



Family Justice Review Committee

A program of the National Association for Public & Private Accountability
Box 30, The Reimer Building
5500 North Service Road, Burlington, Ontario L7L 6W6
Telephone (416) 410-4115
The Archbishop Dorian A. Baxter, National Chairman
Website: <http://www.canadacourtwatch.com>



March 21, 2005

Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers
80 Bloor St. W. Suite 700
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2V1
Phone: (416) 972-9882
Fax: (416) 972-1512

Dear Sir/Madame

RE: Request to confirm College membership of OACAS committee members

Recently, in a document titled, *“Proposed Child and Family Services Act Amendments: A Position Paper of the Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies,”* the Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies (OACAS) submitted its recommendations to the Ontario government in regards to changing the Child and Family Services Act. Our organization is very much concerned about these recommendations because many of them would appear to increase the potential for abuse of power and authority by CAS workers who are not licensed to work as social workers in the Province of Ontario while at the same time reducing accountability to the citizens of Ontario.

Our organization, which monitors complaints from members of the public in regards to Children’s Aid Agencies, has in recent months, noted an increase in the number of complaints from the public regarding abuse of power and authority by workers who do not appear to be licensed social workers and therefore not accountable to the College. Some parents have reported that unlicensed CAS workers have made decisions which have adversely impacted on their children and caused great harm to their families.

The issue of unlicensed CAS workers violating the rights and freedoms of Canadians as guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, particularly in the area of violating rights relating to the security rights of children and parents, is of great concern to many members of the public. Complaints from the public would also appear to support claims that unlicensed CAS workers are exercising their authority in such a manner as to violate the provisions of other legal conventions such as the *“United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child”* which was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by the UN General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989 and made entry into force on September 2, 1990, in accordance with article 49. Canada has ratified the Convention.

Many members of the public support the position that one of the College's most important objectives should be to ensure professionalism and accountability of workers who do the work as a social worker in the Province of Ontario. Our organization supports the position that **ALL** workers with CAS agencies who work in a position of authority which can impact on the relationships between family members should be registered with the your College.

In the document of amendments which OACAS has submitted to the government of Ontario, the following persons are listed as members of the committee which drafted the recommendations:

MEMBERS OF OACAS CFSA/FLR COMMITTEE, 2004

Marv Bernstein (Chair)	<i>OACAS</i>
Mary Ballantyne	<i>CAS of Simcoe</i>
Bruce Burbank	<i>CAS of Brant</i>
Martha Downey-Smith	<i>CAS of Kingston and County of Frontenac</i>
Tracy Engelking	<i>CAS of Ottawa</i>
David Feliciant	<i>CAS of Hamilton</i>
Domenic Gratta	<i>CCAS of Toronto</i>
Wayne Herter	<i>CAS of Haldimand and Norfolk</i>
Len Kennedy	<i>CAS of Hastings</i>
Larry Marshall	<i>CAS of London and Middlesex</i>
Robin McDonald	<i>CAS Region of Peel</i>
Daniel Moore	<i>CAS of Owen Sound and County of Grey</i>
Helen Murphy	<i>CCAS of Toronto</i>
Richard Newton Smith	<i>CAS of Sarnia</i>
Brenda Nutter	<i>CAS of Northumberland</i>
Kristina Reitmeier	<i>CAS of Toronto</i>
Carol VandenHoek	<i>CAS of Guelph and Wellington County</i>
Gail Vandermeulen	<i>OACAS</i>
Susan Verrill	<i>Dilico Ojibway Child and Family Services</i>
Anne Marie Walsh	<i>OACAS</i>

Could you please confirm in writing, which members of the above noted OACAS committee are registered with the College and which persons on this committee would appear to be not currently registered with the College. A response by mail would be most appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

FAMILY JUSTICE REVIEW COMMITTEE



The Archbishop Dorian A. Baxter, B.A., O.T.C., M. Div
National Chairman

dorianbaxter@canadacourtwatch.com