



## Canada Court Watch

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Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario  
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Dear Premier Wynne

### **RE: Another example from yesterday about the abuse of children as a result of the dismal failure of the CAS system in Ontario**

Yesterday, on Sunday November 27, 2016 I interviewed a teenage boy and his younger sister who reported being abused over a long period of time by their mother while under the supervision of a CAS agency here in Ontario. This was my second video recorded interview of these two children taken with their informed consent. These children desperately wanted help.

Both of these children described numerous incidents of violence and emotional harm against them by their mother. The mother was also abusing the father. Some disclosures include:

- Both children witnessed their mother assault and give their father a bloody nose at the father's workplace. (The police refused to charge the mother in spite of witnesses present.)
- The teenage boy reported witnessing his mother recently grab a kitchen knife and hold it up to herself in her home and threaten to kill herself in front of the teen.
- Both children witnessed their mother assault one of their father's employees at their father's workplace. (Again police refused to charge the mother in spite of witnesses present.)
- Both children described how their mother told them that she was going to go over to their father's home in the middle of night and burn his house down with the father and her son in the house. The teenage boy describes how his mother often drives by his father's home in the evenings and slows down to look in.
- Both children described how their mother sometimes strangles them around their necks when she gets angry. One photo the children provided shows scratch marks on the teen's neck.
- The children even provided me with photos which had been taken of the injuries which their mother had inflicted upon them over a period of time.
- The children felt that the CAS workers lied to them and that they could not trust the CAS workers anymore.
- The teenage boy reported being physically assaulted by his mother almost immediately after the CAS worker violated the boy's trust and went back to the mother and reported what the teen was saying to the CAS worker about his mother. The teen reported this assault to his worker from the CAS but that the worker did nothing.

- The teen has audio recordings of his mother being abusive but the CAS workers don't want to listen to them.
- The boy has his mother break into the bathroom regularly while he is having a shower to search his clothes and to search his body for recording devices so that evidence of her abuse will not be captured by the children.
- Both children report how their mother makes them wear old and tattered clothes to school when it their father's access time after school because the mother does not want the kids to be going to dad's house with any decent clothes. Yet, when dad buys the kids new clothes, their mother will not return the good clothes that dad bought.
- The teenage boy reports that his mother puts his lunch in an outdoor garden shed and will not let him take his lunch to school and expects him to walk home from school at lunchtime even in the cold of winter and to eat his lunch like a dog in the cold tool shed. The boy is not allowed in his mother's home and is not allowed to have a key.

What I found most disturbing is that both children told me that they told their CAS worker all these things but that nobody from the CAS helps them. The CAS workers tell the kids not to worry about these things.

### **The mother in this case was seen abusing one of her grade one school students**

Another disturbing element of this case is that this particular mother is an elementary school teacher. The teenage boy reported that he recently went to his mother's school on a "*take your child to work day*" and witnessed his mother get angry at one of her grade one students and then violently push the little boy into the wall and made him fall on the floor crying. The teen told me that this is exactly what his mother does at home but it is even more violent at home because nobody is there to witness his mother's violence in their home.

The teenager described that on one day, the CAS worker came to his mother's home earlier while his mother was yelling, screaming and being violent in the house without knowing the teen had let the CAS worker into the home. The teen reported (on video) that the CAS worker could hear his mother being abusive in the home but told the teen that she could not report the mother's behaviour in the CAS file because nobody back at the CAS office would believe even her. In effect, the CAS worker refused to report the mother's abuse in the CAS files effectively helping hide the violence in this mother's home.

Both of these children continue to be abused in spite of CAS involvement and CAS workers having knowledge of the ongoing abuse. As I write this letter the teen has vowed today he will not return to his mother's home because he is afraid for his safety and that of his sister because CAS workers have done nothing to help and if anything have helped to support their abusive mother.

### **This same CAS agency was criticized by an Ontario Judge for being largely responsible for the death of another child for leaving that child in an abusive home**

Tragically, the CAS agency which is monitoring these two children is the same CAS agency which an Ontario judge previously had blasted after an inquiry as the agency most responsible for the death of another child as a result of leaving the child in that case in an abusive home.

### **CAS worker from various CAS agencies in Ontario are failing to report what children are saying accurately**

I have conducted video recorded interviews with children and parents for many years on the subject of the CAS and the family courts. Some of these videos can be seen on the Canada Court Watch

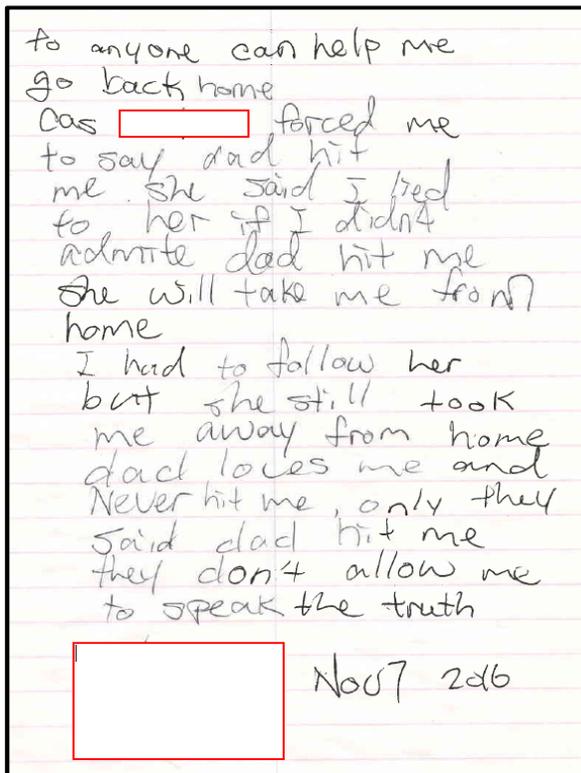
YouTube site. I hear the same story over and over again from children about how CAS workers will twist what children are reporting and in some cases fabricate information from children to use against parents. Many children report that they do not trust CAS workers because workers will not report what the children are saying. We get the same complaints from children about workers with Ontario's Office of the Children's Lawyer.

As an example of how children are being punished for speaking the truth to CAS workers, please view our latest YouTube video of one parent describing how his children were being punished by their abusive mother for simply trying to get help from the CAS.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cq1uY3oOsms>



Below is a handwritten note recently smuggled out of a foster home from a teen crying out to Canada Court Watch for help to get out of CAS. The teen reports that he was forced to lie by the CAS worker and that the CAS workers will not allow him to speak the truth. This teen who is in foster care is not allowed to use the phone or to use the internet and is basically being detained against his will by the CAS to prevent him from speaking up about abuse by the CAS. Names have been edited.



Video recording of children's interviews and meetings between parents and CAS workers is the **ONLY** solution which will put an end to much of this CAS incompetence, cover up and in some cases criminal activities within CAS. The Supreme Court of Canada had ruled that video recordings are the most reliable forms of evidence in child abuse investigations. Any worker can use their personal cell phone to record so cost is minimal. In fact, many workers threaten parents that they will not meet with them if the parents wish to record meetings. What are CAS workers so afraid of?

In closing, Canada Court Watch and its supporters strongly recommend that legislation under Ontario's *Child and Family Services Act* be amended quickly to require that all interviews with children by CAS workers in situations where child abuse is suspected be recorded on video for accuracy purposes. I believe that this one measure to implement mandatory video recording with children will improve the outcomes for countless families and save the taxpayers of Ontario tens of millions of dollars annually.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Beck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "V".

Vernon Beck, Child and Family Justice Advocate