

Sent by Fax to 905-796-8069 (5 pages total)

April 12, 2001

Box 44086
Brampton, Ontario L6V 4H5

The Honourable Tony Clement, M.P.P.
201 County Court Blvd. Suite 304
Brampton, Ontario L6W 4L2

Dear Minister:

RE: Destruction of my relationship with my child due to the biased and incompetent report by Ontario's Office of the Children's Lawyer

Attached is a three page complaint letter sent by myself to Lorraine Martin of Ontario's Office of the Children's Lawyer.

This incompetent and biased government agency and the social worker involved, Frances Cappe, have maliciously violated the rights of my daughter and myself to have a meaningful relationship with each other and have caused considerable damage to our relationship.

I have never physically or emotionally abused my 8-year-old daughter. I am just a regular father who just wants to be able to spend meaningful time with my daughter and to be recognized for my role as one of my daughter's parents. Yet for some strange reason, some female social worker with the Office of the Children's lawyer recommended, in what is quite clearly a biased anti-father report, that my meaningful relationship with my daughter and my role as parent be terminated. This same worker, to this date, refuses to disclose her background and experience, a position being supported by the OCL itself.

Just what kind of Orwellian Police State organization are we running in this province? Something is terribly wrong when the Province of Ontario, using taxpayers monies through the Office of the Children's Lawyer, can in some cases, assign young and inexperienced social workers and literally give them the power to destroy children and their families for the flimsiest of reasons, while at the same time keep hidden the qualifications and experience of these workers who are doing these reprehensible acts of destruction upon families. Tearing children away from their parents is something that happened in Germany during the holocaust. This type of police state activity should not be happening in Canada, but for some reason it is alive and well.

Something is TERRIBLY, TERRIBLY, WRONG with this government agency!

Failure of the Office of the Children's Lawyer to serve the people of this province in a fair and unbiased manner is a matter that should be of serious concern to parents in every political riding in this province. I would ask that you, as a member of Parliament, to look into the operation of the Office of the Children's Lawyer and at the very least insist that the backgrounds of all its social workers and lawyers be included with each and every report, starting immediately!

I have done a bit of investigating on my own and have found some troubling reports from other parents who have had their relationship with their children destroyed in a similar manner as my own through the sneaky and manipulative actions of this government agency's social workers and lawyers. These workers hide behind the wording of the law, not its spirit and twist words to justify the terrible deeds they do.

It is my belief that there are parents being affected in many ridings throughout this province. We are not just dealing with minor problems with this agency. We are dealing with a major issue which can effect the rights and freedoms of each and every resident in the Province of Ontario. The destruction of children and families by the Office of the Children's Lawyer is something that must not be taken lightly. Abuse of children and families by this agency must be stopped and this agency must be made to be accountable for each and every one of its social workers and lawyers.

As this matter is **NOT** currently before the court, I would be more than pleased to provide evidence to show you how biased and incompetent work by workers with Ontario's Office of the Children's Lawyer has literally destroyed my daughter's relationship with myself and extended family. I would appreciate the opportunity to show to you evidence of injustice against myself and my daughter and provide recommendations as to what can be done to improve it.

Any help that you can provide to help restore a young girl's relationship with her loving father would be greatly appreciated. Action in this case now will help prevent the same thing from happening to other young children who may also find themselves at the mercy of biased workers with Ontario's Office of the Children's Lawyer.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Mike Milne', written in a cursive style.

Mike Milne

cc: all MPP's, Province of Ontario

April 11, 2001

Mr. Mike Milne
Box 44036
Brampton, Ontario

Ministry of the Attorney General
Office of the Children's Lawyer
393 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1W9

Attn: Lorraine Martin, Clinical Coordinator of Social Work

Dear Ms. Martin

RE: Your letter of April 9, 2001

In reference to your letter of April 9, 2001, please be advised that I will be resubmitting my formal complaint to your office regarding your agency's report. It is my belief that your social worker, Frances Cappe, failed in her duty to provide an objective and unbiased report and that she has made damaging statements and recommendations to the court which have resulted in my daughter being denied access to myself for the flimsiest of reasons as well as having to suffer further abuse at the hands of the mother.

I believe that important information regarding my daughter was selectively omitted from your social worker's report including information from other professionals which indicated that my child was being coached by the mother.

All things aside, the fact remains that in less than one month after the court issued an order based on the Office of the Children's Lawyer recommendations that the mother have sole custody of my daughter, the police and children's Aid had to apprehend the children and take them into protective care after they were found abandoned and alone in the mother's home. This was only one of the concerns I had reported prior to the report from your office being issued, yet no attention seems to have been paid to my concerns. It seems that the recommendations from your social worker failed to identify possible risks to my daughter and failed to provide recommendations that would continue to protect my daughter after matters went to court. In addition to this, there have been numerous violations of the court Order by the mother since the court followed the recommendations of the OCL. As soon as the Children's Lawyer was out of the picture, the mother returned to her pattern of denying access and has refused mediation as ordered by the court.

The bottom line is that the report from your agency has failed to protect the children and in fact removed an element of protection – myself as the father.

As requested, I will be resubmitting my complaint to your office for review and will include all of the issues in which I have complained about.

In regard to my request for the curriculum vitae of the social worker, although I did request it in the past, I would again like to submit my request to have it. Although you have pointed out that it is not required under law, I would think that as a government agency, paid for by the taxpayers, that the curriculum vitae of each and every social worker should be included with every report issued by your agency. Most private custody assessors submit their CV when they submit a report to the court and in many cases their reports would be considered not acceptable without one. The law should not be quoted as an excuse for what most members of the public would consider proper and professional. As an agency representing children and being paid for by the taxpayers, your agency should not only insist on the highest levels of professionalism for its workers, but that it must be perceived by the public as operating with the highest levels of professionalism and accountability. Keeping the Curriculum Vitae of your social workers a carefully guarded secret gives the appearance that your agency and its workers have something to hide from parents and members of the public.

Could it be that social workers with your agency fail to have the qualifications and experience of those in the private sector and that this information must be kept guarded? Could it be that the Office of the Children's lawyer is unable to deliver the same level of services as the private sector?

Social workers with the Office of the Children's Lawyer should be required to submit reports to the courts in the same manner as other professionals. Most assessments to courts include the CV of those preparing them. Most people would agree, that those who are credible and with nothing to hide should have no problem being open with their background and that only those with something to hide would be the ones who attempt to keep their background a secret. Using the excuse that they are shown to the court is no excuse for not providing one to the parties involved. Its common knowledge that the judges have little time to read the credentials, let alone bother to question them.

I recently heard of a report that one of the social workers with the Office of the Children's Lawyer was recently caught lying and falsifying evidence in an official OCL report to the court and that her lies were exposed by hidden videotape. I heard that this worker was found to be working for a women's sexual assault treatment centre which would explain her possible bias against another innocent father. I understand that the father in this case, like myself, was deprived contact with his children for no good reason and that his children continue to be abused after your workers also made recommended that the mother get sole custody. I heard of yet another recent case where one

of your lawyers was caught lying about her experience in child protection cases and that the social worker in that case as well, refused to disclose her experience as a social worker.

In light of what appears to be a policy of keeping the background and experience of social workers difficult, if not impossible to obtain, serious questions must be raised as to the credibility and truthfulness of your workers and their biases. I feel that the report issued by Frances Cappe was biased and unprofessional and so have others who have looked at her report. In light of this and in light of reports of bias by other workers and lawyers at the Office of the Children's Lawyer and in light of the fact that the report by Ms. Cappe has resulted in my relationship with my daughter being severely interfered with, I would think it to be very appropriate for Ms. Cappe's CV to be made available to me and to those professionals who are assisting me in my case so that we can see just what kind of experience this social worker has.

As a taxpayer, I feel that my own tax dollars are being used against me and to make things more difficult for me to help my children. Social worker with your agency, who hold the power to latterly destroy a child's relationship with a parent must be accountable for their work. Having their CV's available to both parties in an action would at least be a start. As it now stands I feel that the Office of the Children's Lawyer is more concerned about protecting the best interest of its workers than it is about making recommendations which represent the best interest of children and families.

I will be resubmitting my formal complaint in the near future. In the meantime I would very much appreciate receiving a copy of Ms. Cappe's Curriculum Vitae. This would certainly be a start to ease some of the suspicion I have about the way in which your social workers seem to be operating under the name of the Office of the Children's Lawyer as well as dispel some of the frightening things that I have heard in the public sector about the failings of your agency.

Your response in writing would be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly



Mike Milne

cc: various Members of the Provincial Parliament
Hon. David Young, Attorney General of Ontario
Ontario College of Social Workers
various news agencies