

Bec
Stennett -
Response
ID 1167

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2014

What type of criminal record does or did the foster carer/s have ? “He is a paedophile.” What else you would like to say about the department? “My hubby has just died under mysterious circumstances, three weeks after the department viewed information about his superannuation and assets. They are now seeking to sieze the majority of the money from his will for the children they have in care - to pay for their expenses. We had a home and a good superannuation and the department is determined to steal what there is left for me and my family - this has got to be stopped.”

SUBMISSION for
Senate Inquiry
into Children in
Out of Home
Care - 2014

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DETAILS OF THE CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE :

Child 1[Name of child]	██████████
Child 1[Date of birth]	██████████
Child 1[Age removed]	birth
Child 1[How many placements?]	3
Child 1[Abused in care?]	yes
Child 2[Name of child]	██████████
Child 2[Date of birth]	██████████
Child 2[Age removed]	5 1/2 months
Child 2[How many placements?]	3
Child 2[Abused in care?]	yes
Child 3[Name of child]	██████████
Child 3[Date of birth]	██████████
Child 3[Age removed]	birth
Child 3[How many placements?]	1
Child 3[Abused in care?]	yes
Child 4[Name of child]	██████████
Child 4[Date of birth]	██████████
Child 4[Age removed]	birth
Child 4[How many placements?]	2
Child 4[Abused in care?]	yes
Child 5[Name of child]	██████████
Child 5[Date of birth]	██████████
Child 5[Age removed]	birth
Child 5[How many placements?]	4
Child 5[Abused in care?]	yes

STATEMENTS THAT RELATE TO YOUR DEALINGS WITH CHILD PROTECTION PRACTITIONERS :

- I have been separated from my children through the means of false claims by child protection workers. Yes
- I have been improperly treated and generally abused by child protection workers. Yes
- I am stating that my case is a matter of public interest. Yes
- I can prove child protection workers have acted negligently giving rise to civil claim. Yes
- I state that child protection workers have acted in a manner that poses a serious threat to public mental health. Yes
- I state there has been a serious miscarriage of justice. Yes
- I state child protection workers have continued in blatant dishonest reporting. Yes
- I state child protection workers have fabricated evidence. Yes
- I state that child protection workers have shown extreme bias. Yes
- I state there has been abuse of power by child protection workers. Yes
- I state there has been cover up of the department's approved placement. Yes
- I state child protection workers have perverted the course of justice. Yes
- I state child protection workers have covered abuse by a carer. Yes
- I state the department have failed in their duty of care to the children. Yes
- I state there has been alienation of child from the maternal / paternal family members. Yes
- I state there is a failure to notify parents of hospitalisation of child / children by child protection workers. Yes
- I state that I am requesting an independent and thorough audit of the case I am providing details about. Yes

COMMUNITY INTERACTION WITH CASEWORKERS

What state / territory removed the child / children? New South Wales

Office location of the department concerned [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- Did caseworkers investigate the case thoroughly prior to removing the child / children? No

Please explain how they failed to investigate the case properly prior to removing the child / children :

They did not check to see if any of the allegations were true before they took the child / children into care. Nor did they offer any intervention or support prior to removing the child / children.

- Did caseworkers investigate the case thoroughly after the removing the child / children into out of home care ? No

Please explain how they failed to investigate the case properly after the child / children had been removed :

The children was placed straight into the care of, a convicted child molester.

- Did caseworkers work with you for a better outcome for you and your family? No
- Did caseworkers work against you? Yes
- Did they provide any support services to prevent the child / children being taken into care ? No
- Did child protection caseworkers keep you informed about what was happening with your children? No

Could you please explain what you mean by they didn't keep you informed about your children while they were/are in out of home care.

They give you no information, about your children what so ever.

Did they listen to you and respond to your concerns? No

What concerns did they ignore or not respond to you about?

About using my children, as science experiments. Operation`s that were not needed.

- Did caseworkers provide the opportunity to have the child / children returned? No
- When child protection turned up and removed the child, was this the first time you were aware they were going to do this? Yes
- Do you believe that caseworkers broke any laws ? Yes

WHICH LAWS DO YOU BELIEVE THEY BROKE ?

- Children and Young Persons Act - False or misleading statements. Yes
- Civil Liability Act - Tort and Trespass. Yes
- Crimes Act - Child Abduction. Yes
- Crimes Act - Blackmail offence. Yes
- Crimes Act - Fraud. Yes
- Crimes (Hostages) Act - Hostage taking. Yes
- Crimes Act - Failure of persons with parental responsibility to care for child. Yes
- Crimes Act - Failure of persons with parental responsibility to seek medical attention for child. Yes
- Crimes Act - Perverting the course of justice. Yes
- Crimes Act - Offence of perjury. Yes
- Crimes Act - Providing false instruments by public official (Public authority giving false information to another public authority). Yes
- Misconduct under a Public Sector Employment and Management Act. Yes
- Dishonesty. Yes
- Recklessness. Yes

Use this section to explain exactly what was done or not done that constituted criminal offences by the child protection workers.

They took the children based solely on lies, and false information, and based on a Out Dated, Section 106A act.

Consider the personal circumstances of your case and describe how you believe your experience of forced removal could have been better managed.

Leaves you shattered, need counselling services, and a better explanation of what is going to happen. And provide, phone numbers, for support services.

- Have caseworkers persecuted or threatened you, or cut contact with removed children because you have expressed opinions that are contrary to their beliefs? Yes

What have caseworkers done when you have exercised your fundamental right because you expressed opinions contrary to their belief?

- Caseworkers have submitted affidavits to the court over expressing opinions contrary to theirs Yes
- Caseworkers have dragged me into court over expressing opinions contrary to theirs Yes
- Caseworkers have cut contact with the child / children in out of home care Yes
- Other Refused to supply

photos of children.

- If you attended a protest or rally about issues surrounding child protection, was this ever used against you? Yes

What happened when you attended a protest or rally about the issues surrounding child protection?

- Caseworkers have cut contact with the child / children in out of home care because i exercised my right to peaceful assembly. Yes

Do any of the below statements reflect the ways you were treated by child protection workers?

- To get access to your child you had to state that you had abused, neglected or mistreated your child. Yes
- To get access to your child you had to state that you had sexually assaulted your child. No
- They lied in affidavits. Yes
- They lied in reports. Yes
- They only provided what information suited them to court report writers (IE Family Relationships Australia). Yes
- They caused reports to be inaccurate due to only providing information that suited their agenda. Yes
- Ignored abuse concerns because it did not suit their agenda. Yes
- Vindictiveness. Yes
- Sarcasm. Yes
- Belittling parents. Yes
- Putting their own best interests first before those of your child/children/family. Yes
- Did they tolerate aspects of your life that were different to theirs? (eg. race, poverty, education level) Yes
- Continues to make judgements about you. Yes
- Displaying an inability or lack of willingness to accept the positive changes parents may have made. Yes
- Expect parents to work “with” them BUT they won’t work “with” parents. Yes
- Refusal to provide a change of child protection workers when personalities clash. Yes
- Discriminating against parents with mental illness. Yes
- Using “the best interests of the child” to justify whatever they do even when clearly it’s not. Yes
- Inflexible working hours – evenings and weekends would enable them to work “with” parents and their work commitments. Yes
- Where there has been no harm, you are treated in the same disrespectful ways as those who have actually harmed their children. Yes

- The child protection workers assumed you were a bad parent though you had done nothing wrong. Yes
- The child protection workers chose not to accept the positive statements of family members even though they were true. Yes
- The child protection workers chose to accept false statements of family members even though they were NOT true. Yes

Questions regarding interviewing of parents by caseworkers

- Was the parent / parents interviewed without a support person being present? Yes
- Did you request a support person? Yes
- Was your request to have a support person denied? Yes
- Were there two caseworkers present at the interview? Yes
- Did the caseworkers rely on any disclosure (allegedly) made by the child after the interview with the two caseworkers? I don't know
- Did you want to record interviews? Yes
- Did you ask if you could record interviews? Yes
- Were you allowed to record interviews? No
- If the interview was recorded would that have helped you evidence lies told or written by the caseworkers in court? Yes
- Do you believe that recording all contact caseworkers have with families would make the system fair and more honest? Yes
- Do you believe that caseworkers are getting away with misconduct and other criminal activities because there is no way of proving what has been communicated by the caseworker? Yes

SOME PARENTS ARE TOLD THAT IF THEY SEPARATE OR DIVORCE, THEY WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING THE CHILD / CHILDREN RETURNED.

- Were the parents accused of having domestic violence issues? Yes
- Were the allegations false? Yes
- Were you or the parents told that separation or divorce would provide a better chance of having the child / children returned by the caseworker? Yes
- Were you or the parents told that separation or divorce would provide a better chance of having the child / children returned by their lawyer? Yes
- Did the parents separate or divorce? No
- Was there any change in circumstances for abiding by the requests of the caseworker regarding the separation or divorce? No
- Was the child / children returned because of the divorce / separation? No
- Was one of the parents told to take out a restraining or domestic violence order to better their chances of having the child / children returned? Yes
- Did a parent take out a restraining or domestic violence order because they were Yes

asked to?

- Was the child / children returned because of the restraining or domestic violence order? No
- Was there any chance in circumstances for abiding by the requests of the caseworker regarding the restraining or domestic violence order? Uncertain
- Was the child / children returned to the perpetrator of domestic violence or abuser or known paedophile? Uncertain

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CONDUCT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION CASEWORKER IN THE COURTS?

- Did subpoenaed caseworkers turn up for cross-examination in court proceedings? No
- Did they lie under oath? Yes
- Was the caseworkers evidence based on fact ? No
- Was the caseworkers evidence based on hearsay? Yes
- Was the caseworker prepared to proceed on the day? Uncertain
- Did the caseworker or their legal representative request adjournments? Yes
- Did the caseworker omit facts relevant to the case that would have painted you or the parents in a more positive light? Yes
- Did the caseworker bring any new information into court when being questioned that was not in previous affidavits or spoken about? Yes
- Were reports received in time frames ordered by the court? No
- Did the court material contain uncorroborated stories about you? Yes
- Did the court material have an objective approach? No
- Did the court material have a subjective approach aimed at demeaning and belittling you? Yes
- While caseworkers were being questioned, did the courts allow the other workers to take notes and discuss matters? Yes
- Did the caseworker allow the child to be present at the court hearings? No
- Was the caseworker dressed appropriately for such court proceedings? Uncertain
- Did they hug each other when they won their case against you and your family? Yes
- Did they hi-five each other when they won their case? Yes
- Did they hug the other party whom they wanted the child to live with when they won their case? Yes
- Did the caseworker seem smug and pleased with them self after the court case? Yes
- Did they tell you the truth or write truthful Affidavits? No

Please explain how the caseworkers did not tell the truth in affidavits, or were not truthful.

They placed false information, in legal documents, and Information, about a Completely different person, That was not me, BUT a totally Separate Case all together.

FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENT

- Was the child adopted ? No
- Has there been talk of adopting the child? yes
- Has this been by the caseworker? yes
- Has this been by the NGO? yes
- Have you told them your objections to the adoption? yes
- Do you think the adoption is necessary? NO
- Do you think the adoption will damage the child's long-term future? yes

What were the reasons for the removal of the child/children?

- At risk of emotional harm Yes
- Mental health issues Yes
- Neglect Yes
- POSSIBLE FUTURE RISK OF HARM Yes
- I have a medical condition that is being used against me Yes
- Were the allegations false? Yes

WERE YOU CHARGED WITH CHILD ABUSE?

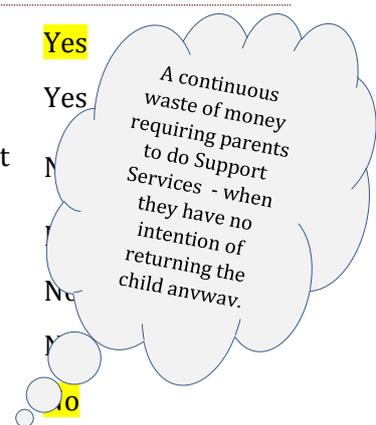
- Were you charged with child abuse? No
- Were you charged with neglecting the child / children? No
- Were you charged with child abandonment? No
- Were you convicted of child abuse? No
- Were you convicted of neglecting the child / children? No
- Were you convicted of child abandonment? No
- Were you convicted of anything at all relating to the removal of the child / children? No

DID THE CASEWORKERS CONTINUE TO RAISE THE BAR ON YOU?

- Were you ever given a single list of things you needed to do / not do in order to have the child / children returned ? No
- Did the caseworkers continually add to the list of requirements for you to do in order to have the child / children returned? Yes
- Were you able to complete the list of requirements set by the caseworker? Yes
- Did completing the caseworkers requirements of you enable the child / children to be returned? No
- Did the reasons child protection gave to magistrates, to warrant keeping the child / children in out of home care continued to change with each court case? Yes
- Was it difficult to address the issues in court because they kept changing (raising the bar)? Yes
- If the department did not provide you with any information about what you need to do to get your children back, did you do courses yourself to improve your parenting skills? Yes
- Were you consulted about your child's Care Plan? No
- Did you receive Affidavits and care plans in enough time to respond to the court? No
- Was your case continually adjourned by the department because they were not ready to proceed? Yes
- Did your solicitor or ICL object to the departments request for more time? No
- Did the court grant adjournments to the department on the basis that they were very busy? Yes
- Was that in your child's best interest? No
- Did the department argue that because your child had been in care for a year or more that it was not in the child's best interest to be returned to you because it would unsettle their placement? Yes

ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES :

- Did the department require you to complete any courses? Yes
- Did they improve your parenting skills? Yes
- Did you have an opportunity to put your new skills into practice with your child at home? No
- When you completed all the department asked did you get your children back? Yes
- Did the department assist you to do what they required of you? No
- Did they encourage and support you to do what was required of you? No
- Did it make a difference in getting your children back? No
- Were the parents prevented from having any support persons at any meetings / conferences or court proceedings related to the removal of the child / children? Yes



WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT ON YOU SINCE THE CHILD WAS TAKEN AWAY AND PLACED INTO FOSTER CARE?

- Lack of Trust Yes
- Emotional abuse Yes
- Excessive crying Yes
- Sadness Yes
- Withdrawal Yes
- Depression Yes
- Failure to attach Yes
- Physical health problems Yes
- Low self-esteem Yes
- Anxiety Yes
- Panic attacks Yes
- Complex trauma Yes
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Yes
- Trust issues Yes
- Mental health issues Yes
- Eating disorders Yes
- Antisocial traits Yes
- Borderline personality disorders Yes
- **Has there been short or long-term emotional impacts because of the care proceedings and forced removal that you have experienced?** Yes

What has been the short or long-term emotional impacts of the care proceedings and forced removal you have experienced?

- Grief Yes
- Loss Yes
- Pain Yes
- Anger Yes
- Fear Yes
- Frustration Yes
- Depression Yes
- Anxiety Yes
- Stress Yes

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- Difficulties sleeping Yes
 - Difficulties eating Yes
 - Difficulties working Yes
 - Post Traumatic Stress Yes
 - Loss of enjoyment of life Yes
 - Little interest in anything Yes
 - Feels like life revolves around courts and caseworkers Yes
 - Feelings of mental and psychological torture by caseworkers Yes
 - Feelings of injustice Yes
 - Feelings of inadequacy for being unable to protection your children Yes
 - Sometimes don't want to get out of bed Yes
 - General suffering Yes
 - Other A death caused by stress.
 - Were you offered professional help such as grief counseling to deal with your loss? No
 - Has there been a negative physical impact on you caused by the forced removal of the child? Yes

Describe any short or long term physical impacts of the care proceedings and forced removal:

Forced loss of Quality of life.

- Has there been a negative financial impact on your family due to care and protection proceedings? Yes

Financial short and long term impact of the care proceedings and forced removal:

Financial cost and emotional trauma.

Missing days of work caused by sitting in court all day.

Your children being forced to think you, were or are a bad parent.

- Did you have a partner at the time of the removal? Yes
- Has the loss of your child or children had an effect on your relationship with your partner? Yes

How would you describe the effect that child protection intervention has had on the relationship between you and your partner (at the time of removal)?

- Short-term effect of the removal of the child / children Negative impact
- Overall long-term effect of the removal and continued court proceedings Negative impact
- Effect upon the communication between the couple Negative impact
- Effect upon personal ability and inner-strength Negative impact
- If you would like to write more here, please do so It is soul destroying.

- Has there been a negative impact on the relationship with your extended family and friends, caused by child protection's removal and court proceedings? Yes
- Have your relatives coped with their own loss caused by the forced removal? No
- Have you had to move home or town because of child protection involvement? No

What would have been a better solution in your case then forced removal?

Parenting courses, and a family support unit. Older parents, helping younger parents.

Is there anything else you would like to say concerning the removal?

How distraught the children and babies are after having their lives destroyed by DOCS workers, based on lies.

More information about the long term impact of the care proceedings and forced removal:

Children fail to thrive, have trust issues (lack of trust) missing out on extended family relationships.

- How many placements has the child / children had ? 30
- How many caseworkers has the child / children had ? 30
- How often does the caseworker see the child / client? supposed to be once a month
- Does the child / children know who their caseworker is? No

How much contact is there between the siblings (brothers and sisters) ?

- Every three months Yes

CONTACT WITH CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE

General questions about the removal of the child / children :

- Was your child / children placed in care in the state you resided in? Yes
- Have you been allowed to have phone contact with the child / children in care? No
- Have you been allowed to have SKYPE contact with the child / children in care? No
- Did you lose your income after the child was removed? Yes
- Have you been granted a Case Review by a Regional Director or other ? No
- Have you applied to have the child / children returned to your care ? Yes
- Did the Court allow you to proceed to a hearing for your restoration application? No
- Did the department oppose your application for restoration? Yes
- Did the department seek orders till the child was 18 years from the time they were removed? Yes
- Did you appeal the court decision in your case? Yes
- Were you successful with your appeal? No
- Did you have to finance your own appeal? No
- Did you have problems trying to find a good solicitor that was prepared to fight for you in the Care Court? Yes
- Was your Legal Aid cut off during court procedures? Yes
- Did your solicitor advise you to agree to establishment? Yes
- Did your solicitor advise you to agree to what the department wanted? Uncertain
- Did the paid carers become a part of the proceedings? Uncertain
- Do you understand the system? Uncertain
- Have caseworkers undermined you to your children in care? Yes
- Have the children been divided into different placements ? Yes
- Have your children been managed by an NGO (non-government organisation eg CatholicCare / Barnardo's etc)? Yes
- Has that NGO been helpful? No
- Has your child in care received appropriate medical treatment while in care? Uncertain
- Has your child had to change schools while in care? Yes

DOES THE CHILD / CHILDREN EVER ASK TO COME HOME?

- Yes Yes
- All the time Yes
- Begs to come home Yes

What has happened if the child has asked to come home, or kicked and screamed or tried to stay with you at the end of contact?

- The worker threatens to cut contact Yes
- The worker has used the child's wishes to come home against him/her, and used that as a reason to cut contact by saying the child is continually upset at the end of contact and it makes it difficult for foster carer. Yes
- The worker continues to make notes in her book that will eventually be used against the parents in some form or another. Yes
- Do you currently have contact with the child / children in out of home care? Yes

How much contact are you having with the child / children currently in Out of Home Care

- Every three months Yes
- Other one lil girl, an extra visit because I was forced to have my tubes tied.
- Two hours contact Yes
- **Is this child / children part of a sibling group?** **Yes**
- Are the siblings split up into different placements? Yes

How much contact do the siblings have with each other?

- Every three months Yes
- Two hours contact Yes
- Other Only at visits with parents.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT ON THE CHILD / CHILDREN SINCE THEY WERE PLACED INTO FOSTER CARE?

• Lack of Trust	Yes
• Sexual abuse	Yes
• Physical abuse	Yes
• Medical abuse	Yes
• Emotional abuse	Yes
• Excessive crying	Yes
• Sadness	Yes
• Withdrawal	Yes
• Depression	Yes
• Failure to attach	Yes
• Physical health problems	Yes
• Low self-esteem	Yes
• Anxiety	Yes
• Panic attacks	Yes
• Complex trauma	Yes
• Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	Yes
• In your opinion has there been an emotional impact on the child / children as a result of being placed in foster care ?	Yes

In your opinion, what has been the short or long-term emotional impacts on the removed children because of the care proceedings and forced removal?

• Grief	Yes
• Loss	Yes
• Pain	Yes
• Anger	Yes
• Fear	Yes
• Frustration	Yes
• Depression	Yes
• Anxiety	Yes
• Stress	Yes
• Wetting the bed	Yes
• Nightmares and bad dreams	Yes

- Post Traumatic Stress Yes
- Loss of enjoyment of life Yes
- Little interest in anything Yes
- Feelings of mental and psychological torture by caseworkers Yes
- Feelings of injustice Yes
- Feelings of inadequacy for being unable to protection your children Yes

OTHER INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE CHILD RECEIVING GIFTS SENT TO THEM BY FAMILY MEMBERS :

- Have you ever written to the child in out of home care, or sent letters or money or gifts? Yes
- Were there ever any hassles with giving the gifts, cards, money or similar to the child? No
- Were you allowed to give the child / children the gifts / cards / letters ? Yes
- Did the child actually receive the gifts / cards / letters ? Yes
- Were you told that the money for the child will be put into a trust account for them until they are eighteen? No
- Did the department ever provide you any evidence to support the money being given to the child or put into a trust fund? No
- Do you believe they stole the money or gifts? Yes

HOW MUCH CONTACT DOES THE CHILD / CHILDREN HAVE WITH EXTENDED FAMILY NOW THEY ARE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE ?

- Not at all Yes

Have you been told any of the below rules, or similar, by child protection caseworkers ?

- You cannot talk to the child about the past. Yes
- You cannot talk to the child about the case or why they were removed. Yes
- You must leave toilet door open. Yes
- You are not allowed to take photos. Yes
- You are not allowed to take photos of any injury your child has. Yes
- You are not allowed to record the contact visit. Yes
- You are not allowed to whisper anything to your child. Yes
- You are not allowed to talk to each other outside of the contact room. No
- No cuddles or not too many. No
- You must talk loud enough for the supervisor to hear. Yes
- You are not allowed to tell child the truth about questions they ask. Yes
- You are not allowed to bring any other children or relatives into contact. Yes

-
- Any additional children or relatives visiting the child / children must be approved by the caseworker first. Yes
 - You cannot hold a Birthday party for your child as their friends and extended family cannot attend the contact. Yes

Where there any other rules you were told by the caseworker or contact supervisor?

“Not to ask questions”.

What happened to your contact if any rules were broken?

“Get a bad visit report, and lose a contact visit”.

- Has contact been cancelled for breaking the rules? Yes

What where other reasons given for cancelling contact?

“Just broken rules, for sticking up for your child”.

Other family contact for special occasions :

- Have you been allowed contact on special days such as the Child's Birthday, Mother's Day, Fathers Day, your Birthday and Christmas Day? No
- If a member of your family or extended family has died have the children been allowed to attend the Funeral? No
- If a member of your family or extended family has been ill or in hospital has the child been allowed to visit them? No
- If the child has been hospitalised whilst in care, has immediate or extended family been allowed to visit them? No

Describe your experience of direct or indirect contact with your child or children following the care proceedings and forced removal :

All contact ends. As then the adoptor's will cut all your contact and cancel all visits.

FOSTER CARERS

About the relationship between yourself and the foster carer/s :

- Have foster carers treated you respectfully? Uncertain
- Have foster carers put the needs of your child / children first? No
- Have foster carers supported the restoration of your children? No
- Have foster carers made the children call them Mum and Dad? Yes
- Have the caseworkers made the children call the foster carers Mum and Dad? Yes
- Have foster carers helped to preserve your relationship with the child / children in care? No
- Did the foster carers oppose restoration because they wanted to keep your child / children? Yes
- Did the foster carers oppose restoration because they had formed a bond with the child / children ? Yes
- Have foster carers been allowed to join the proceedings? Uncertain
- If so, were the foster carers provided with free legal assistance to participate in the proceedings? Uncertain
- Have foster carers undermined you to your children? Yes
- Does the foster carer/s have a criminal record ? Yes
- Was or does the child protection caseworkers know about the criminal history of the carer/s ? Yes

What type of criminal record does or did the foster carer/s have ?

Paedophile.

- Was the criminal history of the carer/s given to the magistrate/s during the court proceedings ? Yes

Is there anything else you would like to say about the foster carer/s ?

“Should never have been given any ones child”.

- Did the child protection caseworkers deliberately conceal the criminal history of their chosen carers from the court ? Yes

OUTSOURCING CHILDREN TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

How has contact been facilitated between you and the child / children in out of home care ?

- Has the NGO been helpful in organising contact between you and the child / children? No
- Does the NGO give you the court ordered amount of time between you and the child? No
- Has the NGO ever breached court orders and cut the amount of contact between you and the child? Yes
- Has the NGO ever cut contact time prior to court orders being changed? Yes
- Has the NGO cancelled contact because the foster carer refused to bring the child / children to contact? Yes
- Has the NGO always made sure that both parties are aware there is contact schedule ? No
- Has the NGO ever made you miss contact because they failed to tell you about changes of times? Yes
- If so, did this upset the child / children ? Yes
- Has the NGO ever made up contact time because of cancelling a previous contact? No
- Does the NGO provide contact schedules that may work around your employment or study schedule? No
- Has the NGO ever changed contact time to accommodate your employment or study schedule? No
- Has the NGO been flexible with facilitating contact in general between you and the child / children? No
- Has the NGO allowed weekend contact to enable you to work around your job / other commitments ? No

Have you been told any of the below rules, or similar, by contact centre or NGO workers such as Barnardo's, CatholicCare, Anglicare or Life without Barriers?

- You cannot talk to the child about the past. Yes
- You cannot talk to the child about the case or why they were removed. Yes
- You must leave toilet door open. Yes
- You are not allowed to take photos. Yes
- You are not allowed to take photos of any injury your child has. Yes
- You are not allowed to record the contact visit. Yes
- You are not allowed to whisper anything to your child. Yes
- You must talk loud enough for the supervisor to hear. Yes
- You are not allowed to tell child truth about questions they ask. Yes
- You must not to mention anything about court proceedings to your child, even Yes

when they ask.

- You are not allowed to bring any other children or relatives into contact, must be previously be approved by caseworkers. Yes
- You cannot hold a Birthday party for your child as their friends and extended family cannot attend the contact. Yes
- You are not allowed to ask how there going at school. Yes
- You are not allowed to ask about their placement. Yes

Are there any other rules you were told by the NGO or contact supervisor that aren't listed above ?

Cancel visits.

- What did the NGO or contact worker do to your contact if any rules were broken ? cancel visits
- Has contact been cancelled by the NGO or contact worker for breaking the rules? Yes
- Are there any other reasons the NGO or contact worker has given for cancelling contact ? Abuse on parents by NGO worker
- Have NGO's focused on adoption of the child / children in care shortly after taking over their case management ? Yes
- Are the children divided into different NGO's? Yes
- Which NGO have you found to be supporting contact etc ? none

How do they differ from child protection caseworkers?

They don't - they're exactly the same.

If there is anything else you would like to say about the NGO, please do so here :

They are useless.

INJURIES, ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE

- Has the child / children been prescribed psychotropic medications since being removed? Yes
- Has there been any injuries, abuse or neglect to the child / children in out of home care? Yes

Please explain the injuries, neglect or abuse of the child / children in out of home care

Intrusive UN-needed surgery, sexual abuse, broken bones, constant bruises.

- Was the child hospitalised for illness or injuries acquired in out of home care? Yes
- Were you notified as soon as possible when the child was hospitalised ? No
- When were you notified that the child had been hospitalised ? months later
- Have you reported any injuries, abuse or neglect to the child / children since they have been placed in out of home care? Yes

Who did you report the injuries, abuse or neglect to ?

- Caseworkers Yes
- Contact centre workers Yes
- DoCS (Child Protection) Complaints line in your state Yes
- Minister for DOCS/FACS/DCP/CPS/DCF in your state Yes
- State Ombudsman Yes
- Local MP Yes
- Members of Parliament Yes
- State Police Yes

If you reported any injuries or abuse about the child in out of home care to one of the caseworkers responsible for the welfare of the child, what was the outcome of the report?

- The injuries, abuse and or neglect was referred was ignored and i received a short letter stating there was no misconduct Yes
- I never received a response Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

If you reported the injuries, or abuse or neglect of the child in out of home care to the Contact Centre Worker (ie NGO - CatholicCare / Barnardo's etc), what was the outcome of the report?

- The injuries, abuse and or neglect was referred was ignored and i received a short letter stating there was no injuries, abuse or neglect Yes
- I never received a reply Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

If you reported any injuries or abuse about the child in out of home care to the Child Protection Hotline (or similar), what was the outcome of the report?

- The injuries, abuse and or neglect was referred was ignored and i received a short letter stating there was no injuries, abuse or neglect Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

If you reported the injuries, neglect or abuse of a child in out of home care to the state minister for child protection / families etc, what was the outcome of the report?

- The injuries, abuse or neglect was ignored and i received a short letter stating there was no injuries, abuse or neglect Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

If you reported the injuries, or abuse or neglect of the child in out of home care to your (state) ombudsman, what was the outcome of the report?

- The ombudsman refuses to investigate the matter whilst there are court proceedings pending. Yes
- The ombudsman refuses to investigate the matter because it is has been twelve months since the action passed. Yes
- The ombudsman refuses to investigate the matter because policies and law has changed. Yes
- The injuries, abuse and or neglect was ignored and i received a short letter stating there was no abuse, neglect or injuries Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes



If you reported the injuries, or abuse or neglect of the child in out of home care to your local MP, what was the outcome of the report?

- The injuries, abuse or neglect was ignored and i received a short letter stating there was no injuries, abuse or neglect Yes
- I never received a response Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

If you reported the injuries, or abuse or neglect of the child in out of home care to other members of parliament, what was the outcome of the report?

- The injuries, abuse or neglect was ignored and i received a short letter stating there was no injuries, abuse or neglect Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

If you reported the injuries, or abuse or neglect of the child in out of home care to the police, what was the outcome of the report?

- I never received a reply Yes

- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

Do any of the below statements reflect your experience ?

- Did you ask to visit the child who had been hospitalised ? Yes
- Were you allowed to visit the child who had been hospitalised ? No
- Were you allowed to come and go easily whilst visiting the hospitalised child? No
- Were you given limited visiting hours ? No
- Were other family members allowed to visit the hospitalised child ? No

COMPLAINTS ABOUT CASE MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE

- If you believe that your caseworkers acted incorrectly, or corruptly, or even biased toward you, or did not follow their guidelines, or policy or procedure, did you report it to anybody? Yes
- Have they been held accountable for any misconduct, corruption, maladministration or bias? No

Who did you report the misconduct, corruption, maladministration or bias etc to:

- Minister for DOCS/FACS/DCP/CPS/DCF in your state Yes
- DoCS (Child Protection) Complaints line in your state Yes
- State Ombudsman Yes
- Crime and Misconduct Commission or ICAC Yes
- State Attorney General Yes
- Members of Parliament Yes

What was the outcome of the report you made to the state minister for child protection / families ?

- I never received a reply Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

What else (if anything) would you like to say about the complaint you filed with the Minister for Child Protection / Child Safety / Children and Families in your state ?

Complaints are never taken seriously.

What was the outcome of the report you made to the Complaints Line for Child Protection / Families ?

- The misconduct / corruption was ignored and I received a short letter stating there was no misconduct Yes
- I never received a response Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

Is there anything else you would like to state regarding your complaint to the Complaints Line for child protection department in your state ?

Sitting here right now, grieving the Loss of My husband, and the loss that my children will feel, when they find out about their daddy.

What was the outcome of the report you made to the Ombudsman ?

- The ombudsman refused to investigate because there were court proceedings pending. Yes
- The ombudsman refused to investigate because twelve months has passed since the misconduct. Yes
- The ombudsman refuses to investigate the matter because policies and law has changed. Yes
- The matter was referred to state police / state prosecution service or state crime commission (EG ICAC / CMC) for further investigation as required by law Yes
- The misconduct / corruption was ignored and I received a short letter stating there was no misconduct Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

What else (if anything) would you like to say about the complaint you filed with the State Ombudsman ?

“Ombudsman never followed through.”

What was the outcome of the report you made to the state Attorney General ?

- I never received a reply Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

What else (if anything) would you like to say about the complaint you filed with the State Attorney General ?

“Useless department.”

What was the outcome of the report you made to other Members of Parliament ?

- The misconduct / corruption was ignored and I received a short letter stating there was no misconduct Yes
- I never received a response Yes
- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

What else (if anything) would you like to say about the complaint you filed with other members of parliament ?

“No. No one wants to know the truth”.

COMMUNITY INTERACTION WITH MAGISTRATES, COURTS AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES & THE COST OF SUCH SERVICES

- Were you ever denied legal aid during the court proceedings ? Yes
- Did you have Legal Aid or private legal representation? I had Legal Aid representation
- Did you have trouble finding legal representation that had not previously worked for the department ? Yes
- Did you win or lose the case? Lost
- Did you have to chose your Legal Aid representative from a limited list? Yes
- Were you given adequate preparation time for each of the hearings that related to the child / children in out of home care? No
- Please explain how you were not given adequate time to prepare for child protection proceedings ? Solicitor's falling asleep or, not taking notes.
- Do you believe the courts helped or hindered your case? The courts hindered my case
- Do you believe the magistrate read your affidavits and listened to you? No
- Did your solicitor explain your legal situation clearly? No
- Did your solicitor provide the correct legal advice? No

Is there anything else you would like to say about the legal representation you had :

The case was cut off early.

- Do you feel your solicitor spent enough time with you and working on your case? No
- Did your solicitor follow your instructions? No
- Did you feel your solicitor really tried hard to win your case? No

If you ever applied for court transcripts, what was your experience with it and the organisation that provided the transcript service?

It was full of incorrect information.

Is there anything else you would like to add about the court process ?

Lies

In a previous question you answered that caseworkers lied under oath during court proceedings (committed perjury) ... When this matter was evidenced in court, what did the magistrate do ?

- The magistrate did nothing. Yes

AUDIO AND VISUAL EQUIPMENT IN THE COURTROOM :

- Were you able to hear what was being said in the courtroom at all times? No
- Could you hear what was being discussed between the parties solicitors at all times? No
- Were you able to clearly hear what the magistrate was saying at all times? No
- Was the audio and video equipment working well at all times? No

INDEPENDENT CHILDREN'S LAWYER / CHILDREN'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

Questions about independent children's lawyer

- Did the ICL healthily promoted the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child? No
- Are you aware that the ICL must tell the court the child's wishes? No
- Did the ICL provide the child with the age appropriate Children's Charter of Rights? No
- Was the ICL available at times to discuss matters with the child? No
- Did the Child try to dismiss the ICL for lack of willingness to abide by Representation Principles for Children's Lawyers? I don't know
- Are you aware that a child has a legal right to dismiss his / her lawyer, if they are not happy with the representation they are receiving from that legal representative? I don't know
- Did the same lawyer represent the child / children throughout the proceedings? No

PRINCIPLE A1 - Client of a direct representative

- Did the ICL act upon the instructions of the child client ? No
- Did the child client convey to the ICL his wishes ? Uncertain
- Did the ICL receive and act on instructions from the child client irrespective of what the ICL considered to be the best interest of the child client ? Uncertain
- Did the ICL represent the child client with the same undivided loyalty, confidentiality and competent representation that is due to an adult client ? No

General obligations of the direct representative

- Did the ICL attempt to reduce case delays ? No
- Did the ICL identify appropriate family and professional resources for the child ? No
- Did the ICL consider and discuss with the child client the desirability and possibility of appeals or further applications ? No

PRINCIPLE E2 (Part 1) - General obligations of direct representative

- Did the ICL represent the child in a competent and professional manner ? Uncertain

- Did the ICL participate in all telephone and other conferences and hearings, (unless the hearing was completely unrelated to the child client) ? Uncertain
- Did the ICL actively advocate in accordance with the child client's instructions and preferences ? No
- Did the ICL, before closing submissions consult with the child client to ensure all aspects of instructions were put to the court ? No
- It is the duty of the ICL to ensure that all relevant evidence is presented to court. Did this happen? No
- Did the ICL cross-examine and question the accuracy of evidence by other parties where this related to the child's welfare? No

PRINCIPLE D5 - Support persons

- Did the ICL advise the child client that they are entitled to have a support person with them during the interview ? No
- Did the ICL seek the child's view on whether they would like the support of a trusted adult during the interview process ? No
- Was there a support person (trusted adult) present at the interview process with the ICL ? Uncertain
- Was the support person chosen by the child client ? Uncertain
- If there was a support person selected, did the child ever request the support person to be excluded ? Uncertain
- If the child requested the support person to be excluded, did the ICL abide by the child clients wishes ? Uncertain

PRINCIPLE C1 - Determining whether child has capacity to give instructions

- Was a support and monitoring mechanism established to assist the child client ? Uncertain
- Were follow up meetings between the lawyer and the child arranged throughout the legal process and after judgement? Uncertain

PRINCIPLE C2 - Enhancing child's capacity

- Did the ICL seek to enhance the child's capacity to provide instructions ? No
- Did the ICL seek assistance of appropriate behavioural scientists to assist them to ascertain the wishes and directions of younger children ? No
- Did the ICL appropriately use this information to assist the child client ? No

PRINCIPLE D1 - Seeing the child

- Did the ICL see the child client at all ? No
- Did the ICL see the child client well before the first hearing ? No
- Did the ICL represent the child client at every hearing / conference and telephone conference that was related to the child client ? No

What, if any, promises or commitments were made to the child?

Help restore you to your family.

Access to other evidence involving the child clients' matter

- Did the ICL obtain copies of all court documents and evidence relevant to the case? No
- Did another party try to supply evidence to the ICL ? No
- Did the ICL accept the evidence on behalf of the child client ? No
- Do you believe the ICL read all the subpoenaed notes and affidavits in the case? No

Is there any evidence from the courts that the ICL did not obtain?

Anything positive at all in support of the child and family.

If there is any evidence that the ICL refused to accept in relation to the child client, please describe here:

All the hard work and counselling the parents had done, to gain family restoration.

ICLs have a direct responsibility to work in the interest of the child, particularly a newborn baby. If any of the children removed were newborn please answer these questions:

- If there was no intervention, and the baby was removed directly from hospital, did the ICL object ? No
- Did the ICL object to the baby not receiving colostrum from its mother ? No
- Did the ICL object to the baby not being able to receive its mothers breastmilk ? No
- Did the ICL object to the baby and mother not bonding and rooming in together ? No

Is there anything else you would like to add about the child / children's independent legal representative?

"Yes. They are useless."

Principle E2 (Part 3) Statutory obligations of the ICL

- Did the ICL act in an independent and unfettered way in the best interests of the child? No
- Did the ICL act impartially, but if thought appropriate, make submissions suggesting the adoption by the court of a particular course of action if he or she considers that the adoption of such a course is in the best interests of the child? Uncertain
- Did the ICL inform the court by proper means of the child's wishes in relation to any matter in the proceedings? In this regard, the representative is not bound to make submissions on the child's instructions but is bound to bring the child's express wishes to the court's attention. Uncertain

- Did the ICL arrange for the collation of expert evidence and otherwise ensure that all evidence relevant to the child’s welfare is before the court? No
- Did the ICL test by cross-examination where appropriate the evidence of parties and their witnesses? No
- Did the ICL ensure that the views and attitudes brought to bear on the issues before the court are drawn from the evidence and not from a personal view or opinion of the case? No
- Did the ICL minimise the trauma to the child associated with the proceedings? No
- Did the ICL facilitate an agreed resolution to the proceedings? No

Principle E8 - Continuity states "The practitioner should be consistently available to represent the child or ensure that incoming practitioners are properly briefed".

- Did the child / children have the same ICL throughout the proceedings? No
- If the ICL changed, did the former ICL provide reasons for the change in representation? No
- Did the former ICL introduce the child to the new ICL? No

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

- Have you been subjected to torture or to cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment? Yes

Could you provide more details about your torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment please.

Refusal of photographs

- Have you been treated equal when before the courts and tribunals? No

If you believe you have not been equal before the courts and tribunals, please provide more information.

“You are treated like a criminal”.

- Have you been subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with respect to your privacy, family, home or correspondence? Or have you been subjected to unlawful attacks on your honour and reputation? Yes

Please provide more details about the unlawful interference with your privacy, family, home or correspondence; or attacks on your honour and reputation.

“You are made to feel worthless”.

- Have you been denied your right to hold an opinion/s without interference? Yes

Please provide more information on the violation of your right to hold opinions without interference

“Right to free speech”.

- Have you had your right to freedom of expression violated? Yes

Please provide more information on how your right to freedom of expression has been violated?

“Right to free speech.”

- Has your family been denied protection by society and the state Yes

Please provide more information

“Refusal to keep ex husband from making constant false abuse reports.”

- All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. Do you believe you have been discriminated against with respect to this statement? Yes

Please provide more information on this answer

“Treated like your guilty and a hardened criminal”.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

- Article 7.1 states "The child shall be registered at birth and shall have the right to know and be cared for by his parents". Do you believe this right has been violated? Yes
- Article 8.1 of the International Covenant of Child's Rights states "State Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law without unlawful interference". Do you believe this right has been violated? Yes
- Article 8.2 state "Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, State Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing his or her identity. In your opinion, has this article been violated? Yes
- Article 9.1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states "State Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will". Was your child’s right violated? Yes
- CROC Article 9.3 states "State Parties shall respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis". Is/has this right of your child/ren Yes

been violated by State Parties?

- Has the state taken appropriate measures to protect your child from all forms of abuse, violence, negligence, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse? No
- Has the child / children been prescribed psychotropic drugs? Yes

SUMMARY

What were your thoughts on child protection services before you had the opportunity to see them work first hand ?

- They do a great job in difficult circumstances. No
- If child protection got involved then the parents must have done something wrong. No
- They would never remove a child without investigating the family properly first. Yes
- Child protection workers are over worked and underpaid. No
- The department needs more funding so they can help more families No
- They don't get enough gratitude for the job they do. Yes

Describe your thoughts and feelings toward child protection and the authorities in general now that you have experienced them ?

- Did you initially seek assistance from child protection? No
- Would you ever ring child protection again for assistance? No
- Do you tell domestic violence victims to seek assistance from child protection? No
- Do you tell them not to ask for help because of mandatory reporting regulations? Yes
- Would you ever ring the police again to ask for assistance if in a domestic violence situation? No
- Would you ever trust healthcare professionals with information that may be used against you by child protection workers? No
- Would you ever seek help from any government authority again after having the department involved in your life previously? No

What is the best thing/s about the current child protection system?

Life long mental trauma.

What is the worst thing about the current child protection system ?

Life long mental trauma.

What changes would you make to the child protection system if you could ?

“FIX FAMILIES FIRST BEFORE REMOVING CHILDREN.”

- Would you like to have your case reviewed ? Yes
- Do you see any point in asking to have your case reviewed by another government department ? No

Why do you not want your case reviewed by another government department / organisation ?

- Been there, done that - and it's a waste of time. Yes
- Government departments only work to cover for child protection. Yes
- Other departments have merely excused the corrupt actions of the department. Yes
- Other departments have used every excuse to justify what the department did. Yes
- I haven't seen one government department audit child protection's non-compliance with any degree of moral responsibility whatsoever. Yes
- No other department seems to care what child protection do, and they can't be bothered anyway. Yes
- Would you like to have your case file audited for compliance with state child protection laws, and policies and procedures by a professional organisation that is experienced with current child protection issues, that is independent of the department ? Yes

Is there anything else you would like to say about the current child protection system ?

“It is a complete FAILURE.”