



Ontario

Children's Aid Watch Report



Protecting the public's interest - published by the Ontario Citizen's Free Press - written by the citizens and for the citizens of Ontario

13-year-old Barrie, Ontario teen fights abuse of power and authority by unlicensed and over-zealous Children Aid Society workers!

Newmarket, Ontario Court Watch – April 26, 2005

In what can be described as modern day David versus Goliath battle, a bright, articulate and determined 13-year-old Barrie, Ontario teenager has bravely taken up the fight against one of the Province's most powerful and most feared organizations – the Children's Aid Society.

From a secret location where she has fled to be safe with friends, and armed with the tools to get her message out - a computer, a phone, a connection to the internet and a video camera, this brave girl has taken a stand against the abuse of power and authority by the Children's Aid Society and its workers.

The girl says that she has been forced to go into hiding in order to protect herself from CAS and the police because in the past few months, the CAS and its entourage of incompetent, over-zealous and unlicensed workers has violated her rights and freedoms and put herself and her family through literally a living hell.

The Ontario College of Social Workers from Toronto has confirmed that the CAS workers who are largely responsible for the relentless persecution of this teenage girl are not licensed to practice as social workers in the Province of Ontario.

In her efforts to protect herself from CAS workers, the grade eight student has now missed over eight weeks of school to avoid apprehension, forceful detention and possible retribution by unlicensed CAS workers who want to silence her for standing up for her rights and freedoms.

The teen has vowed that she will not return to school to be apprehended by CAS workers who have acted outside of the law and continue to threaten to lock her up if she does not shut up and obey CAS workers.

Since December of 2004, as a result of the actions of the CAS, this girl has endured threats, physical abuse, intimidation and lies.

CAS workers and lawyers, together with the support of the police, have embarked on an intensive campaign to silence the teen, break her spirit and to get her to yield to their draconian tactics of power and control.

"My rights and my freedoms and the rights and freedoms of my other family members are important and worth fighting for," said the teen.

"I will not let these CAS workers cage me like an animal and treat me and my family like criminals as they have done up until now.

"In Canada, our rights and freedoms are supposed to be

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This publication is intended to bring the attention of the public to the abuse of power by the Children's Aid Society, its workers, and the failure of the provincial government to prevent such abuse of power. Many of these abuses by the Children's Aid system result in the devastation of many of our community's children. If you have a horror story involving the Children's Aid Society then please contact the Archbishop Dorian Baxter, the National Chairman for the National Association for Public and Private Accountability (N.A.P.P.A.) at (416) 410-4115 or visit our website at <http://www.canadacourtwatch.com>

guaranteed but with these CAS workers, I don't seem to have any rights or freedoms."

The teen said that neither the CAS nor the police seemed to care about her rights and that all she wanted was to go home with her father and brothers, to live in peace and to go back to school.

Court documents reveal that the teen's own mother and her mother's lawyer, Toronto lawyer, Nicole Tellier, were the persons significantly responsible for spearheading the girl's forceful apprehension from her father's home by unlicensed and what would appear to be incompetent CAS workers.

The teen's own mother signed papers to have the York Region CAS forcefully take the teen out of her father's care and to have her placed into a CAS foster home.

Documents show that the girl's mother was in a bitter custody battle with the father and it appears that false allegations were used as part of the mother's efforts to solicit the help of the CAS to force the teen out of her father's care and into her mother's care, which the teen adamantly refused to do.

The teenage girl and her two brothers reported that their mother had abused their father and themselves on many occasions and that they did not want to live with her.

The teenage girl reported that her mother had physically assaulted her but neither the police nor the CAS did anything to

deal with the assault.

Making false allegations to the CAS is a common strategy used by parents to have children removed from another parent and it would appear that this Barrie teen was the victim of such an attempt by her own mother to obtain a custody reversal using underhanded and questionable tactics.

The use of false allegations by parents in family court is an out of control problem which causes much distress on children.

Ontario family court judge Mary Lou Benotto has said publicly that false allegations in family court are rampant and that in most cases, those who make these false allegations go unpunished.

The use of false allegations in the family court system has become such commonplace that according to Canadian Senator Anne Cools, "False allegations have become the weapon of first choice in the family court."

It has been reported that in some cases false allegations are actually encouraged by lawyers.

Evidence showed that when the teen was first apprehended by the York CAS in December of 2004, she was taken away unlawfully and not told her rights by the unlicensed CAS workers who by law are supposed to advise the teen of her rights.

When first taken into the custody of the CAS, pressure was put on the girl by CAS workers to leave her father's home and to live with her mother.

The teen was threatened with the loss of her freedoms and rights if she did not go and live with the mother as the CAS workers wanted her to do.

She adamantly stood her ground and refused to yield to the threats and demands of CAS workers.

Of course, nobody except CAS workers were allowed to witness any meetings between the girl and CAS, no recording devices were allowed and witnesses were kicked out of court so everything that CAS workers did and said to the girl was kept behind closed doors.

One punishment she received for not living with her mother was that she was denied access to her family at Christmas and was forced to go out of town with total strangers during the Christmas holidays.

For the first time in her life, the teen, while under the control of the CAS, was not able to be with her loving family Christmas morning or to spend time over the Christmas holidays with them.

CAS workers told the teen that she could go with her mother but not her father or her brothers. She refused.

Unable to break the teen's spirit at Christmas, CAS workers stepped up their campaign against the girl. She was told that she could not even speak to her brothers anymore or go to activities with her family.

In an effort to turn the school against the girl, unlicensed CAS workers contacted the girl's school and ordered school authorities to not let the girl have any contact with members of her family at the school.

This of course was in contravention of the teen's fundamental rights and freedoms under the Canadian Charter.

Rather than think rationally for themselves, school officials followed the instructions given to them by CAS workers without ever questioning if what these unlicensed CAS workers were instructing them to do was legal!

On one occasion, when the teen tried to walk cross the hall to speak to her older brother she was physically restrained by the

Vice-Principal at her school and on another occasion, the school called the Barrie police when the girl's father came to watch his daughter play basketball during a public game.

Like something out of a TV movie, the Barrie SWAT team showed up at school with officers armed with guns and wearing balaclavas with just one purpose – to stop a loving dad from watching his daughter play basketball at school.

The girl and her family were being treated like terrorists while those giving the commands to authorities were not even licensed to work as social workers.

In essence, unlicensed CAS workers with not much more than a college degree were being given the power to control police, school officials and armed SWAT teams without any of the authorities questioning if the unlicensed CAS workers involved were acting within the law.

While in the care of the York Region CAS, a threatening note was passed to the teen by a truck driver named Frank, who also resided at the CAS foster home.

Frank, who was 25 years of age, it seems became upset when the 13-year-old was not receptive to his advances towards her while she was in the CAS foster home which was operated by Caithkin Foster Homes from Wasaga Beach, Ontario.

A month after the teen fled, she was caught a second time, this time sleeping at a friend's parent's house in Richmond Hill. Somehow her mother had found out she was there and called the CAS to apprehend her daughter.

The girl reported that CAS agents came to her friend's house with the police and broke a locked door to get her out.

When police were asked at the entrance to the house if they had an apprehension warrant for the girl, they told the girl that they didn't need one and neither did the CAS and they just walked in to the home to take the teen away by force.

The CAS agents had the police put the teen by force into the back of a dirty police cruiser, locked her in and then took her to a Barrie group home for troubled teens.

It was later confirmed that the CAS obtained a warrant in a secret court hearing in Newmarket, Ontario a few days later.

In order to maintain secrecy about CAS activities and to silence the teen's cries for help, the teen was told she could not speak to family, friends or supporters and that she could only speak to those who CAS approved of.

The CAS group home where she was forced into was more like a jail than a home so she fled from CAS oppression a second time.

This girl's efforts come on the heels of complaints of parents and children from many jurisdictions in Ontario about abuse of children and families by CAS agencies.

In closing, the teen told Court Watch that she was totally fed up with being hunted down like an animal and abused by CAS workers and that she would never give in to the terrorist-like tactics of the CAS workers.

This determined girl only wanted to go back to her home to be with her loving family where she felt safe.

This country needs more brave kids like this who are willing to stand up for the rights and freedoms of children.

Maybe its time for some of our provincial politicians to take a lesson from this young girl and start standing up on behalf of children and families in Ontario by enacting legislation that will make CAS workers more accountable and the operation of CAS agencies more transparent.