

From: Loma Pincham Sent: Tuesday, 10 May 2005 9:08 PM
To: Committee, Mental Health (SEN)
Subject: my life sentence

My name is Loma Pincham, [REDACTED]
and I have been sentenced to a life of emotional turmoil and this is my story.

On 13th November, 1965, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, at Runnymede Hospital in Grafton, NSW. at the time I was a very frightened and naive single 20 year old. I was given no option but to surrender my daughter up for adoption and at NO time made aware of my legal rights and of the emotional consequences that lay ahead for my daughter and myself by authorities from this era.

At Runnymede Hospital I was denied all rights of having any contact with my baby and I begged and pleaded with the doctors and nursing staff to no avail.

I was placed in a room by myself so I could not have any contact with other mothers, which made me feel isolated and very ashamed as I was an unwed mother. A welfare officer approached me on the third day after giving birth, wanting me to sign adoption papers and at this time I was in NO state of mind to proceed with this matter. The whole time I was in hospital I cried and there was NO support at all for me, my parents told me that I was not welcome back home if I brought my baby daughter, which made me feel so unworthy and ashamed as I desperately wanted to keep my baby, but my father made me sign my baby daughter over to adoption.

Part of me was left behind with my baby, the day I left that hospital and I would never be a whole person again and this torture I will take to my grave.

When I left the hospital and went home I was told NEVER to speak about what happened to me EVER again, so I had to hide my pain and live in a pretence world to keep other people happy, while I died inside. Over the years I have noticed that my pain from losing my baby has worsened as I have got older and I find it so hard to discuss because of the silence surrounded the birth of my baby.

I have been in a reunion with my daughter for eleven years and till this day people's attitude that I speak to, is "oh you found your daughter, get over it" but in real life this does not happen, the pain and trauma is inbeded far to deep. I only open up to women who have been though this living nightmare (adoption) as we all suffer in our silence and find help from one another.

I would love to see a National inquiry into Adoption Pratices and their Known Damage that has caused us so much unbearable pain and suffering and would love to see adoption outlawed.

Your Sincerely
Loma Pincham.