

INQUIRY INTO CHILD PROTECTION

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 05 August 2016

Partially
Confidential

Re: Child protection

My husband and I have been kinship carers for nine years. (One child has ADHD, another has had to have laser treatment and plastic surgery.) Our job is hard for a number of reasons. It becomes harder as you age and your health and energy and stamina deteriorates with age. More care needs to be taken of the carers!

Our experience with FACS/DoCS staff has been very mixed. Some staff are very competent, understand many issues involving the children and damage done to them and also the family politics when two or more sides of the children's extended families want visits eg birthdays, Christmases etc.

These competent people are very helpful and good to deal with.

The incompetent ones and those that have no idea of the problems and family dynamics are a menace.

Where the children have different fathers, the number of extended families increase and trying to keep everyone happy becomes very difficult.

If everyone is not happy repercussions, denigrations, abuse etc arise.

This adversely affects the children and their behaviour.

Getting true and reliable information from FACS staff and case workers can be difficult eg after the court awarded the care of the children to us we were then told as we had PR we were no longer entitled to respite.

We are in our seventies and at times need respite. This (and other information) should have been clearly spelt out before the case went to court.

Later a new case worker told us we should have had a solicitor allocated to us for the court case. (No mention of this at the time. We were told we didn't need to be at the court.)

Even getting FACS to take the case to the Children's Court had problems.

We were told we had to go through the family court (VERY expensive,) then told no, DoCS would take it to court. they changed their mind several times before finally taking the case to the Children's Court.

I am happy to discuss this with you should you wish.