



## Canada Court Watch

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Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
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Dear Premier Wynne

**RE: Children being abused, threatened and intimidated by CAS workers behind closed doors – use of recording devices by CAS workers should be mandatory**

On Saturday February 11, 2017, I interviewed a teen who reported that a female CAS worker had come to his family home unannounced and upon arrival demanded to go into his bedroom alone. The CAS worker then closed the bedroom door to ensure secrecy and shortly afterwards physically assaulted the teen in his own bedroom.

The teen described being pushed down by the unregistered CAS worker which caused him to hit his head and to suffer a minor concussion. The teen had attempted to question the CAS worker as to why she was searching through his personal belongings in his dresser drawers without asking him first. The teen later discovered that his wallet and money was missing from his dresser drawer.

Canada Court Watch is in the process of gathering full details of this occurrence to provide to your office and to the local police. This is yet another case where unregistered CAS workers continue to break the law and abuse their power and authority to harm children and families. This teen had no behavioural problems, was well mannered, was not involved with any drugs and had no problems in school or with the law. Overall the teen was a quiet, polite and well-mannered teen. The unregistered CAS worker fabricated a story in order to take the teen from his family and technically did commit the criminal act of kidnapping.

This teen's claims that his money was stolen cannot be proven but the problem of CAS workers stealing money and possessions from children is not new. Below is a copy of the headline from the Toronto Sun involving a case Canada Court Watch investigated in 2006 in which a long time CAS supervisor, Ms. Donna Lennon from the York Region CAS, was arrested for stealing. Canada Court Watch has the video interview of the teen who was the victim of this theft in 2006.



After the first assault on the teen and after unlawfully searching through his personal possessions, the unregistered CAS worker then grabbed the teen and physically dragged the boy out of his bedroom. Under the Criminal Code of Canada, this would be considered as a second assault. The CAS worker then had the teen taken away by police after she forced the teen to lie in order to support the CAS worker's unfounded allegations. The teen was still dizzy from the concussion and too frightened to say anything to the police officer about the assault on himself by the unregistered CAS worker as he viewed the police officer, who is considered as a person of authority, to be a friend of the CAS worker. The teen should never have been taken from his clean and comfortable family home where he was safe and did tell the CAS worker he was safe.

What this teen reported to Canada Court Watch during this personal interview just two days ago was not an isolated incident. Many other children (and parents) report being caught in situations where they find themselves alone with CAS workers and then threatened, intimidated and in some cases forced to lie. Canada Court Watch has video testimony from children reporting this over the years.

Just one day prior to this interview on Saturday February 11, 2017, on Friday February 10, Canada Court Watch interviewed an 11-year-old boy who reported that a CAS worker came into his school without notice and then took him into a room at the school where he found himself alone with the CAS worker.

This child as well reported being alone, scared and threatened by the CAS worker in a room with no other witnesses present. According to the boy, many inappropriate, embarrassing, leading and suggestive questions were asked by the CAS worker while the boy was being detained and interrogated without his informed consent. That CAS worker as well was not registered with the Ontario College of Social Workers. This boy will be sending you a letter in the near future to outline his traumatic experience with the CAS worker at his school.

Many children and parents are reporting being threatened and intimidated by CAS workers behind closed doors. In the coming months, Canada Court Watch will be sending you more examples supported by videos, letters and affidavits from those children and families affected.

### **The solution to this long standing problem is very simple**

It is time for this major flaw in the child protection system to be fixed. Everyone in the justice system knows that lies and use of hearsay and innuendo by CAS workers is rampant in child protection court proceedings.

The solution to significantly reduce this problem is to require that all CAS workers audio record their interviews with children and to notify children and parents of their right to record their meetings with workers. The right to record should be instilled in legislation as currently many children and parents are threatened with court action or loss of visitation with their children if they attempt to record CAS workers. This raises the question as to why CAS workers so afraid of being recorded.

As a temporary fix until legislation is enacted, all it would take would be a letter from the Minister advising CAS agencies that all workers are to audio record their interviews with children. Give CAS agencies 90 days to implement this policy. Many CAS offices already have video recording equipment which they use for supervised visits but for some reason they seldom use recording technology when they are attempting to build a case to apprehend a child from a family. Interviews should be done at CAS offices or at homes and recorded for accuracy and NOT at schools where children generally feel terrified and embarrassed.

The technology to audio record or video record is simple and downloading files to storage can be done easily. Even cell phones can record easily and be downloaded. Audio recording is an

inexpensive solution that will save significant resources and taxpayer money. This simple fix will significantly reduce the ability of CAS workers to fabricate false information which is a big problem today.

More than a year ago you publicly stated that you were going to blow up the CAS mess. Our interviews with children and parents since you made your announcement back in December of 2015 clearly shows that the CAS mess continues on with CAS agencies failing to come up with any effective solutions. Many more children have been harmed since your announcement in 2015. Many know the child protection system is broken. The press has exposed this problem and even judges have spoken publicly on this issue.



**NATIONAL POST**  
**Children's aid societies gone rogue**  
By Barbara Kay  
April 16, 2014 |

In closing, mandatory audio recording by CAS workers will significantly improve transparency and accountability which in the end will reduce abuse of the system, reduce the number of children being taken into care, reduce complaints and save significant tax dollars. Members of the public would support the use of audio recording technology.

On behalf of children and families in Ontario, Canada Court Watch and its supporters urge you to take this bold step and to have the Minister notify all CAS agencies in Ontario to begin the use of audio recording when interviewing children. As you said, it's time to blow up the mess with the CAS and to make real change happen.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me personally at 905-829-0407

Yours truly

CANADA COURT WATCH

Vernon Beck, Child and Family Justice Advocate