

Graeme
Curnuck-
Response
ID 1607

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2014

My children were abducted on false allegations. We were told if we did what they told us - our children would be returned - but that did not happen and DOCS have continued to hold our children hostage. They have failed to care for our children, they neglected their medical care. They have told many lies, and defamed us to other agencies by providing them with false information. They have perverted the course of justice by removing NGO workers they fund from our case because they were writing good reports about us as parents and did not agree with DOCS removing our children.

Senate
Inquiry into
Children in
Out of Home
Care 2014.

- Do you want this Submission to the Senate Inquiry to be "In Confidence" ? **No**
- Please select the role which best suits you, in relation to your statutory child protection dealings **Father**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Your first name	Graeme
Your surname	Curnuck
Your mobile phone number	[REDACTED]
Your home phone	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
Suburb	[REDACTED]
Postcode	[REDACTED]
State	[REDACTED]
Country	[REDACTED]
Are you a former "Child in Care"?	No
Do you have a disability?	
Parents nationality	Australian
Nationality of children removed	Australian

DETAILS OF THE CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE :

Child 1[Name of child] ██████████
Child 1[Date of birth] ████████
Child 1[Age removed] 8
Child 1[How many placements?] 4
Child 1[Abused in care?] Yes

Child 2[Name of child] ██████████
Child 2[Date of birth] ████████
Child 2[Age removed] 6
Child 2[How many placements?] 4
Child 2[Abused in care?] Yes

Child 3[Name of child] ██████████
Child 3[Date of birth] ████████
Child 3[Age removed] 2
Child 3[How many placements?] 3
Child 3[Abused in care?] Yes

Child 4[Name of child] ██████████
Child 4[Date of birth] ████████
Child 4[Age removed] 1
Child 4[How many placements?] 3
Child 4[Abused in care?] Yes

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Please click any statements that relate to your dealings with child protection practitioners :

- I have been separated from my children through the means of false claims by child protection workers. Yes
- I am stating that my case is a matter of public interest. Yes
- I can prove child protection workers have acted negligently giving rise to civil claim. Yes
- I state there has been a serious miscarriage of justice. Yes
- I state child protection workers have continued in blatant dishonest reporting. Yes
- I state child protection workers have fabricated evidence. Yes
- I state that child protection workers have shown extreme bias. Yes
- I state there has been abuse of power by child protection workers. Yes
- I state there has been cover up of the department's approved placement. Yes
- I state child protection workers have perverted the course of justice. Yes
- I state the department have failed in their duty of care to the children. Yes
- I state there is a failure to notify parents of hospitalisation of child / children by child protection workers. Yes
- I state that I am requesting an independent and thorough audit of the case I am providing details about. Yes

COMMUNITY INTERACTION WITH CASEWORKERS

What state / territory removed the child / children? Queensland

Office location of the department concerned

██████████

- Did caseworkers investigate the case thoroughly prior to removing the child / children? No

Please explain how they failed to investigate the case properly prior to removing the child / children :

They did not check to see if any of the allegations were true before they took the children into care. Nor did they offer any intervention or support prior to removing the children.

- Did caseworkers investigate the case thoroughly after the removing the child / children into out of home care ? No

Please explain how they failed to investigate the case properly after the child / children had been removed :

Because the case worker told us they “will believe hearsay of false allegations, rather than to believe us”.

- Did caseworkers work with you for a better outcome for you and your family? No
- Did caseworkers work against you? Yes
- Did they provide any support services to prevent the child / children being taken into care ? No
- Did child protection caseworkers keep you informed about what was happening with your children? No

Could you please explain what you mean by they didn't keep you informed about your children while they were/are in out of home care.

We were left in the dark and new nothing of what was happening to our children.

- Did they listen to you and respond to your concerns? No

What concerns did they ignore or not respond to you about?

Our concerns about the care our children were receiving.

The fact that our children have been abused and traumatised by their forced removal from our care.

The current and historical false allegations that caseworkers focused on and would not listen to us or consider our evidence that proved we were innocent parents.

- Did caseworkers provide the opportunity to have the child / children No

returned?

- When child protection turned up and removed the child, was this the first time you were aware they were going to do this? Yes
- Do you believe that caseworkers broke any laws ? Yes

Which laws do you believe caseworkers broke ?

- Children and Young Persons Act - False or misleading statements. Yes
- Crimes Act - Child Abduction. Yes
- Crimes Act - Blackmail offence. Yes
- Crimes Act - Fraud.
- Crimes (Hostages) Act - Hostage taking. Yes
- Crimes Act - Failure of persons with parental responsibility to care for child. Yes
- Crimes Act - Failure of persons with parental responsibility to seek medical attention for child. Yes
- Crimes Act - Perverting the course of justice. Yes
- Crimes Act - Offence of perjury. Yes
- Crimes Act - Providing false instruments by public official (Public authority giving false information to another public authority). Yes
- Misconduct under a Public Sector Employment and Management Act. Yes
- Dishonesty. Yes
- Recklessness. Yes

Use this section to explain exactly what was done or not done that constituted criminal offences by the child protection workers.

My children were abducted on false allegations.

We were told if we did what they told us - our children would be returned - but that did not happen and DOCS have continued to hold our children hostage.

They have failed to care for our children, they neglected their medical care.

They have told many lies, and defamed us to other agencies by providing them with false information.

They have perverted the course of justice by removing NGO workers *they fund* from our case because they were writing good reports about us as parents and did not agree with DOCS removing our children.

Consider the personal circumstances of your case and describe how you believe your experience of forced removal could have been better managed.

Our children should never have been forcibly removed to start with.

They should never have been placed with strangers in foster care and separated as they were either, which traumatised them, as other family members could have cared for them, but were not even considered by DOCS.

2 Docs workers and 5 police officers came just on dark to take our children. It was a Friday night of the June long weekend.

My wife was still on her way home so I was alone with my 4 children when they came.

I was in shock, confused and distress when they informed me they were taking our children away.

When they informed me of the reason why I objected because the allegation was false and I picked up my 2 youngest children and held them close to protect them. The police then forcibly removed them from my arms and then arrested me in front of my children because they said I had resisted them carrying out the order.

The children were screaming with fear it was just horrendous.

None of this was necessary and my children and I will never forget the trauma of their forced removal for the rest of our lives.

- Have caseworkers persecuted or threatened you, or cut contact with removed children because you have expressed opinions that are contrary to their beliefs? Yes

What have caseworkers done when you have exercised your fundamental right because you expressed opinions contrary to their belief?

Case worker threatened us they were going to get our kids taken off us no mater what it takes.

Do any of the below statements reflect the ways you were treated by child protection workers?

- To get access to your child you had to state that you had abused, neglected or mistreated your child. Yes
- To get access to your child you had to state that you had sexually assaulted your child.
- They lied in affidavits. Yes
- They lied in reports. Yes
- They only provided what information suited them to court report writers (IE Family Relationships Australia). Yes
- They caused reports to be inaccurate due to only providing information that suited their agenda. Yes
- Vindictiveness. Yes
- Sarcasm. Yes
- Belittling parents. Yes
- Putting their own best interests first before those of your Yes

child/children/family.

- Did they tolerate aspects of your life that were different to theirs? (eg. race, poverty, education level) Yes
- Continues to make judgements about you. Yes
- Displaying an inability or lack of willingness to accept the positive changes parents may have made. Yes
- Expect parents to work “with” them BUT they won’t work “with” parents. Yes
- Refusal to provide a change of child protection workers when personalities clash. Yes
- Using “the best interests of the child” to justify whatever they do even when clearly it’s not. Yes
- Inflexible working hours – evenings and weekends would enable them to work “with” parents and their work commitments. Yes
- Where there has been no harm, you are treated in the same disrespectful ways as those who have actually harmed their children. Yes
- The child protection workers assumed you were a bad parent though you had done nothing wrong. Yes
- The child protection workers chose not to accept the positive statements of family members even though they were true. Yes

CASEWORKERS INTERACTION WITH THE CHILD / CHILDREN

- Did caseworkers interview the child / children on their own? Yes
- Were there two caseworkers interviewing the child / children? Yes
- Were copies of the interview of the child / children made available to you? Yes
- Was the child / children asked if they would like to have a support person present with them at the time of interview I don't know

Questions regarding interviewing of parents by caseworkers

- Was the parent / parents interviewed without a support person being present? No
- Did you request a support person? Yes
- Was your request to have a support person denied? Yes
- Were there two caseworkers present at the interview? Yes
- Did the caseworkers rely on any disclosure (allegedly) made by the child after the interview with the two caseworkers? Yes
- Did you want to record interviews?
- Did you ask if you could record interviews?
- Were you allowed to record interviews?
- If the interview was recorded would that have helped you evidence lies told or Yes

written by the caseworkers in court?

- Do you believe that recording all contact caseworkers have with families would make the system fair and more honest? Yes
- Do you believe that caseworkers are getting away with misconduct and other criminal activities because there is no way of proving what has been communicated by the caseworker? Yes

Some parents are told that if they separate or divorce, they would have a better chance of getting the child / children returned.

- Were the parents accused of having domestic violence issues? Yes
- Were the allegations false? Yes
- Were you or the parents told that separation or divorce would provide a better chance of having the child / children returned by the caseworker?
- Were you or the parents told that separation or divorce would provide a better chance of having the child / children returned by their lawyer? Yes
- Did the parents separate or divorce? No
- Was there any change in circumstances for abiding by the requests of the caseworker regarding the separation or divorce?
- Was the child / children returned because of the divorce / separation?
- Was one of the parents told to take out a restraining or domestic violence order to better their chances of having the child / children returned?
- Did a parent take out a restraining or domestic violence order because they were asked to?
- Was the child / children returned because of the restraining or domestic violence order?
- Was there any change in circumstances for abiding by the requests of the caseworker regarding the restraining or domestic violence order?
- Was the child / children returned to the perpetrator of domestic violence or abuser or known paedophile?

How would you describe the conduct of the child protection caseworker in the courts?

- Was the caseworkers evidence based on hearsay? Yes
- Was the caseworker prepared to proceed on the day? No
- Did the caseworker or their legal representative request adjournments? Yes
- Did the caseworker omit facts relevant to the case that would have painted you or the parents in a more positive light? Yes
- Were reports received in time frames ordered by the court? No
- Did the court material contain uncorroborated stories about you? Yes
- Did the court material have an objective approach? No
- Did the court material have a subjective approach aimed at demeaning and Yes

belittling you?

- While caseworkers were being questioned, did the courts allow the other workers to take notes and discuss matters? Yes
- Did the caseworker allow the child to be present at the court hearings? No
- Did they tell you the truth or write truthful Affidavits? No

Please explain how the caseworkers did not tell the truth in affidavits, or were not truthful.

They put false allegations down as if they were fact; and other hearsay that was not true and provided no evidence.

They put down history - especially about my wife that was not true including false allegations made against my wife from her time in care as a child which were unsubstantiated by DOCS own investigation on their records but they still included them to make us out to be bad parents.

FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENT

- Was the child removed without consent? Yes
- Was the child adopted ? No
- Do you think the adoption is necessary? no
- Do you think the adoption will damage the child's long-term future? yes

What were the reasons for the removal of the child/children?

- Domestic violence
- POSSIBLE FUTURE RISK OF HARM Yes
- Were the allegations false? Yes
- Were you charged with child abuse? No
- Were you charged with neglecting the child / children? No
- Were you charged with child abandonment? No
- Were you convicted of child abuse? No
- Were you convicted of neglecting the child / children? No
- Were you convicted of child abandonment? No
- Were you convicted of anything at all relating to the removal of the child / children? No
- Were you ever given a single list of things you needed to do / not do in order to have the child / children returned ? No
- Did the caseworkers continually add to the list of requirements for you to do in order to have the child / children returned? Yes

- Were you able to complete the list of requirements set by the caseworker? Uncertain
- Was this because the list was never ending? Yes
- Did completing the caseworkers requirements of you enable the child / children to be returned? No
- Did the reasons child protection gave to magistrates, to warrant keeping the child / children in out of home care continued to change with each court case? Yes
- Was it difficult to address the issues in court because they kept changing (raising the bar)? Yes
- Were you consulted about your child's Care Plan? Yes
- Did you receive Affidavits and care plans in enough time to respond to the court? No
- Was your case continually adjourned by the department because they were not ready to proceed? Yes
- Did your solicitor or ICL object to the departments request for more time? No
- Did the court grant adjournments to the department on the basis that they were very busy? Yes
- Was that in your child's best interest? No

Access to support services :

- Did the department require you to complete any courses? Yes
- Did they improve your parenting skills? Uncertain
- Did you have an opportunity to put your new skills into practice with your child at home? No
- When you completed all the department asked did you get your children back? No
- Did the department assist you to do what they required of you? No
- Did they encourage and support you to do what was required of you? No
- Did it make a difference in getting your children back? No
- Were the parents prevented from having any support persons at any meetings / conferences or court proceedings related to the removal of the child / children? Yes

What has been the impact on you since the child was taken away and placed into foster care?

- Lack of Trust Yes
- Excessive crying Yes
- Sadness Yes
- Withdrawal Yes
- Depression Yes
- Physical health problems Yes
- Low self-esteem Yes
- Anxiety Yes
- Panic attacks Yes
- Complex trauma Yes
- Trust issues Yes
- Smoking Yes
- Drinking Yes
- Has there been short or long-term emotional impacts because of the care proceedings and forced removal that you have experienced? • Yes

What has been the short or long-term emotional impacts of the care proceedings and forced removal you have experienced?

- Grief Yes
- Loss Yes
- Pain Yes
- Anger Yes
- Fear Yes
- Frustration Yes
- Anxiety Yes
- Stress Yes
- Difficulties sleeping Yes
- Difficulties eating Yes
- Difficulties working Yes
- Loss of enjoyment of life Yes
- Little interest in anything Yes
- Feels like life revolves around courts and caseworkers Yes
- Feelings of mental and psychological torture by caseworkers Yes
- Feelings of injustice Yes
- Feelings of inadequacy for being unable to protection your children Yes
- Sometimes don't want to get out of bed Yes

- General suffering Yes
- Other
- Were you offered professional help such as grief counselling to deal with your loss? No
- Has there been a negative physical impact on you caused by the forced removal of the child? Yes

Describe any short or long term physical impacts of the care proceedings and forced removal, including:

- Actual injuries occurring as a result of the care proceedings and forced removal such as attempted suicide and self-harm
- How the hurt and harm have affected your life such as work, sport or leisure activities
- Any long term impact of hurt and harm on your life

Any medical treatment required this includes future or ongoing medical treatment.

- Has there been a negative financial impact on your family due to care and protection proceedings? Yes

Financial short and long term impact of the care proceedings and forced removal:

We have no money now and are in debt over \$5000, cant pay bills, cant buy food, no fuel for car all caused from loss of income since the children were taken and the costs of attending everything DOCS dictate and the legal costs in trying to fight to get our children back.

- Did you have a partner at the time of the removal? Yes
- Has the loss of your child or children had an effect on your relationship with your partner? Yes

How would you describe the effect that child protection intervention has had on the relationship between you and your partner (at the time of removal)?

- Short-term effect of the removal of the child / children Negative impact
- Overall long-term effect of the removal and continued court proceedings Negative impact
- Effect upon the communication between the couple Negative impact
- Effect upon personal ability and inner-strength Negative impact

If you would like to write more here, please do so

I was advised by Legal aid to plead guilty to the charge of obstructing police from carrying out

their order (when they came to forcibly remove my children), as I did not have money to pay a private solicitor who would fight the charge.

So now I have a conviction and criminal record which will impact on my life forever.

- Has there been a negative impact on the relationship with your extended family and friends, caused by child protection's removal and court proceedings? Yes
- Have you had to move home or town because of child protection involvement? Yes
- Did child protection force you to move? Yes

Please explain why you had to move home or relocate to another town, and how this is related to your child being in out of home care.

We had to move house because DOCS hassled our land lord and we got kicked out from all there crap

What would have been a better solution in your case then forced removal?

In our case it was not us that were the risk to our children but another person living in another house on the farm we were renting that DOCS considered to be a possible risk to our children. So he could easily have been made to leave and in fact I did request he move out the night the children were forcibly removed.

There was never a need to remove our children from our care and that never should have happened. DOCS could also have put a safety plan in place.

They could also have placed our children with family who new and loved them instead of strangers in foster care.

Forcibly removing our children was a first resort not a last resort as the legislation dictates.

- How many placements has the child / children had ? Two older girls had four, the two babies had three
- How many caseworkers has the child / children had ? 4
- How often does the caseworker see the child / client? I don't know as the caseworkers keep changing.
- Does the child / children know who their caseworker is? No

CONTACT WITH CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE

General questions about the removal of the child / children :

- Was your child / children placed in care in the state you resided in? Yes
- Were there problems with interstate placement?
- Have you been allowed to have phone contact with the child / children in care? Yes
- Have you been allowed to have SKYPE contact with the child / children in care?
- Did you loose your public housing after the child / children was removed? Yes
- Did you lose your income after the child was removed? Yes
- Have you been granted a Case Review by a Regional Director or other ? No
- Have you applied to have the child / children returned to your care ? Yes
- Did the Court allow you to proceed to a hearing for your restoration application?
- Did the department oppose your application for restoration? Yes

Did the department seek orders till the child was 18 years from the time they were removed?

- Did you have problems trying to find a good solicitor that was prepared to fight for you in the Care Court? Yes
- Was your Legal Aid cut off during court procedures? Yes
- Did your solicitor advise you to agree to establishment? Yes
- Did your solicitor advise you to agree to what the department wanted? Yes
- Do you understand the system? No
- Have caseworkers undermined you to your children in care? Yes
- Have the children been divided into different placements ? Yes
- Have your children been managed by an NGO (non-government organisation eg CatholicCare / Barnardos etc)? No
- Has that NGO been helpful?
- Has your child in care received appropriate medical treatment while in care? No

- Has your child had to change schools while in care? No

Does the child / children ever ask to come home?

- Yes Yes
- All the time Yes
- Cries to come home at contact regularly Yes
- Begs to come home Yes
- Asks why they cannot come home Yes
- Practically kicks and screams at end of contact Yes

What has happened if the child has asked to come home, or kicked and screamed or tried to stay with you at the end of contact?

- Do you currently have contact with the child / children in out of home care? Yes

How much contact are you having with the child / children currently in Out of Home Care

- Daily Yes
- An hour and a half contact Yes
- Is this child / children part of a sibling group? Yes
- Are the siblings split up into different placements? No

What has been the impact on the child / children since they were placed into foster care?

- Lack of Trust Yes
- Sexual abuse Yes
- Medical abuse Yes
- Emotional abuse Yes
- Excessive crying Yes
- Sadness Yes
- Withdrawal Yes
- Depression Yes
- Failure to attach Yes
- Physical health problems Yes
- Low self-esteem Yes
- Anxiety Yes
- Panic attacks Yes
- Complex trauma Yes
- Violent behaviour Yes

- In your opinion has there been an emotional impact on the child / children as a result of being placed in foster care ? Yes

In your opinion, what has been the short or long-term emotional impacts on the removed children because of the care proceedings and forced removal?

- Grief Yes
- Loss Yes
- Pain Yes
- Anger Yes
- Fear Yes
- Frustration Yes
- Anxiety Yes
- Stress Yes
- Wetting the bed Yes
- Nightmares and bad dreams Yes
- Difficulties sleeping Yes
- Difficulties eating Yes
- General suffering Yes
- Have you ever written to the child in out of home care, or sent letters or money or gifts? Yes
- Were there ever any hassles with giving the gifts, cards, money or similar to the child? No

Other information pertinent to the child receiving gifts sent to them by family members :

- Did you ask for a receipt? No
- Did the caseworker give you a receipt for any gifts you provided? No
- Were you allowed to give the child / children the gifts / cards / letters ? Uncertain

How much contact does the child / children have with extended family now they are in out-of-home care ?

- Not at all Yes

Have you been told any of the below rules, or similar, by child protection caseworkers ?

- You cannot talk to the child about the past. Yes
- You cannot talk to the child about the case or why they were removed. Yes

- You are not allowed to change a child with out someone being present. Yes
- You are not allowed to whisper anything to your child. Yes
- You are not allowed to talk to each other outside of the contact room. Yes
- No cuddles or not too many.
- You must talk loud enough for the supervisor to hear. Yes
- You are not allowed to tell child the truth about questions they ask. Yes
- You are not allowed to bring any other children or relatives into contact. Yes
- You are not allowed to ask how there going at school. No
- You are not allowed to ask about their placement. Yes
- Where there any other rules you were told by the caseworker or contact supervisor? Not aloud to get angry or swear
- What happened to your contact if any rules were broken? We were asked to leave
- Has contact been cancelled for breaking the rules? Yes
- What where other reasons given for cancelling contact? Foster carers were too busy or DOCS was not able to contact them.

Other family contact for special occasions :

- Have you been allowed contact on special days such as the Child's Birthday, Mother's Day, Fathers Day, your Birthday and Christmas Day? No
- If a member of your family or extended family has died have the children been allowed to attend the Funeral? No
- If a member of your family or extended family has been ill or in hospital has the child been allowed to visit them? No
- If the child has been hospitalised whilst in care, has immediate or extended family been allowed to visit them? No

Describe your experience of direct or indirect contact with your child or children following the care proceedings and forced removal :

A living night mare or horror movie because the children are so distressed and traumatised.

FOSTER CARERS

About the relationship between yourself and the foster carer/s :

- Have foster carers treated you respectfully? No
- Have foster carers put the needs of your child / children first? No
- Have foster carers supported the restoration of your children? No
- Have foster carers made the children call them Mum and Dad? Yes
- Have the caseworkers made the children call the foster carers Mum and Dad? Uncertain
- Have foster carers helped to preserve your relationship with the child / children in care? No
- Have foster carers undermined you to your children? Yes

Is there anything else you would like to say about the foster carer/s ?

When first removed the children were separated and placed with strangers in different foster homes.

The eldest 2 had 4 placement changes and the youngest 2 had 3 different placements all within the first 6 weeks of being taken into care.

Currently the children have been placed together but are in a residential facility which is only approved for children aged 12 to 17 years old not for my young children who are aged 1 year to 8 years.

There is a rotating roster of up to 10 different staff that work in shifts. They have a men staying alone with them overnight which I have strongly objected to but was ignored. I went to visit the children and before I knocked I heard a male worker abusing my children, then when I did knock he pretended to be nice.

My children have no stability, these workers are mostly youth workers used to teenagers so they complain about looking after such young children.

What DOCS have put my children through is just shocking.

No young children should ever be placed in residential care, as it is not in their best interests.

INJURIES, ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE

- Has there been any injuries, abuse or neglect to the child / children in out of home care? Yes

Please explain the injuries, neglect or abuse of the child / children in out of home care

They have been emotionally abused and traumatised. They have been forced to have invasive medical procedures. They have been sick and neglected and one has been hospitalised for illness.

- Was the child hospitalised for illness or injuries acquired in out of home care? Yes
- Were you notified as soon as possible when the child was hospitalised ? Yes
- Have you reported any injuries, abuse or neglect to the child / children since they have been placed in out of home care? Yes

Who did you report the injuries, abuse or neglect to ?

- Caseworkers Yes
- Minister for DOCS/FACS/DCP/CPS/DCF in your state Yes

If you reported any injuries or abuse about the child in out of home care to one of the caseworkers responsible for the welfare of the child, what was the outcome of the report?

- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

If you reported the injuries, neglect or abuse of a child in out of home care to the state minister for child protection / families etc, what was the outcome of the report?

- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

Do any of the below statements reflect your experience ?

- Did you ask to visit the child who had been hospitalised ? Yes
- Were you allowed to visit the child who had been hospitalised ? No
- Were you allowed to come and go easily whilst visiting the hospitalised child? No

- Were you given limited visiting hours ?
- Were other family members allowed to visit the hospitalised child ? No

Complaints about case management of children in out of home care

- If you believe that your caseworkers acted incorrectly, or corruptly, or even biased toward you, or did not follow their guidelines, or policy or procedure, did you report it to anybody? Yes
- Have they been held accountable for any misconduct, corruption, maladministration or bias? No

Who did you report the misconduct, corruption, maladministration or bias etc to:

- Minister for DOCS/FACS/DCP/CPS/DCF in your state Yes
- DoCS (Child Protection) Complaints line in your state Yes

What was the outcome of the report you made to the state minister for child protection / families ?

- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

What else (if anything) would you like to say about the complaint you filed with the Minister for Child Protection / Child Safety / Children and Families in your state ?

We got a letter back that did not say anything about our complaints but basically just told us to work with the caseworkers we were making complaints about.

What was the outcome of the report you made to the Complaints Line for Child Protection / Families ?

- Nothing it was a coverup Yes

Is there anything else you would like to state regarding your complaint to the Complaints Line for child protection department in your state ?

Yes they are all in each others pocket

Community interaction with magistrates, courts and legal representatives & the cost of such services

- Were you ever denied legal aid during the court proceedings ? Yes
- Did you have legal aid or private legal representation? I part self represented and had part legal aid representation
- Did you have trouble finding legal representation that had Yes

not previously worked for the department ?

- Did you win or lose the case? Other
- Other still going
- Did you have to chose your Legal Aid representative from a limited list? Yes
- Were you given adequate preparation time for each of the hearings that related to the child / children in out of home care? No

Please explain how you were not given adequate time to prepare for child protection proceedings ?

DOCS would give us there paper work the night before court.

- Do you believe the courts helped or hindered your case? The courts hindered my case
- Do you believe the magistrate read your affidavits and listened to you? No
- Did your solicitor explain your legal situation clearly? No
- Did your solicitor provide the correct legal advice? No

Is there anything else you would like to say about the legal representation you had :

All they care about is the money and legal aid don't pay enough for the solicitor to care or fight your case.

- Do you feel your solicitor spent enough time with you and working on your case? No
- Did your solicitor follow your instructions? No
- Did you feel your solicitor really tried hard to win your case? No

If you ever applied for court transcripts, what was your experience with it and the organisation that provided the transcript service?

- The transcript had parts missing Yes
- Other others are false

Is there anything else you would like to add about the court process ?

It is very unjust to parents.

The Magistrate listen to DOCS and then is already writing up what order they have asked for while I am waiting to speak.

They don't read the affidavits of evidence proving our innocents even when asked so our children remain in care.

In a previous question you answered that caseworkers lied under oath during court proceedings (committed perjury) ... When this matter was evidenced in court, what did the magistrate do ?

- The magistrate did nothing. Yes

Audio and visual equipment in the courtroom :

- Were you able to hear what was being said in the courtroom at all times? Yes
- Could you hear what was being discussed between the parties solicitors at all times? No
- Were you able to clearly hear what the magistrate was saying at all times? Yes
- Was the audio and video equipment working well at all times?

Is there anything else you would like to add about the child / children's independent legal representative?

Our children do not have a solicitor to represent them, they have no one but us trying to speak up for them.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

- Have you been subjected to torture or to cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment? Yes

Could you provide more details about your torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment please.

The forced removal of my children and being arrested for just holding onto them because they were scared.

Every day has been torture and DOCS have been very cruel to us daily.

They also run over and killed our dog in front of the children when they left our house and have refused to take any responsibility for doing so.

- Have you been treated equal when before the courts and tribunals No

If you believe you have not been equal before the courts and tribunals, please provide more information.

The court listen to DOCS and do what DOCS want, they do not listen to parents or read our evidence even when asked. Their is no justice or equality for parents in care court it is stacked in favour of DOCS.

- Have you been subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with respect to your privacy, family, home or correspondence? Or have you been subjected to unlawful attacks on your honour and reputation? Yes

Please provide more details about the unlawful interference with your privacy, family, home or correspondence; or attacks on your honour and reputation.

DOCS have told people shocking false information about us and destroyed our reputation and family.

They have totally invaded our privacy in every possible way.

They even entered our home when we were not there without our knowledge or consent and without a warrant and searched through whatever they wanted including our phone and personal possessions.

- Have you been denied your right to hold an opinion/s without interference? Yes

Please provide more information on the violation of your right to hold opinions without interference

My opinions differ from DOCS and they hold that against me all the time and even use that as an excuse to keep our children from us.

- Have you had your right to freedom of expression violated? Yes

Please provide more information on how your right to freedom of expression has been violated?

If I speak up and exercise my right to freedom of expression DOCS hold that against me all the time.

- Has your family been denied protection by society and the state? Yes

Please provide more information

The state has not protected me in any way they have stolen my children on false allegations and abused and traumatised us and no one is holding them accountable.

- All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. Do you believe you have been discriminated against with respect to this statement? Yes

Please provide more information on this answer

DOCS have too much power and no accountability and we don't have any power and must do what ever they say and accept whatever they do if we are to ever have any chance of getting our children back.

No one cares if DOCS break the law and they won't arrest them, but they were quick to arrest me for just holding onto my babies.

We have faced discrimination all the way along in every aspect of our case.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

- Article 7.1 states "The child shall be registered at birth and shall have the right to know and be cared for by his parents". Do you believe this right has been violated? Yes

Please provide more information about how your child's right to know you and be cared for by you is being violated.

Our children have been forcibly removed from us on false allegations and denied their right to be cared for by their parents

- Article 8.1 of the International Covenant of Child's Rights states "State Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law without unlawful interference". Do you believe this right has been violated? Yes

Please provide more information about how the state party has disrespected the right of your child/ren to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law without unlawful interference.

Our children have been forcibly removed from us and held on false allegations violating their human rights.

- Article 9.1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states "State Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will". Was your child's right violated? Yes

Please explain how State Parties separated your child/ren from you against their will

All of our children were forcibly removed against their will and continue to be held by the state against will.

- Has the state taken appropriate measures to protect your child from all forms of abuse, violence, negligence, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse? No

Article 29 of the CROC refers to where the education of the child should be directed to the below mentioned areas. Do you believe that the state obliged to educate the child / children in these?

- The development of the child's personality, talents and No

mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential.

- The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. No
- The principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. No
- The development of respect for the child's parents. No
- His or her own cultural identity. No
- Language and values. No
- For the national values of the country in which the child is living. No

SUMMARY

What were your thoughts on child protection services before you had the opportunity to see them work first hand ?

- They do a great job in difficult circumstances. No
- If child protection got involved then the parents must have done something wrong. Uncertain
- They would never remove a child without investigating the family properly first. Yes
- Child protection workers are over worked and underpaid.
- The department needs more funding so they can help more families No
- They don't get enough gratitude for the job they do.

Describe your thoughts and feelings toward child protection and the authorities in general now that you have experienced them ?

- Did you initially seek assistance from child protection? Yes
- Would you ever ring child protection again for assistance? No
- Do you tell domestic violence victims to seek assistance from child protection? No
- Do you tell them not to ask for help because of mandatory reporting regulations? Yes
- Would you ever ring the police again to ask for assistance if in a domestic violence situation?
- Would you ever trust healthcare professionals with information that may be used against you by child protection workers? No
- Would you ever seek help from any government authority again after having the department involved in your life previously? No

What is the best thing/s about the current child protection system?

There is none

What is the worst thing about the current child protection system ?

They are the worst child and family destroying system that is on this earth and should change their name to child destroyers system

What changes would you make to the child protection system if you could ?

I would close them down full stop.

- Would you like to have your case reviewed ? Yes
- Do you see any point in asking to have your case reviewed by another government department ? No

Why do you not want your case reviewed by another government department / organisation ?

- Government departments only work to cover for child protection. Yes
- Other departments have merely excused the corrupt actions of the department. Yes

Other

Child protection has more power then any other except high courts

- Would you like to have your case file audited for compliance with state child protection laws, and policies and procedures by a professional organisation that is experienced with current child protection issues, that is independent of the department ? Yes

Is there anything else you would like to say about the current child protection system ?

It is a failure big time and does not protect children.