hallucinations. I was convinced I had killed my children and thought everything I was doing was being broadcast to the nation. I took a knife and lacerated my arm but have no recollection of the incident. I was taken to a private hospital and taken off the drug and my mental state returned to normal within 12 hours.
3. I can testify that during the four-day toxic delirium caused by the Escitalopram, it would have been impossible for me to have understood that my state was caused by the drug. I was totally incapable of any rational thoughts as I was in a heightened state caused by the intense hallucinations.
4. Current regulatory warnings focus on suicidality not homicidality. Patients are rarely warned about violence towards others as a side effect.
5. In the course of the research for my book on this subject (*The Pill That Steals Lives*), I interviewed others who had suffered similarly and have committed acts of violence whilst on an SSRI drug. In all these cases the perpetrator told me they had no awareness at the time that the drug caused them to act violently.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct.

Executed on ^{8/21/2020}_____, 2020

DocuSigned by:

Katinka Blackford Newman

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www.thepillthatsteals.com

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