



Naomi Firsht

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Child sex predator who left a trail of heartache



Osen on his wedding day. His wife divorced him when she found out about his crimes

When divorcee Suzanne Robert met company director Simeon Osen on J-Date she thought she had a second chance of happiness.

He moved into her home in Stanmore and they had a traditional Jewish wedding in East London.

But two years later, her life felt apart when Osen, 53, was arrested for sexually abusing a young girl.

He went to live with his parents and Suzanne filed for divorce. He admitted charges of sexual activity, making indecent photographs and possession of extreme pornography. He was given a suspended prison sentence.

But last week he was jailed for five years and 11 months for later offences of using children in the Philippines to perform sexual acts via a Skype link.

He asked girls as young as ten to perform sexual acts

Osen is now on the Sexual Offenders Register for life and this week, a former family member spoke of the effect his crimes had had on his ex-wife.

"She was excited to meet someone Jewish, from a traditional family," she said. "This sort of thing is important to her. She believed she was happily married until the day she found out," she said. "We weren't particularly fond of him. I thought he was very weird and he made inappropriate comments at times, but we never suspected anything like that."

Harrow Crown Court heard how police found 41,000 Skype messages to the Philippines on Osen's laptop. He asked girls as young as 10 to bare parts of their bodies, perform sexual acts on themselves, or have acts performed on them by others. Some of the Skype conversations took place in his office and he paid over £5,000 to contacts in the Philippines to facilitate the abuse.

The family lived in Stanmore but attended Osen's home shul, the Buckhurst Hill Chabad community, and appeared to live a normal Jewish family life of Friday night dinners and family get-togethers.

She said that, shortly after the wedding, Osen secretly sent text messages of a sexual nature to one of his wife's female friends. She remained silent, not wanting to cause upset so early in the marriage.

To the outside world, though, Osen appeared to be a respectable, community-minded man. He was brought up in Chigwell, Essex, as part of a family known for their charitable work.

He donated money to the Buckhurst Hill shul and he and his wife attended regularly. He is even said to have once attended the annual conference of Chabad rabbis in New York.

His wife, who had been close to her parents-in-law, can no longer bear to be in contact with anyone related to him. His brother, Daniel, who worked with him in the family business, Ronacrete, will not speak to him.

Buckhurst Hill Chabad Rabbi Odom Brandman, a family friend of the Osens, said: "We banned him from the shul as soon as the allegations were made. We were disgusted and repulsed. The ban was our way of reassuring people in the community.

"But on a personal level we didn't want to pass judgement on anyone. We tried to do what we could to support him and the family."

He said that while Osen did donate money to the shul, he did not donate significantly more than anyone else. And because he did not donate anything specific it would be difficult to get rid of any of his contributions.

He added: "People were very, very torn. They felt hurt and betrayed. They didn't know what to do or how to react. Some vowed never to see him again. It left a real taint and a scar because nobody had any idea that he was up to something. Everybody's trying to put it behind them and move on.

"He apologised to me for betraying us and the bad name it might bring on the community. He showed remorse."

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