

December 24, 2003

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hamilton, Ontario
L9B 1T5

The Chief of Police
Hamilton Police Service
155 King William St.
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 4C1
Tel: (905) 546-4772
Fax: (905) 546-4752

Dear Chief

RE: Potential abuse of police services by my children's mother

Last week my two children informed me that their mother had the Hamilton Police Services come to her home at [REDACTED], on Friday December 12, 2003. I found out afterwards, that my ex-wife called the police as a result of my 12 year-old son coming over to his father's home on Friday night contrary to the mother's unreasonable demands. This news about the police came as quite a shock to me and was an embarrassment for the children as my son has been coming to my home every Friday night and going up to the cottage with his father most weekends for more than a year now, an arrangement that has been working successfully with the mother and has been the status quo until the mother's sudden change of demeanour just recently.

In response to this occurrence, please find attached, a copy a letter dated December 19, 2003, that I have sent to my ex-wife's solicitor, Robert Murdoch. This letter may give you some understanding of the dynamics that are affecting the children that your officers were unlikely to be aware of when they got only one side of the story from the children's mother. I am sure that the sort of emotional abuse my children are being affected by is not unique and that there are likely many other children of divorce from this region being affected in a similar manner.

I believe that this unwarranted and mischievous call to police by my ex-wife did not stem out of concern of the best interest or welfare of my son, but out of her selfish desire to impose her power and control over myself and the children and to have the Hamilton Police Services take her side and to act as the "enforcer" to her personal demands. This call to Hamilton Police Services by my ex-wife was without merit and has resulted in valuable police resources and taxpayer's money being wasted.

For the record, my son has been spending every weekend with me for over a year, primarily because his mother either works on weekends or prefers to spend her time alone with her boyfriend. Up to now she has not objected to my son being with me on weekends because she has never been around most of the time to spend with my son anyway.

The arrangement we had which was working fine, changed recently when not long before this incident involving the police, my ex-wife told me without prior notice that she wanted to move with the children with her new boyfriend. Both of our children are older now and well established in school and with friends in the community and quite normally, don't want to move to a new community and to a new school. My son has been telling his counsellor for years that he wants to live with me and not his mother.

It is my belief that because the children have been spending considerably more of their time with me over the past few years than what the mother and I agreed to in our agreement which was drawn up when the children were much younger, that the mother has suddenly realised that she would have to reign in control of the children. I believe that she has come to the realization that she must be able to demonstrate that the children are with her more of the time in order to get the court to order that the children move with her. While having me care for the children for the past few years has allowed her to have a lot of freedom at work and with her boyfriend, she now finds that this arrangement will work against her because the children don't want to move in with her boyfriend and she will lose child support if the children decide not to live with her.

My children are frightened of their mother's controlling personality. They have said to me that they live in fear of her and are afraid to express their wishes and preferences to her. She has forcefully kept them in the home while she is at work and has recently threatened me within the past couple of weeks over the phone with charging me with criminal harassment even if I speak to the children by phone more than once per day, even while she is at work! The children live just around the corner from me, yet the mother says they cannot come to see me when she is at work, even if this is what they want to do! Emotional abuse of the children has escalated dramatically since the mother has unilaterally changed the status quo, and started to force the children to remain at her home alone and without supervision. The mother's actions have only caused the children to dislike their mother more.

In reality, the call that the mother made to police was about abusing the police services to maintain her power and control over the children in order to force the children to move with her and to ensure that keeps receiving child support payments. Her call to police was not about the best interest of the children but creating conflict prior to going to court.

As I have indicated in the letter to the lawyer, the children are of an age and maturity enough that they should be able to express their reasonable wishes and preferences and it is my intent to let them do so within reason. If the children wish to come with me on weekends that their mother is at work or out with her boyfriend and she unable to care for them, then I will not impede with the

children's reasonable wishes to be under the care and control of another caring and loving parent who wishes to spent time with them.

Seeing as the police have not contacted me to date about the incident on December 12, 2003, I can only assume that officers who attended the mother's home had the common sense to not fall prey to her lies and deception and did not allow this occurrence to escalate out of control. Hopefully, your officers told the mother to take matters back to court. Unfortunately, the adversarial court system, which pits parents against each other, forces parents into battle over child support and control of the children. Joint custody and shared parenting of the children would certainly alleviate that but unfortunately this is not generally recognized by the courts.

I would appreciate it if you could check into this incident for me. Should your officers have any questions in regards to the occurrence at the mother's home, then please have them contact me at (905) [REDACTED]. If I do not hear from officers by Monday, the 29th of December, then I shall assume that police have no concerns in regards to this incident and no further follow-up is planned.

As I am sure that my children's experience is not unique, I would urge you to bring to the attention of all officers on your force of this ever-growing problem of abuse of police services by vindictive and controlling parents who will resort to any means to force their children into submission, even if it means destroying their own relationship with their children. This type of abuse of police services can only be stopped when its causes are understood.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]

Attachment: Letter dated Dec. 19, 2003 to Robert Murdoch (3 pages)

cc: [REDACTED], BSW, CSW