

February 2, 2005.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Barrie, Ont.
L4M-7E5

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building,
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Dear Premier McGuinty

**RE: Please help to stop the children's aid society from abusing me and my family
any more!**

My name is [REDACTED]. I am 13 years old and would normally live in Barrie, Ontario with my father and older brothers if not for the unwarranted intrusion of the children's aid society into my life. I am writing to you for help because my schooling, my association with my friends and family and my personal life are being totally messed up by workers with the local children's aid society (The York Region Children's Aid Society is the agency most directly involved) and others who work in conjunction with the family court system. Nobody with the CAS or in the legal system is listening to what I or my brothers have to say, and if anything, CAS workers are actually intimidating and putting pressure on me to remain silent about how my family and I are being mistreated by the CAS, the courts and by my mother. My brothers and I feel like we are being treated like garbage by the CAS workers and the court system. I am being told by my foster home parent that I am not even being allowed to speak on the phone to persons whom I trust. I feel like I am a prisoner of the children's aid society and that I am being denied my reasonable rights.

Before I ended up in a foster home, I was told by CAS workers that I had to leave my home against my wishes and that I could not stay in my home with my father and my brothers because of some allegations made against my father by my father's former girlfriend's daughter. Based on some allegations by a girl who obviously has some emotional problems, CAS workers have decided that my father is guilty and without any evidence other than the allegations of some young girl, have come to the conclusion that my father is such a danger to me that I must be taken out of my own home to protect myself from possible sexual abuse by my father. My mother, who is fighting my father in court also asked that the CAS take me away from my father and to have them force me to live with her against my wishes.

Up until the CAS became involved, I lived with my father of my own choice. My father is a professional and we live in a comfortable home close to my school. I certainly have no fear of my father, never have, and would not for one moment ever consider him a danger to me or to any of my friends. The girl who made these allegations against my father is a bit weird with no friends, actually said that I was "touching" her when we were younger, and who has in the past fabricated weird fantasies to get attention for herself. It seems that by my mother's actions, she is trying to get the CAS to go against my father in court.

I certainly have no fear living with my father. In fact, there is nowhere else I would rather be than to be with him and back into my home. In reference to the concern of CAS that I am at risk with my father, I certainly consider myself old enough and mature enough to know what abuse is and certainly would not tolerate any sort of sexual or physical abuse by anyone, including my father. I certainly don't need any CAS people telling me that they have to "protect me" from my own father by not allowing me to see him. In addition, I have two older brothers who live in my home and go to school as well. They would not tolerate this as well.

Yet for some weird reason, these children's aid workers have taken the position that my father is guilty before he has even gone to court. They have taken on the role of judge and jury in our family's lives. I have learned as well that one of the CAS workers who has been involved is not even licensed as a social worker with the Province of Ontario. It seems that these CAS workers believe that older children can't think for themselves.

Since the CAS has become involved in my life, I am being lied to and coerced by workers with the York Region Children's Aid Society and the company that runs the foster home for them. They are trying to coerce me to take sides against my father and in favour of my mother. I am being forced to live in a different community away from my school and my friends. My own children's lawyer from the Office of the Children's Lawyer has lied to me. She does not seem to be doing much to correct the injustices committed against me and my family. My lawyer has not properly informed me of my rights. My lawyer and CAS people tell me that I can only talk to them and not to anyone else who I trust and feel comfortable with, yet these are the people causing me most of my grief. Everything seems geared at getting me to keep quiet and to not say anything to anyone other than those with the courts who are violating my rights and freedoms and lying to me.

I tell everyone I want to speak to the judge, but the judge and the CAS workers tell me that I am not allowed to speak to the judge. I am told that I can only sit in the back of the court and that I cannot speak. I asked that my older brothers sit in court with me to support me, but when they came the judge and the lawyers from the CAS ordered them out of the court and said that they should be in school, not supporting me in court. I sit in court and watch all of these lawyers argue in court, most of which are lies by my mother's lawyer. While my mother's lawyer says all kinds of lies about my father in court, I am told that I cannot say anything or tell the judge what I know is the truth.

I was supposedly served documents regarding my court case, yet my own Ontario children's lawyer has kept a few affidavits from me so that I cannot read them. The people with the CAS and my lawyer say they are trying to "protect me" by not letting me see the documents but what I see is everyone trying to hide the lies being made in the documents so that I can't speak up with the truth. It seems to me like my children's lawyer is more concerned about working with the CAS than she is about me.

It seems to me as if everyone does not want me to say things to support my father who has been a responsible father to me and my brothers. It seems that nobody with the CAS and the court system wants to believe that my mother has some serious problems and as a result of her poor parenting has lost the respect of her own children. CAS workers seem intent on trying to force me back into the control of my abusive and controlling mother. No matter what I say about how my mother has abused me and my brothers and no matter how much my brothers say about how they have been abused by our mother, the CAS don't seem to want to listen and only seem to want me to go back with her. I refused to live with my mother which is why the CAS forced me into a foster home. It seems as if I am being punished for not living with my mother which is what the CAS people want.

Everyone in the court seems to be against my father and for my mother, yet it is my father who is the more capable, rational, responsible and the loving of my two parents.

On top of all these abuses, I learned a few days ago that [REDACTED] (my Foster parent) was talking about having my brother's car followed when they picked me up for a visit from my foster home. It ends up that this never happened, but how can people even think of invading my own privacy? Do they have nothing better to spend taxpayer's money on than to lie, harass, and to go around spying on teenagers and to keep them from seeing their parents or brothers? The CAS told my father that he was not allowed to come to see me play basketball at my school games. What kind of crap is this?

I thought people in the Province of Ontario we were supposed to have rights and freedoms in this country. I thought that Ontario was supposed to be a place for families to grow. It seems that with the Children's Aid Society and the family courts, the rights and freedoms of children are being trampled on. Mine certainly are. On the York Region Children's Aid Society website it says "protecting children and strengthening families." As a child who is being supposedly "protected" by the CAS at the expense of the taxpayers, I would have to say that this agency is doing exactly the opposite of what it claims to be doing on its website. The CAS has adversely affected my family life, my school life and has kept me from my home and family without just cause. My schoolwork is suffering as a result of what CAS is doing to me. It has cost my father lots of money (money which should be paying for my education) and time lost off work. These CAS people have got things all screwed up and I am fed up with them.

I would like to meet with you in person. My older brothers can drive me down to your office. Your help in putting an end to the abuse of my family by these incompetent CAS people and getting me

back home with my family and friends where I feel safe and where I belong, would be greatly appreciated. You may contact me by phone at my foster home at (705) [REDACTED] or you may send a letter to my home address where my brothers will ensure that I am delivered your letter. With the CAS people thinking about following me, I would not even trust having the mail sent to my foster home out of fear that they may open it.

I would kindly request your help to get me out of this situation. Please help me to return home with my dad and to get the CAS people from harassing, intimidating and frightening me any further. I've had it with these CAS people.

Yours truly

