



# Canada Court Watch Report



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## Children's Aid worker tells young girl: It's "OK" to be beaten, abused & threatened by your Mom!

**11-year-old girl says social worker with the Children's Aid Society did nothing after she reported to the CAS worker about being physically and emotionally abused by her mother.**

Ottawa Court Watch Bureau – April 22, 2003.

Court Watch Report has uncovered yet another shocking and tragic story involving a Children's Aid Agency in which an 11-year-old girl reported to the Children's Aid about being physically abused and threatened with death by her mother but was then told by the CAS worker that this was OK and not to worry about her mother's abuse.

Alice, whose name has been changed to protect her identity, lives in the town of Hawkesbury, Ontario, which is on the Ottawa River, just south of Ottawa.

Alice said she told "Emily", a social worker with the local CAS, about physical abuse, assaults and death threats but that the social worker indicated to her that this was "OK" as long as Alice's single mother talked nice afterwards.

Members of Alice's family identified the local Children's Aid Agency that was involved as being the Prescott Russell Services to Children and Adults, located in Plantagenet, Ontario.

What bothered Alice so much was that the CAS worker did not seem to care. Alice said she got the impression that the CAS worker seemed more concerned in downplaying the incident and protecting the mother than she was in helping the young girl.

Family members said that the CAS worker had also commented that she was a single mother herself. Because of this remark, family members have surmised that because the CAS social worker

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This publication is intended to bring to the attention of the public, matters that involve the legal system. All Canadians are urged to copy this report and pass it on to their fellow friends, neighbours and co-workers. If you have a family court horror story and need help, then contact the Rev. Dorian Baxter at 416-410-4115.

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may be a single mother herself, that she may have been hesitant about doing anything that might make Alice's mother, who was also a single mother, look bad and possibly cause her to lose custody of her children.

Alice's mother had four children from two common-law relationships. Evidence showed that she had kicked both fathers out of the children's lives and had been abusing the children for a long period of time.

Alice said that she had also reported the assaults against her by her mother to a worker with Ontario's Office of the Children's Lawyer, but that this government-paid worker did absolutely nothing as well. A report from the Office of the Children's Lawyer in November of 2002, did not even include mention of Alice being interviewed.

When Alice was asked about what she thought about workers with the Children's Aid Society and the Office of the Children's lawyer, she indicated that she was very disappointed with them. "They seem to be on my mother's side," she said.

Some of the things the girl reported during a private videotaped interview about her situation with her mother included:

- **That her mother had thrown her up against a wall, slapped and threatened her with death on more than one occasion.**
- **That the mother often exposed the children to domestic violence and that she yelled and screamed at the children and at their step father very often.**
- **That the mother would go out to bars late at night, leaving the children alone in the house. Sometimes the children would be scared from being left alone late at night.**
- **That the mother would bring men into the house late at night and then lie to the children about strangers coming into their house at night.**
- **That she degraded the children and called them names to embarrass them in front of others.**
- **That the mother had threatened to move the kids away from their fathers just so that they would not be able to see their fathers again.**
- **That the children had witnessed their mother physically assault their stepfather on a number of occasions. On one occasion the mother threw pots and pans at the father during one of her many assaults on family members.**
- **That the mother was a liar and had lied to the children many times and that the children felt she could not be trusted.**
- **Alice watched a police video of a statement her mother made to police and noted that her mother was hesitant about putting her hand on the bible because she felt that her mother was lying to officers with the O.P.P.**

One former friend of Alice's mother came forth and also testified that she too had witnessed Alice's mother physically and emotionally abuse all four of the children on a number of different occasions.

In early February of 2003, Alice was so fed up with the mother's abuse and so fed up with the fact that authorities would do nothing to help her, that she took the law into her own hands and ran away from her mother's home in order to be with her father where she felt safe and secure.

Since then, Alice has been staying with her father and has until now, refused to go back to her abusive mother's house.

Bravely, Alice decided to stand up for her rights and made the choice to fight back and show the authorities that if they were going to stand idly by and do nothing, then she was going to do something about

the situation herself.

Alice said that the court and the judge who put her in the custody of her mother "were not fair" and that the court should listen to the kids.

Alice said that she has wanted to live with her father for years but was forced by the courts to stay with her mother and that she and her siblings have been subjected to years of abuse by their mother.

The mother was so spiteful of one of the fathers that she gave Alice a different last name than that of her own older brother, even though they went to the same school and both children had the same biological father.

The refusal of authorities to help Alice and her siblings from the abuse they were being subjected to by their mother serves as yet another grim reminder of the bias and corruption in the family court system which continues to favour mothers getting custody of the children, even in situations where kids are being severely abused by their mothers.

There are numerous cases where CAS workers and Office of the Children's Lawyer workers have destroyed the lives of children and their fathers with biased and anti-father reports. Abuse by mothers often goes unreported by these agencies and in some cases it has even been reported in court transcripts that workers have fabricated falsified reports and committed perjury. Many children have died or suffered more abuse as a result of the failure of these agencies.

Advocates say that the time has come where it must be mandatory that CAS and Office of the Children's Lawyer workers videotape children at all interviews so that they can be held more accountable in their work involving children.

There have been just too many reports from parents and children about these agencies not telling the truth about what the kids are saying to workers during interviews and that in many cases workers are twisting reports to suit their own biases.

Tragically, the actions of the Children's Aid and the Office of the Children's Lawyer in this case have only exposed yet more incompetence of workers with these taxpayer-funded agencies and further eroded the public's confidence in these agencies to protect children.

The failure of CAS and the OCL in this case have struck yet another blow against the name of Justice and once again shown that in Canada's family courts there is no justice for children of separation or divorce.