



# Canada Court Watch Report



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## **Girl assaulted again after Owen Sound CAS sends child back into the clutches of her abusive mother!**

### **Abused teen says CAS workers are biased and don't listen**

By Mike March, Justice Reporter

#### **January 3, 2006 – Owen Sound, Ontario**

On Thursday Dec, 29, a mother from the Grey Bruce area was arrested and charged by Ontario Provincial Police for assaulting her 13-year-old daughter.

The mother was held in jail overnight and released on a \$1,000 bond which was posted by her boyfriend the following morning at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brantford, Ontario.

According to sources, when the mother was arrested by the Paris, Ontario O.P.P., the mother already had outstanding charges against her for assaulting the same daughter just a few months earlier.

According to the girl, both assaults against the girl occurred at the mother's boyfriend's house who is a resident of Scotland, Ontario. The girl indicated that although the mother's boyfriend was present at the time of the assault by her mother, he did nothing to help her. After the assault, the boyfriend told the girl that she should be more obedient to her mother as if to condone his girlfriend's assault on her teenage daughter.

What was so bizarre about this assault on this young girl was that according to family sources, the Children's Aid Services of Owen Sound and Grey Bruce had actually gone against normal protocol of police and instructed police officers to return the girl back into the clutches of her mother after the police had charged the mother for assaulting the girl back in May of 2005.

CAS workers refused to disclose the name of the person at their agency who made the decision to send the girl back with her mother when there were other options readily available at the time which would have better ensured the girl's safety from further abuse by her mother.

The well-spoken teen reported to Court Watch that although it was an unfortunate situation to have any parent arrested and jailed for assaulting one of their children, she said that "it was about time" that somebody did something about her mother's abuse.

The girl reported that her mother had been abusing her and her siblings for a number of years and had been getting away with this for just far too long.

Another incident occurred last week in which the mother pushed the girl's head against a door causing her

to cry. Police came but did nothing. Another time, the girl said that her mother smashed the phone onto the floor and told the girl that she was not allowed to call her father.

According to the girl, CAS workers had been to their mother's home many time but never seemed to listen to the children and when workers did come to house to visit, ended up having a coffee and cigarette with their mother, rather than speaking to the kids.

The girl said that she and her siblings were fed up being abused and just wanted to live with their dad who was the better of the two parents and did not physically abuse them as did their mother.

She said that it appeared to her that workers were not being fair and were supporting her mother and not the children.

Complaints from children about CAS workers not listening to them and taking steps to deal with them being abused is a common complaint by many children who call Court Watch. Many children claim that CAS workers in their cases appear to be helping one parent and not the other while ignoring the interests of the children.

In another case, one 11-year-old girl from the Hawkesbury, Ontario testified during a videotaped interview with Court Watch that a Children's Aid worker told her that it was alright for single mothers to lose their temper at their children because life was not that easy for single moms. Later, it was found out that the CAS worker was a single mother herself.

In that case, the girl reported how her mother was beating her and throwing her up against a wall but that CAS workers did nothing to help her even when she told the CAS worker what her mother was doing.

Last month, the Ombudsman of Ontario, Andre Marin, appeared before an Ontario parliamentary committee and recommended that CAS agencies be held accountable to the Ombudsman's office.

The Ombudsman testified before the Committee that the current situation where CAS agencies were monitoring themselves was just not working and that children in Ontario were dying while in care of CAS agencies in Ontario.