



## Muskoka CAS turns children back into the clutches of their abuser!

**Children terrorized as a result of lack of due diligence by Muskoka CAS workers**

**By Katerina Friesman, Justice Reporter**

Three children from Huntsville, Ontario, 7 to 10 years of age, who were crying out for help after reporting being physically and emotionally abused and terrorized repeatedly by their own mother, were recently forced back into her abusive clutches by the Muskoka Children's Aid Society.

Once the children were forced back against their wishes into the clutches of their abusive mother, steps were immediately taken to silence and punish the children so that they could not ever speak out again.

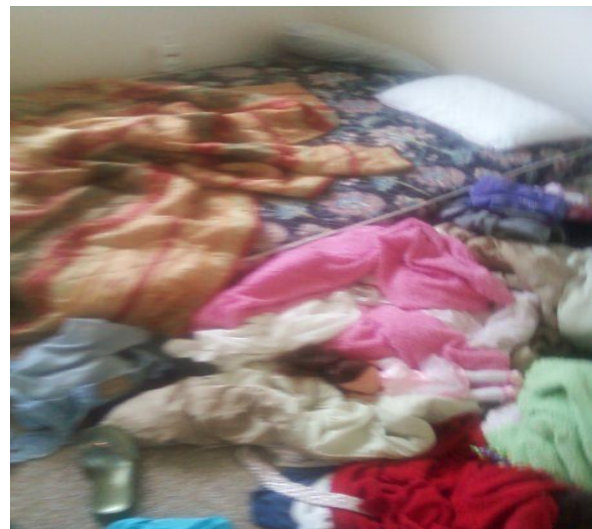
The actions of the Muskoka CAS workers effectively isolated the children from all outside sources of help that the children trusted and relied upon up until the CAS turned its back on the children and let the mother have her way with them.

The decision by the Muskoka CAS with the support of its Executive Director, Allan Hogan, to force the children back into the care of the mother was made in spite of credible documents and even video testimony from the children which revealed the following:

- **That the mother had been warned multiple times by CAS workers to stop physically abusing her children yet continued to do so after prior warning by the Society workers.**
- **That the mother had a long history of abusing the children going back a number of years while the father has never physically or emotionally abused the children. A doctor had recommended that the mother undergo a psychological examination but she refused.**
- **That the children's school had called CAS to report abuse by their children's mother.**
- **That the mother had been placing her children in the care and control of a known heroin addict who was under house arrest at Chrysalis house women's shelter.**
- **That the mother was allowing a known heroin addict to drive the children when the addict did not have a drivers license or insurance.**
- **That pictures taken inside of the mother's home showed that the mother's home was in a deplorable condition with clothes strewn all over the floor.**
- **That the children and friends reported that the children cried themselves to sleep at night at the mother's home.**

- **That the mother was preventing the children from speaking with their father on the phone in spite of a court order.**
- **That the mother had told witnesses that the father would never have access to his children ever again.**
- **That the mother was terrorizing the children and telling her children that they had better not say anything about their mother hitting them at home.**
- **That the mother was pawning the children off to others on weekends so that she could party and have a good time.**
- **That in spite of the mother receiving over \$9,000 from the government was unable to pay her taxpayer subsidized rent of only \$200.**
- **That the mother moved back into Chrysalis house women's shelter at the expense of taxpayers in spite of her not fleeing any kind of abuse.**
- **That the mother was making the children lie.**

In spite of all the shocking disclosures from eye witnesses and in spite of videotaped disclosures from the children themselves, the Muskoka CAS and its workers turned a blind eye to the children's cries for help.



A picture taken by friends of the mother with a cell phone shows the children's bedroom with a mattress on the floor with no sheets for the children to sleep on.

### **Children stripped of their support system**

According to friends of the mother, the CAS told the mother to keep herself and her children away from those friends who had reported the children being abused.

Not only did the Muskoka CAS turn a blind eye to the abuse of the children, but workers violated the confidentiality of the close friends of the family who were trying to help the children.

CAS workers supplied the names of the mother's friends who were reporting so that the mother could eliminate any opportunities of close friends to spot more abuse of the children.

The children were even cut off from seeing their own close friends so that they could not get word to the outside about what their mother was doing to them behind closed doors.

CAS supervisor Joan Wadell told the father that the Muskoka CAS had completed its investigation and that placing the children back with their mother was OK.

The only problem with Ms. Wadell's statement was that CAS workers had never contacted key collateral witnesses before "closing" the investigation.

### **Abusive mother given "heads up" advanced warning by CAS of their workers coming**

Shortly after close friends of the mother went in person to meet CAS supervisor, Joan Wadell, the mother was given a "heads up" call by the CAS and warned that a report had been made that her home was messy and dirty and that the CAS would have to come around to see her.

The CAS workers did not come on the day of their call, but instead waited until the following day to arrive.

This significant delay of course allowed the mother to clean up before workers came around to see the real conditions. It also gave the mother a chance to terrify the children once again to remain silent when workers did arrive.

Instead of giving the mother a "heads up" call, CAS workers should have shown up at her house unannounced to see what conditions were really like.

Close friends of the mother felt that the CAS workers intentionally gave the mother advance notice of their call so that they would not have to apprehend the children.

### **Children reported that they did not like nor trust their CAS worker**

During a videotaped interview of the children one week earlier by an experienced child and family advocate, all three of the children reported that they did not like nor trust their CAS worker, Ms. Dulce Pelletier.

All three children reported that they no longer wanted Ms. Pelletier as their worker and that they wanted a new worker assigned.

However, in spite of the children's lack of trust in Dulce Pelletier being conveyed to the Muskoka CAS, the same worker was forced upon the children without any regards to their thoughts or feelings. Many would consider this to be a form of abuse against the children by the CAS.

### **CAS workers not registered as social workers**

In total, three workers and one manager were involved in the highly flawed investigation of this case.

The four involved were Dulce Pelletier, Erin Blanchard, Rhonda Turner and their supervising manager, Joan Wadell.

Surprisingly, an inquiry with the Ontario College of Social Workers revealed that not one of the four CAS workers involved was registered as a social worker with the Ontario College of Social Workers.

The Ontario College of Social Workers was brought into existence by legislation in Ontario in order to promote professionalism and protect the public's interest in the practice of social work.

However, like a case of the blind leading the blind, it seems as if CAS workers at the Muskoka CAS are not registered social workers in the Province, but should be.

Both the Ombudsman office of Ontario and the Ontario College of Social worker have been calling for greater accountability by having registration with the College mandatory for CAS workers.

### **Mother abuses taxpayers**

According to close friends of the mother, in spite of the mother not fleeing any sort of abuse, she uprooted the children from her \$200 per month taxpayer subsidized townhouse and fled to Chrysalis House women's shelter in Huntsville to hide out with the children.

Her stay at the Chrysalis house is of course being funded at taxpayer's expense as well.

Friends of the mother reported that the children's mother had a co-resident of Chrysalis House women's shelter babysit her children, who was a known heroin addict and under house arrest at Chrysalis House.

Tragically, at the time of writing of this article, the Children's Aid Society was in support of the children being kept inside Chrysalis House. At the same time, the CAS is also attempting to cut off all access of the children to their loving father and family in what many see is just another move to silence the children and to keep them away from anyone who might try to help them.

*Katerina Friesman writes on issues involving injustices against children and families. She may be reached at:*

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