

INQUIRY INTO CHILD PROTECTION

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 30 July 2016

Partially
Confidential

My name is _____ and I have had my son _____ removed from my care.

I have attached a letter to FACs regarding my questions. I believe that they are relevant to the enquiry.

Points not mentioned in the attachment that I believe would assist you into your enquiry are listed below. These are more general procedural points that should be investigated.

Processes

I did not have any time to get legal advice or representation before the initial court case. I had no information, time or resources. I was served a summons at 4.30pm to appear at 10am the next day.

As mentioned in the letter I had been sent home from my baby and the hospital that day, my mental and emotional capacity to deal with this information was not competent.

Telephone conversations are definitely not a good means of communication as it comes down to their word against mine, inferences, threats and bullying are standard attitudes when dealing with FACs face to face and on the telephone.

Documents were being handed to me by FACs to sign as we were entering court. I was in no emotional state to sign documents and make life changing decisions.

I was not given any documentation for the complaints process. I was mailed a DVD after approximately 12 months, the process on the DVD is certainly NOT what happens in any way, shape or form.

My child was sent to _____, which is 6.5 hours from me. His placement happened prior to the final court case. How can this be allowed?

The medical report states that further investigation is needed as my ex partners account of the incidences did not correlate with the injuries. Further investigation did not happen as my ex signed a consent. I am concerned with a number of things here:

- 1) What is to stop my ex partner doing this again
- 2) I have no answer as to who hurt my child
- 3) I requested many times that my child's birth records be subpoenaed, this never happened and I was told they were irrelevant
- 4) Police and Doctors were never questioned
- 5) My child saw a medical professional every week of his life with me, except week 5. No medical expert, even upon doing full medicals for clicky hips etc. diagnosed my child with injuries, yet the medical reports state that injuries were 6-8 weeks old?? My child was 9 weeks old when he was removed from me.

The process is very flawed and the people within it are flawed and use any means possible to ensure that their presumption of guilt is upheld, no matter who gets hurt in the meantime.

I have made complaints to ICAC, Ombudsman, FACs and the Minister FACs, yet each just say that it was heard in court - it was not. My first appearance, as explained prior, I had no legal representation and no time. Every court appearance after that was care proceedings.

My legal counsel told me the following:

You won't win, no one does

You should move

Give him to your parents, it's all you can do

..... and so many more defeatist things that held me emotionally unable to do anything to defend myself.

FACs made many threats, statements, and used stand over tactics with my son as the "carrot" dangled to coerce me.

I have had no opportunity to prove my innocence, I have had no voice during this whole process.

I would be willing to meet with the committee if they have further questions.

Regards,