



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

York Region Children's Aid Society terrorizes family in effort to hunt down and silence teenage girl!

Newmarket, Ontario Court Watch – March 4, 2005

In the latest development of a story that was first reported in the Children's Aid Watch Report on February 22, 2005, Court Watch has learned that the 13-year-old teenage girl who ran away from the York Region Children's Aid Society in order to be back home with her loving and caring family is now the subject of what many citizens would call a province-wide CAS witch hunt.

The girl fled the care of the CAS because she and her family were being abused and were having their rights violated by workers with the CAS in contravention to the spirit and intent of a previous provincial judge's order in which the judge said that that girl could be with her family.

It seems, however, that some CAS workers feel that they do not have to obey the spirit and intent of court Orders or that they have to respect the basic rights and freedoms of the citizens of this country.

The abuse of authority and misuse of police resources by unlicensed CAS agents in this case to apprehend this bright and resourceful teenager, is of course, being paid for by taxpayers of Ontario.

Before running, the girl reported that she was being coerced by CAS workers to take sides against her father in her parent's custody dispute and that CAS workers were trying to force her back with her mother who the child previously reported had physically assaulted her.

"The CAS and the school are treating me and the family I love, like a bunch of criminals and my dad is being treated like a terrorist," she told Court Watch.

Prior to fleeing from the CAS, the girl said that CAS workers told her that if she did not do as they told her to do, that they would ship her off to another school in another community so that she would be completely isolated from her friends, her school and her family.

On Feb 22, 2005, in the early evening hours, CAS agents, Jennifer Lester (unlicensed) of the York CAS and Steve Rainey (unlicensed) of the Simcoe CAS, showed up in force at the teen's Barrie home with armed officers from the Barrie Police detachment.

These CAS agents came to the family's home with

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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 social 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>

full intentions to forcefully apprehend the teenage girl and to force her back into the care of the York CAS where the girl claimed she was being threatened, intimidated and coerced by York Region CAS workers.

This young girl's complaints of intimidation and coercion by workers with CAS echoed complaints from other parents and children in the province who have contacted Court Watch in recent months.

According to the girl's father and brother who were in the family home at the time of the CAS raid on their home, the CAS agents who imposed their presence upon the family in their home acted smugly while they brandished the apprehension order with police at their side.

According to the girl's father and teenage brother who lived in the home, the police searched their executive home extensively trying to find the girl after being told by the CAS workers that the girl was inside the home.

The girl's 17-year-old brother was so shocked at the police-state type of raid on their home that at one point he broke into tears.

As a young Canadian, the boy could hardly believe that an agency such as the CAS could intimidate and harass their family like this in their own home.

The police went through every room in the family's Barrie home, looking through closets and under beds and furniture and in the garage in an attempt to find the girl.

While CAS agents claimed that they were raiding the family's home in order to "protect" the child, days before, On February 18, the girl had faxed a letter to the Chief of the Barrie Police, Wayne Frechette, informing him that she was safe in the care of friends and family and that she just wanted to return to her comfortable home, to be with her caring family and go back to school.

In her letter, she had asked the Chief for his help.

The girl even offered to meet with the Chief of Police so that she could demonstrate her sincerity and to dispel any misinformation which likely was being given to police by York Region CAS workers about her safety.

However, instead of receiving help, the girl's home was raided and searched on the orders of over-zealous, unlicensed and unaccountable CAS agents.

Many parents in Ontario have complained about CAS making false claims that a risk exists to a child in order to justify the apprehension of children and the opening of files which are funded by the taxpayers of Ontario.

Court documents show that a warrant for the teen's apprehension had been signed in a secret court on February 22, 2005, by Justice of the Peace, Anne Lis Hefkey, of the York Region Court district.

The apprehension warrant was obtained in secret by the CAS and neither the teenage girl or her family were given the opportunity to give their side of the story to the court before the apprehension Order was signed by Justice Hefkey.

It appears that the Justice of the Peace took the word of the CAS agents in the secret court without giving the girl or members of her family the chance to speak in their defense.

What was so shocking was that neither one of the two children's aid workers who were spearheading the invasion of this family's home and privacy were licensed to work as social workers in the Province of Ontario.

In essence, these two unlicensed workers were being allowed to run roughshod over the rights and freedoms of this young girl and members of this family and to get the police and the courts to do as they commanded.

When the girl's father went to the Newmarket, Ontario court to obtain copies of the documents sworn by CAS agents to get the apprehension order, the father was told that he could not have them.

According to the father, staff at the court seemed startled when he showed up at the court asking for copies of the documents that the CAS had secretly submitted.

"Nobody could give me copies of the CAS documents given to the judge nor could anyone tell me how to obtain them. Everything seems to have been done in secret," he said.

Many people of Ontario would see the actions of the CAS and its workers as nothing more than an apparent show of brute force to teach this girl and her family a lesson that they

will pay the price of freedom if they dare to go challenge the unbridled power given to these unlicensed and unregulated workers with the CAS under the province's Child and Family Services ACT.

It is a well know fact that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely and many citizens of Ontario believe that many of these unlicensed and unregulated workers being employed by children's aid agencies have become corrupted with the awesome powers granted them under the Child and Family Services ACT.

In reality, unlicensed and unregulated workers with government funded CAS agencies are being given more power to violate the rights and freedoms of families than even the police!

On February 16, 2005, 10,000 signatures were presented to the Ontario Legislature in protest to the abuse of power by CAS agencies and their workers.

According to the girl and her family, their experience with the CAS has left them feeling like the CAS workers were a bunch of terrorists and thugs.

The girl and her brothers told Court Watch that they have been taught to respect the police and to respect the authorities, but after this series of incidences affecting their family, the family said that they could no longer trust the police like they did before and that they certainly would never trust another children's aid worker or agency again.

Prior to the apprehension order being obtained, the girl had also wrote a letter to her children's lawyer, Barbara Steinberg, of Newmarket, asking for her lawyer to take action to get her back home, but the lawyer did not respond to the girl's requests for help.

The girl's father called Ms. Steinberg who said that she could not help the girl because she did not support the girl's actions.

By refusing to help her client, Ms. Steinberg was, in effect, interfering with the teen's right to a fair hearing before the court and interfering with this girl's rights and freedoms.

All lawyers are considered to be officers of the court and are supposed to do what they can to promote the administration of Justice, yet one would think that allowing this girl the opportunity to appear before a judge would be the first obligation that a lawyer would have to a client.

Since publication of the Ontario Children's Aid Watch Report about this story, other calls have come in from children and parents with similar complaints of threats and intimidation by York CAS workers.

It is inexcusable that the Province of Ontario continues to give unlicensed CAS workers so much power to abuse the administration of Justice in this province.

CAS agencies are spending significant amount of our tax dollars in witch hunts against innocent children and families while our schools, hospitals and programs for the elderly are being starved for much needed cash.

It is time that the Government of Ontario put an end to the abuse of power by these CAS workers and to start making these workers accountable for their actions.