

# Cult stole our brother — family

By TOM REDDY

A WORRIED family has issued a strong warning to stay away from the Church of Scientology and Dianetics, claiming it had "stolen" their brother.

The Phelan family from Clonmel, Co Tipperary claim their brother has been "brainwashed" and, as a result, spent his redundancy money of about £30,000 on courses run by the Church.

But Tony (34), single and a former electronics engineer, says he understands his family's concern but is happy with his decision.

The Phelans have delivered letters to

the Church's HQ in Dublin's city centre and London demanding that they sever all links with him.

"We feel we've lost a brother. They have total control of him. Our contention is he's not able to make up his own mind, he has been influenced so strongly by them," said PJ Phelan an agricultural adviser.

Dianetics and Scientology Mission of Dublin spokesman Gerard Ryan say the Phelan family claims are "ludicrous".