

November 6, 2000

303 Gloucester St., Apt 203  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 1A8

Mr. James Flaherty, Attorney General of Ontario  
Queens Park, Ontario

Dear Mr. Flaherty

I am a young mother, 23 years of age who was born in Toronto. I have now lived in Ottawa for the past two years and live with a good man and father to my child. Currently, my spouse and I are literally in the midst of a living hell as a result of police and government policies. The lives of my son, my spouse and my young son have literally been torn apart by draconian domestic violence policies currently in place in this province.

On October 15, 2000 my spouse and I got into an argument. There was no physical abuse. There was no hitting and no injuries. We just were arguing as I am sure many couples do and both of us got a bit out of hand with our words. Out of anger, I told him that I was going to report him to 911 and in challenge to my threat told me to go ahead. To make him eat his words I called.

At that time, little did we realize the destruction that would be reined down upon us by the police and the provincial authorities.

Within moments of my calling 911, the police showed up at our door and came into our home ready to take him away. Before even asking me what happened the police arrested my spouse, handcuffed him and took him away. He was hauled away like an animal before I had had a chance to speak to officers to explain why I called. I had hoped that officers would just tell my spouse to take a walk hike so that I could show him a thing or two.

At that point I was totally hysterical and scared. While in this condition, police officers intimidated me into signing a statement that I could not even read, let alone understand. We were ordered not to see or communicate with each other after that night.

From the very moment the police walked in the door, I was left with the impression that the police felt that my spouse was guilty and that all they wanted was a conviction. The police told me that what I said was all that the judge would listen to and what my spouse said wouldn't mean a thing to anyone. The officers went so far as to advise me to cash one of my spouse's cheques and keep the money all for myself. Basically, the officers were telling me to steal from my own spouse, with no regard for what was morally right. Their whole attitude was that he was a nothing.

I was directed to services for woman but everyone I was directed to seemed to be a woman who with a grudge against men in general. Even the woman from Victim Services, Joanne, told me that she does not believe in rehabilitation for men. I clearly felt the bias against men in the system at every turn I took. At one point I asked Joanne what support services there were for men. She could not answer my question, but just said "they can find it". She just told me to think about myself and not to worry about the father to my child. Many of those who were supposedly out to help me just kept telling me that I don't need a man and to just dump him out of my life.

When I tried to go to the Crown with an affidavit to tell them that the police had pressured me and led me into signing a statement that I did not even know what the contents were, the Crown was not interested in listening. They were not interested in wanting to know the truth. They were not interested in seeing that justice was dealt. They were not interested in saving tax dollars or reducing the burden on the court system. Their only concern seemed to be in getting a conviction against my spouse. The crown and the police seemed to be annoyed at me for even trying to get the real truth out.

After my experience with the police and the court system I am left with the impression that this government is not interested in fairness and justice, especially for fathers. The police force in Ottawa seems more like the Secret Police from Russia. After my experience with the system, I now have more fear of the police and the courts than I will have of any other person. As a young Canadian I hate to have to say this about my country.

The family should be the fabric of society, but it seems that the Ontario Government is intent on destroying families by destroying fathers. I have a young son and it strikes fear in my heart to think that this could happen to him when he gets older.

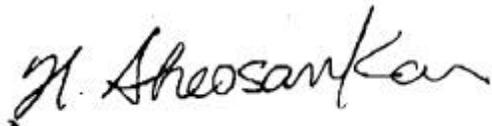
In just one phone call, everything our family worked for and built up for our future was put at risk. The government seems all too eager to step in and destroy the father to my child with no regard to the other lives that could be affected.

There are better and more friendly ways for the police and the courts to deal with this issue. If those who make up these policies think that these current policies are going to stop domestic violence, then they are tragically mistaken. I can see some fathers could literally be driven to commit violence after being treated the way I have seen the system treat the father to my child.

It is about time that this government start showing some leadership and correct the legislation that is only promoting violence and literally destroying children and their families in the name of preventing "domestic violence". This destruction of children and their families has got to stop.

For your information, I have attached the affidavit I tried to give to the Crown but refused by them. I would very much like to hear what your personal comments on this subject are.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Sheosankar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nirmala Sheosankar