

March 1, 2008

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PO Box xxx
XXXXXXXXXX, Ontario
XxX XxX

Halton Children's Aid Society
North Service Road
Burlington, Ontario
Attn: Lynn Barker, Supervisor
Fax: (905)

Dear Ms. Barker

RE: Complaint against Halton CAS worker, Ms. Xxxxxx Xxxxx

I would like lodge a formal complaint regarding one of your workers, Ms. Xxxxxx Xxxxx. Details of my complaint are as follows:

ISSUE #1 – That Halton CAS worker, Xxxxxx Xxxxx, presented false and misleading information to the court.

On November 18th 2007 Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) provided false and misleading information to the court in what would appear an attempt to hide the truth so that the Halton Children's Aid Society would not been seen in a bad light by the court as to how the Society treats children in care.

While transporting my daughter to the court that morning, Xxxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) told my 15-year-old daughter, XXXXXXXXXXXX (my daughter), that the Halton CAS would not longer provide her with transportation to and from her part time job in Milton and that she would have to find her own transportation or quit her job. My daughter found this very upsetting. When the issue about my daughter's part-time job was discussed in court, Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) told the judge that the Halton CAS was providing XXXXXXXXXXXX (my daughter) with transportation. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) did not mention that she had just prior to the court, told my daughter that the Halton CAS was going to cut off her transportation. It was very obvious that Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) did not want the judge to know this, so she misled the court by omitting critical information.

My daughter had to put her hand up in court and had to tell the judge herself that what Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) had told the judge was not accurate. My daughter told the judge what Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) had already told her in the car about the Halton CAS cutting off her transportation to her work. The judge was not pleased with the Halton CAS after he heard what my daughter had to say. Clearly, Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) was attempting to paint a good picture to the court by not telling the court all of the relevant details.

In a second incident at November 1, 2007, Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) provided an affidavit to the court in which she again lied to the court. During the time that my daughter was

living at the Pathways Receiving Home, one of the other teenage girls cut her wrists out of frustration being in the care of the Halton CAS. Workers at the facility had to clean the blood off the girl's wrists and bandages and medication had to be applied to the wounds. In her statement to the court, Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) tried to downplay the incident by claiming that the girl had only scratched herself. Again, I feel that Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) deliberately played down the incident so that the incident would not cast the Halton CAS and its facilities in a bad light with the court. My daughter was living in the home at the time and met with this girl herself. My daughter witnessed and experienced the fear and sense of neglect and hopelessness that the children in the Halton CAS facility felt. The cuts were not scratches as Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) described to the court. Drugs and self mutilation at the Halton CAS facility were common occurrences which I believe that workers try to conceal or downplay so as to not affect the positive image that the CAS tries to portray to people in the community.

Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) also lied to the court by reporting to the court that she had spoken to my daughter and that my daughter was doing fine in foster care. The truth was that my daughter was telling Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) that she was not happy in care, wanted to go home and had trouble sleeping while in care. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) outright lied to the court in one of her reports. Again, I feel that Ms. Xxxxx (CAS worker) did this deliberately to keep the court from becoming aware of the failures of the Halton CAS to provide professional and competent services to children.

ISSUE #2 – That Halton CAS worker, Xxxxxx Xxxxx, failed to answer simple questions put to her by my daughter regarding need for a computer to do her homework assignments.

Prior to the December 13th 2007 court hearing, Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) visited my daughter, Xxxxxxxxxx (My daughter), at the foster home where she was staying. During this meeting, my daughter told Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) that she needed to have access to a computer and a printer in order to complete some of her high school assignments and without them her homework and her marks would suffer. While there was a computer at the foster home, the foster children were told that they were not allowed to use it. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) changed the subject and refused to address this very important issue with my daughter. Obviously, Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) could not answer a simple question likely because it was an embarrassment to have a computer within sight, yet the Halton CAS foster home was not able to provide access to it. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) should be told to answer questions as honestly and as quickly as possible.

ISSUE #3 – That Halton CAS worker, Xxxxxx Xxxxx, failed to respond and to address concerns put to her by my daughter.

Several times prior to the December 13th 2007 Milton court hearing and while in care of the Halton CAS, my daughter told Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) that she was not happy in the care of the Halton CAS and just wanted to be returned home and that there was no risk to her at her home. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) should have listened to my daughter and taken her concerns seriously. Instead, Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) ignored my daughter's concerns and her requests to be sent home. The failure of Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) to take my daughter seriously caused emotional harm to my daughter and in addition cost the taxpayers of Ontario more needless money to keep a child in care when it was necessary.

ISSUE #4 – That Halton CAS worker, Xxxxxx Xxxxx, failed to return phone calls from my daughter

On several occasions my daughter left messages for Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) seeking to have some questions answered. Calls were sometime not returned. In one incident prior to the December 13th 2007 court hearing, my daughter had left a message on Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) voice mail informing her that she would be picked up by her father for court on December 13th 2007 and that her father would be picking her up to take her to have breakfast prior to the court hearing. My daughter wanted me to take her to the court as she was not happy with the CAS. When my daughter did not receive a return call by the evening of December 12th 2007 she assumed it was OK to be picked up by her father. At 8:00 am on December 13th 2007 Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) arrived at the foster home without any prior notice and told my daughter that she had to come with her. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) gave my daughter no time to shower or have breakfast. My daughter was embarrassed to go to the court without having a shower. My daughter always has something to eat in the morning before she goes out.

In light of the circumstances, both my daughter and myself felt that Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) deliberately showed up without notice with the sole purpose to ensure that she took Xxxxxxxxxx (My daughter) to the court, not her father. She knew from Xxxxxxxxxx's (My daughter) phone message that my daughter had planned to have me pick her up and take her to the court and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) wanted to interfere with these plans. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) could have easily reached my daughter at the foster home or called my daughter on her personal cell phone the night before, but she did not.

On or about the 16th or 17th of December, my daughter called Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) again to obtain information about how she was going to get to court for the December 20th court appearance. My daughter did not receive any response. Around the same date, I contacted, Rachel Mesquite and discussed about how my daughter was upset about Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) embarrassing her after the last court date and that my daughter may find it uncomfortable going to the court again with her. I never got call back in response to my request. Nobody from the CAS called back to make arrangements about getting my daughter to the court. As CAS had so eagerly taken my daughter to the prior court, I assumed that someone at the CAS would get my daughter to the court. As I was arriving at the Milton court myself, my daughter called me at about 11:15 am to advise me that nobody from the CAS had come to pick her up to take her to court. I had to turn around and travel to my daughter's school to pick her up so that she could have transportation to the court.

I verily believe that the failure of Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) to not return my daughter's phone calls was deliberate and malicious and a form of revenge for my daughter submitting an affidavit to the court in spite of the efforts of Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) to stop her. The actions of Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) were intended to create a situation where my daughter would end up not getting a ride to the court. My daughter clearly had left a message on Ms. Xxxxx's (Halton CAS worker) answering machine indicating that it was her wish to attend the court and inquiring about arrangement for her ride to the court. The fact that I had to turn around and to travel to my daughter's school in Burlington caused me to be late and caused the court to be inconvenienced.

ISSUE #5 – That Halton CAS worker, Xxxxxx Xxxxx, failed to be up-front and truthful with my daughter at the Milton court

Lies by Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) about use of a cell phone at the court building

On December 13th 2007 Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) told my daughter that she had to turn her cell phone off when she arrived at the court building. She told my daughter that these were the rules. This was false. While turning cell phone off is required when entering a courtroom, the use of a cell phone in the court building is permitted. My daughter immediately noticed others in the court building using their personal cell phones so quickly figured out that Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) had lied to her.

Both my daughter and myself feel that the real reason why Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) did not want my daughter to have access to her phone so that she would not be able to contact me or receive calls from me. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) knew that I was supposed to have picked up my daughter that morning but that Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) unilaterally interfered with these prior arrangements.

Lies by Halton CAS worker, Xxxxxx Xxxxx, about speaking to the CAS lawyer

On December 13, 2008, while at the Milton Court, Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) told my daughter that she had to speak to the lawyer representing the CAS and that Xxxxxxxxxx (My daughter) could not go with me. This was a total lie. Xxxxxxxxxx (My daughter) had her own lawyer. The Halton CAS lawyer has no business speaking to my daughter. Lawyers are not supposed to speak to another lawyer's client.

I feel that the real reason why Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) told my daughter that she had to speak to the lawyer representing the Halton CAS was to further distract her and to keep her away from her father and to keep her in the presence of persons who Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) knew would help to manipulate and control her. More on this issue is described under issue #6

ISSUE #6 – That Halton CAS worker, Xxxxxx Xxxxx and CAS lawyer, Xxxxx Xxxxx obstructed Justice and committed assault on my daughter at the Milton Court on December 13, 2007.

On December 13, 2008 at the Milton Court, I met my daughter who was standing in the hallway of the court with Ms. Xxxxx (CAS worker). This was before 9:00 am in the morning and court was not scheduled until 12:00 pm. I advised Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) that I was going to take my daughter for breakfast at the cafeteria at the lower level of the court. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) had not offered to feed my daughter after picking her up unexpectedly from the foster home as previously described under Issue #3. My daughter also wished to have an affidavit that she had prepared sworn so that she could provide it to the court at noon. I simply wanted to take my daughter for breakfast, get her affidavit sworn and then come back upstairs for the court. The court was scheduled three hours away so there was lots of time.

However, just as my daughter began to go with me, Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker), grabbed my daughter by the shoulder, restrained her movement and then tried to pull her away. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) said that my daughter could not go with me because she had to see the CAS lawyer. Something did not seem right. I then ordered Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) to take her

hand off my daughter. My daughter did not want Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) touching her. I then asked Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) why my daughter had to see the CAS lawyer when she had her own children's lawyer. Lawyers are not supposed to be speaking to the clients of other lawyers. As far as I was concerned the CAS lawyer had no business speaking to my daughter and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) seemed to be making up some lame excuse. When I posed this question to Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) she suddenly changed her tune and said that my daughter had to see her children's lawyer, Robert Martin. The time was just after 9:00 am and court was not scheduled for another three hours. Mr. Martin was not even in the court building so it was clear that Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) was lying to my daughter. It became very clear at that point that Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) was only trying to separate my daughter from myself. I verily believe the reason was because Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) was aware that my daughter was trying to have an affidavit sworn for the court at noon and wanted to prevent this by getting control of my daughter.

At this point my daughter and I saw a Duty Counsel officer at the court and we proceeded to the Duty Counsel and asked for assistance to stop being harassed by Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and to get my daughter's affidavit signed. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) walked away and Duty Counsel shut the door to the office.

While still in the duty counsel's office, suddenly, the CAS lawyer, Xxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer), opened the door to the Duty Counsel's office from the outside and barged into the office without notice and without being invited in. Xxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) announced to my daughter that she was in CAS care and ordered her to come with her. It was obvious that Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) had gone to get the help of Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) to bully my daughter and to interfere with her rights. My daughter did not even know who Ms. Xxxxx (CAS lawyer) was at that point. Ms. Xxxxx (CAS lawyer) then grabbed my daughter's arm and attempted to tug her away toward the door. I ordered Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) to take her hand off my daughter. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) was not my daughter's lawyer, my daughter did not know who Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) was and was becoming frightened by some stranger grabbing her and restraining her. At first, Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) dropped her hand while Duty Council spoke, but quickly grabbed my daughter a second time by the arm to take her out of the room. For a second time, I had to order Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) to take her hands off my daughter. One step outside the door of the Duty Counsel's office, Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) joined in beside Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) and both of them physically stood in front of my daughter and I in an obvious attempt to obstruct our freedom of movement. At that point I told both Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) that they were obstructing justice and to get out of the way. I told them that my daughter wished to have documents signed at the Clerk's office. At that point Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) stood where they were while my daughter and I passed around them. I had to use my arm as a physical barrier to separate my daughter from Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer). Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) were a bit nervous as other people in the court hallway were now taking notice of their unusual behaviour to interfere with our movement in the hallway of the court. My daughter and I immediately proceeded to the court clerk's office to get my daughter's affidavit signed and to have breakfast.

My daughter was upset by the actions of Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) which clearly were intended to bully and harass. She felt violated when Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) grabbed her in an attempt to restrain her movement in the court.

In fact, under the Criminal Code of Canada, it is considered an assault for someone to touch a person over the age of fourteen (14) when that touch is unwanted. In my opinion, my daughter was assaulted. Both Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) went beyond touching and actually attempted to restrain my daughter's movements in an attempt to force her to go with them. Both Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Ms. Xxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) should learn to keep their hands to themselves. As the CAS lawyer, Ms. Xxxxx should have known better but with herself and Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker), went ahead and attempted to bully my daughter and myself at the court.

ISSUE #7 – That Halton CAS worker, Xxxxxx Xxxxx, caused unnecessary and unwarranted humiliation and embarrassment to my daughter

After the court on December 13, 2008 and after having read my daughter's affidavit which Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) had attempted to interfere with prior to the court hearing, Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) became angry at my daughter and set out to punish her by disclosing details of the affidavit to the foster parent where my daughter was residing. Comments that my daughter had made in her affidavit about the foster home were disclosed to the foster father at the front door of the home the moment Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) arrived back at the foster home after the hearing. Not only did Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) disclose the contents of confidential CAS court files to the foster parent, but she did this in a manner which was clearly intended to put my daughter on the spot and to embarrass and humiliate her in front of the foster parent.

Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) actions in this regard were nothing short than taking revenge out on my daughter for the negative things which she wrote about the CAS in her affidavit which she gave to the court. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) could have dealt with this situation much more professionally but it seems that her desire to seek revenge against my daughter overruled her better judgement.

ISSUE #8 – That Halton CAS worker, Xxxxxx Xxxxx, mistreated and caused harm to another young girl at the Milton, Ontario courthouse

On February 7, 2008 on the 3rd floor of the Milton courthouse while waiting in the hallway of the court, I observed Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) take a young girl into the bathroom holding her hand. The young girl appeared to be around the age of twelve to fourteen years of age. After a few minutes I observed the same young girl come out of the bathroom crying hysterically with Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) following beside her. One side of the girl's face was red as though she had been slapped. It was obvious to anyone that something had gone on inside the washroom between Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and this young girl.

Whatever Xxxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) said or did to that girl while alone with her in the washroom of the Milton court must have been very traumatic and upsetting for the girl as the girl was physically shaking and in tears when she came out of the washroom. Whatever it was that Ms. Xxxxx must have done to the child, she must have known beforehand that she had to do it out of

sight of prying eyes at the court. Why else would Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) go into the washroom with the child? If the girl had to simply go to the washroom then Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) could have just as easily waited outside of the washroom door. Clearly there was an incident in the washroom involving Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and this young girl. Knowing how Ms. Xxxxx attempted to bully my daughter, I verily believe that Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) was abusing her authority as a CAS worker and likely bullying this young girl.

Conclusion

In summary, the actions of Ms. Xxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) have sickened both me and my daughter. Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) has acted in an unprofessional manner and acted in bad faith. As far as I am concerned, she is an incompetent worker, a bully and a worker who likes to take revenge out on children who fight for their rights and freedoms. She cannot be trusted to give straight answers to the children in her care. She is an embarrassment and liability to the Halton CAS and in my opinion, should be fired. As a result of my daughter's experience with the Halton CAS and her worker, Xxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker), my teenage daughter has lost all respect for the Halton CAS and what it stands for. The Halton CAS lawyer, Ms. Xxxxx Xxxxx, acted like a bully as well, but she will be the subject of a separate complaint.

In fact, on February 7, 2008, even Justice Wolder stated in court that more harm was being done to my daughter being in the care of the Halton CAS. Hopefully, Ms. Xxxxx (Halton CAS worker) and Halton CAS lawyer, Ms. Xxxxx Xxxxx, will be reprimanded for their unethical, unwarranted and unlawful actions which without doubt were done contrary to the best interests of children and families in the community. I will be filing a separate complaint with the Law Society against Xxxxx Xxxxx (Halton CAS lawyer) for her lack of professionalism in this disgusting manner in which the Halton CAS has handled this case.

I look forward to your written response.

Yours truly
Xxxx Xxxxx