INQUIRY INTO CHILD PROTECTION

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 05 August 2016
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1) The police handed my 9 yr old granddaughter to me after a home invasion at her father's home

2) There was never enough case workers available in order to assist both the child and myself

3) When we got into the rough times, like the child not wanting to attend school or stay on school property then FACS did not make her. In actual fact FACS signed her out of school forever at the age of 12 yrs of age. If I did that I'm pretty sure I would have been held accountable for my actions as should they. I was disgusted that this was allowed to happen I hear of other parents being threatened with imprisonment if their children don't attend school so why should FACS be allowed to do this.

4) The child told FACS she wanted someone younger to raise her so she was sent with another family member. The child only stayed there for approximately 3 months then she moved to a friend's place who was a foster carer.

5) The child wouldn't stay anywhere and would not be told what to do. She didn't like rules and was constantly moving from one house to another and FACS made this possible. In my opinion this was unacceptable.

6) I think that FACS should be more accountable and make the child stay in a safe environment whether they like it or not, as most children don't appreciate rules but they are very necessary.

7) This child had no good reason to leave my home. I/we should have had assistance and support from the FACS department immediately.

8) Often the workers that are there are all too often off on stress leave and then another stranger enters the child's life trying to tell it what to do, there are no consequences given though.

9) There are not enough FACS workers employed for the need of the people. I also hear you are laying off more and more workers instead of employing more.

10) These children need help as soon as things get troubled not just say that's ok you can do whatever you want. They also left it way too late to try to intervene.

11) I think the whole system needs a very good overhaul.

12) I had this child doing and enjoying Dance Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop lots of money involved for the lessons, the costumes, the shoes and singing. I'm not young but I was running her around doing everything that was needed for this child and FACS just let her throw the towel in on everything.

13) Now the child is 16 yrs and living a very unstable, unhappy and unhealthy life. She feels worthless, uneducated and suffers from depression.

Thankyou good luck into making things better for all concerned by that I mean better for the children and the carers

Your sincerely