

Mom sues child protection agency after affair with case-worker results in pregnancy

By Sarah Maude Lefebvre

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The mother in question with her face blurred for privacy reasons. Credits: Jean Francois Villeneuve

A mother is suing the city's child protection services for \$500,000 after an employee impregnated her and then committed suicide, QMI Agency has learned.

The mother, whose identity is protected by law and can't be published, claims a former employee of Montreal's English-language child services bureau, known as Batshaw, manipulated her for sex.

After the mother sued, the agency fired its employee, Peter Fergus, who then committed suicide in May 2012.

The mother first met Fergus in 2011, when the agency temporarily took custody of her second child.

Fergus, who was in charge of the woman's file, made sexual advances towards her during their first meeting, the lawsuit alleges.

The woman claims they had sex during their second meeting and she discovered she was pregnant in August 2011.

Fergus allegedly ended the relationship in October, and the woman contacted a lawyer and filed a lawsuit against Fergus and Batshaw in January 2012.

Batshaw spokeswoman Claire Roy said the agency suspended Fergus as soon as it heard of the woman's accusations.

"After an investigation, (Fergus) was fired in March 30, 2012," she said.

Fergus killed himself in May 2012. DNA tests proved that he fathered the child, who was born in April 2012.

The woman's lawyer, Michel Perreault, said Fergus could have had other "potential victims."

"(Fergus) told (my client) that he had flirted with other clients," Perreault said. "We think he was a predator."

The case has not yet gone to trial. The lawsuit's allegations haven't been proven in court.