

## Affidavit of Jane Smith

I, Jane Smith, hereby declare under penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746(2), that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

1. My brother John Smith served in the United States Army from February 12, 1983 to September 23, 1985. Before service, he was a happy person who enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He was an avid basketball player and loved being outside. He was the life of the party and always had people laughing.
2. My brother would write letters to me while he was in service. His first few letters seemed like everything was going fine but then the tone of changed. I could tell something was different so I asked if something had happened. He started to tell me that he felt like he was a target and was labeled a “pretty boy” by the others. In the spring of 1984, he wrote to me and told me that after a night of drinking with friends, he was sexually assaulted. He did not want to tell anyone besides me because he was embarrassed and scared of any potential retaliation. He explained that he felt like he was stripped of his manhood. He told me that he was still being bullied even after the assault and felt like he was trapped in his own personal hell. Eventually, he was in so much pain and just could not take it anymore, so he purposely went AWOL and was subsequently discharged.
3. When my brother returned home, he was an entirely different person. He moved back in with our parents and rarely left his room. He did not see any of his old friends and never wanted to attend family gatherings. On the few occasions that he did leave the house, he was paranoid and constantly looking over his shoulder. He developed a temper and snapped at anyone who tried to help him. One time, he even got into a physical altercation with our Dad. He began drinking heavily and using cocaine to cope with his feelings. He became more violent and dangerous and he could not live with our parents anymore. Eventually, he became homeless.
4. Many years later, he finally chose to seek help and face what happened to him. He was diagnosed with PTSD and joined a local support group. Even though he attends therapy and is trying to change his life for the better, he still isolates himself and does not like being in groups of people. He is still paranoid and on edge frequently. My brother is still trying to control his temper and he has lost several jobs because of it. He still seems depressed and ashamed of whatever happened to him so many years ago in service. Since leaving for service, my brother has never been the same.

I hereby certify that the information I have given is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Disclaimer: These statements are examples only. They should not be submitted in support of*

*any claim or appeal for VA disability benefits. This information is not legal advice. This information is made available for educational purposes only and to provide general information and a general understanding of how statements may be drafted. This information is not a substitute for legal advice. By using this information, you understand that there is no attorney-client relationship created by you reading or using the information contained on this website or in this or blog.*