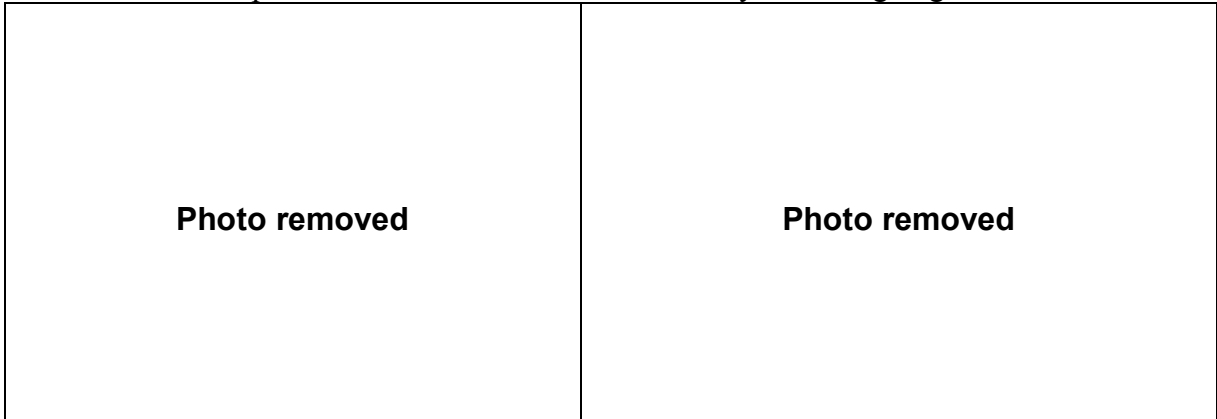


Statement by Ariel Drifus
D.O.B. Dec 12, 1999

I, the undersigned, Ariel Drifus state the following to be the truth:

- 1) I am currently 14 years of age and currently live with my mother Jennine Drifus under the supervision of the Children's Aid Society (CAS). I do not suffer from any mental conditions which prevent me from fully understanding the contents of this document and the circumstances which affect me.
- 2) I understand that the CAS are attempting to obtain another six month supervision order which is mainly over the issue of my mother and I getting into disagreements at home. I do not feel is necessary or in my best interest for CAS to be involved in our matters.
- 3) The photo below on the left is my younger sister (left) and I and the photo on the right is my mother and I. These photos were taken at our home one day before signing this document.



- 4) I am very unhappy having the Children's Aid Society involved in my life and with my family. From the very beginning CAS have blown things a way out of proportion. I do not feel that CAS supervision was ever needed nor do I feel supervision is needed now. All my mother and I needed from the beginning was some simple advice which we have obtained without the help of the CAS. We don't need CAS supervising us and I am fully capable of calling CAS should I need them.
- 5) If anything, involvement of the CAS has made things worse for my family, not better. I do not like the CAS and do not want CAS workers to be imposing conditions on me which I feel are unreasonable and only put a lot of stress on our family.
- 6) While my younger sister Annie who is only 12 years of age is not as mature as I am to speak out about her feelings, she discloses her feelings to me which show that she dislikes the CAS for what the workers have done to our family as much as I. She wants the CAS to leave her alone as well. We both want CAS out of our lives.

My actions are partly responsible for this situation involving CAS

- 7) I admit that I am responsible for some of the conflict which has resulted with the CAS getting involved. I do admit experimenting with marijuana and often do not follow her good advice which has angered my mother. I know my mother does care about me. However, as with most teenagers I am at an age where I want greater independence and to make my own

choices in my life. I also acknowledge that I have shown disrespect for my mother at time because she and I do not agree on some things. I am simply a teenager.

- 8) On one occasion I told my teachers that I was refusing to go home because I was angry with my mother which resulted in the CAS getting called by the school. Thinking about that situation now, I realise that it was a form of protest which I did this to embarrass my mother and her partner for not letting me get my way. At no time have I feared for my physical safety if I returned home. While I did stay with my family for a few days, I did realise that my mother's home was still the best place for me to be.

Interference by CAS in my relationship with my father

- 9) I am angry at the CAS for creating conflict between my mother and father which has adversely affected my relationship with my father. I believe that the CAS workers have told my father that I am not safe with my mother so this has upset him and caused him to put pressure on me to live with him. While I love my father, I just prefer to stay with my mom and my younger sister.
- 10) What upsets me is that the CAS workers go back and tell my father information which only gets him upset. This gives him the false impression that things are worse than they actually are at my mother's house which then causes conflict between him and my mother and encourages him to pressure me to live with him. This interference by the CAS has only made things worse. It almost feels like the CAS workers are trying to stir up trouble between my parents by getting one parent against the other.
- 11) While my relationship with my father is still good and I want to maintain a good relationship with him, I believe that my relationship with my father would be even better today if CAS had not imposed itself upon our family.
- 12) I see that the CAS have asked the court to order that I visit with my dad only upon their approval. CAS workers never asked me about this or ever told me that they were going to ask the court to order this. I see no reason why they should be telling me when I can or cannot see my father. I feel safe when I am with him at his home and certainly am mature enough to make my own choices as to when I see my own parents.

CAS have adversely affected my relationships with my friends at school

- 13) The CAS and my children's lawyer have come to my school without telling me first. I would prefer that they do not come to my school anytime. I believe as a result of my schoolmates knowing that CAS are involved in my family, that some of the parents of my school friends will not allow their children to associate with me. I feel that CAS involvement has caused me or my mother to be labelled as bad by those who do not know the true facts.

Interference by CAS with my counselling

- 14) In regards to counselling, I am refusing to go anymore. The CAS have put this in their court papers which make me look bad but the CAS workers do not explain why to make it look as if it is my fault. The reason why I don't want to attend counselling is because of interference by the CAS.
- 15) I originally went to counselling under the impression that my meetings would be confidential and that the counselling people would help me deal with some of the issues which cause my mother and I to argue. Instead, without my consent, CAS workers obtained this information

and then used this information to cause more problems and to get themselves involved. I went in good faith to get help so that my mother and I could work things out between us, but the CAS want to get involved and impose their way of doing things. I want my mother and I to work things out ourselves. I feel that the CAS are treating my mother and I like children.

My mom and I have a plan for when we might argue

- 16) I do understand and acknowledge that from time to time my mother and I may get into an argument. Most of my teenage friends get into arguments with their parents but CAS does not come into their families and start ordering them around. My mother and I have been getting along better since last fall and there has never been any violence between us.
- 17) However, in the event that my mother and I do get into an argument which may require us to have some space, we have come up with a plan that will give me the option of going to another place at such times. The places which my mother and I have agreed that I can go to when I feel are necessary are:
 - My dad's house
 - My cousin Carolyne
 - My Aunt Linda and Uncle Mario

Summary

- 18) At this point in time, I am frustrated with what the CAS had done to my family. I just want the CAS out of my life and to respect my informed choice to call them if and when I need help from the CAS.
- 19) I feel that there will be a lot less conflict and stress when CAS leave me and other members of my family alone and to let us get on with our lives without interference. I also feel that my relationship with my father will improve once CAS is no longer involved.

My wishes

- 20) At this time the following these are my wishes:
 - It is my wish that the CAS workers would not go to my school anymore or speak to me at my school so that my relationships with my peers and my teachers are not adversely affected.
 - It is my wish that should CAS workers want to speak to me for any reason, then they call me or my mother and arrange to meet me in the privacy of my home where I feel most comfortable.
 - I do not wish to go to counselling until such time as I feel that there is a problem that my mother and I are unable to sort out on our own. I want counselling to be voluntary and only when I feel that there is a problem which my mother and I are unable to work out.
 - It is my wish that CAS workers leave me alone and to let me be the one to call them when I feel it necessary. I understand what child abuse is. I am mature enough to understand when I feel I am being abused. I am mature enough to call the CAS and simply want them to get involved only when they are called or when there is a real reason.

My consent and acknowledgement

- 21) I acknowledge that no one has put pressure on me to sign this document and I am signing this statement of my own free will. I fully understand the contents of this document and that this document will be shared with all of the parties listed in the court documents. I give my informed consent to this document being shared with anyone and everyone.
- 22) I give my consent for anyone to speak to me, including any judge, by phone or by video conferencing on Skype should they wish to speak to me in person to confirm my identity and/or to confirm the accuracy and truthfulness of the contents of this document. I can be contacted at the phone or email numbers listed below my signature below.

Dated at _____, this _____ day of _____ 20____

Signature

Name printed

Email

Phone number at my mother's home