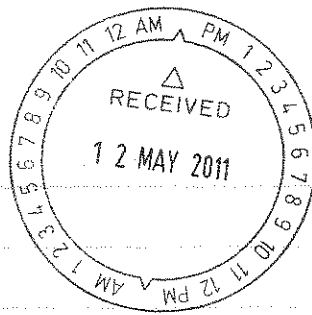


SUSAN MYERS



9/5/11

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in regards to my birth mothers experience as she related it to me. I think you will find it quite disturbing.

I was born at Hemibee Hospital in April, 1967. My birth mother was 21. My birth father was a much older, married man who worked at the same place as my mother. She was sacked from her job and told by her mother to leave the family home. She stayed with her best friend and was financially supported by her father. She went into labour on a Saturday afternoon but I was not born until Tuesday afternoon. She told ~~her~~ me her labour was extremely painful but despite pleas from both her father and aunty, the nurses offered no pain relief, support or sympathy. My mother said they all "treated her like a common slut" and because she wouldn't say who the father was (to protect his family), they assumed it was "because she slept around and didn't know which one did it." She was co-erced against her will into signing the papers but she knew that legally, she had 30 days to change her mind. She was not allowed to see me at all and they did not even tell her if I was a boy or a girl.

A few weeks ago, my birth mother, who is terminally ill, added the following information. I think she wanted me to know the whole truth before she dies.

A few days after leaving the hospital she met a very nice man and they took to each other immediately. She told him about me and to her great surprise, he said that he would marry her and raise me as his own child. He told her to go back to

→

the hospital and tell them she was getting married to the father who had had a change of heart. It was still well within the 30 day period and as she was an adult of 21, they assumed it would not be much of a problem to get me back.

Upon returning to Werribee Hospital, the staff there basically refused to listen to anything my mother tried to tell them.

They would not let her see me at all. She was told that it was too late and that I had already been taken to another hospital in Melbourne and that my adoption had already been arranged. Just as she was leaving, one of the matrons took pity on her and told her I was a girl and that I had bits of hair.

It was all lies, of course. I stayed in my own room at Werribee Hospital until I was six weeks old, at which point my adoptive parents were rung and told there was a baby for them at Werribee.

I cannot understand how the hospital staff could so blatantly disregard my mother's legal rights. Her treatment was, from beginning to end, callous, unjustified and illegal.

Saddest of all, she did marry that nice man and they had two more children, both of whom I have met. My meeting with my birthmother went very well and we have regular contact. While my life turned out O.K., we sometimes sit together and wonder what might have been.

My birthmother does not know I am writing to you and would probably want to remain anonymous, therefore I am not going to give you any identifying details.

I would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of this letter. Thankyou,
Yours sincerely,