

Note: Children's Aid Agencies claim that children are safer in their care than in the care of parents. Here is one story where one parent's 3 year-old son will never be coming home after being murdered while on a temporary placement in a CAS approved foster home. CAS agencies often refuse to tell foster parents about the background of the children they are asked to take in, so many foster parents have no idea that some kids are at risk of committing violence. How many other children in foster care are at risk?

CAS foster teen charged with killing 3-year-old foster boy

By CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD
Friday, December 16, 2005 Posted at 2:27 AM EST
From Friday's Globe and Mail

Toronto — Two children involved in a shocking slaying in Welland, Ont., yesterday were both clients of local children's aid societies.

Niagara Regional Police, called shortly after 8 a.m. yesterday to a Frazer Street foster home, took a 14-year-old girl into custody and charged her with first-degree murder in the death of a three-year-old boy.

The Globe and Mail has learned that the boy was in the two-storey detached home on a temporary placement from the Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk, while his accused killer is a Crown ward placed there by Family and Children's Services of the Niagara Region.

The names of the dead boy and the accused teen cannot be published because both are minors.

The slaying has stunned even police in the town of about 50,000 in the south Niagara region west of Toronto.

"Three-year-olds aren't supposed to die, bottom line," Niagara Constable Sal Basilone told The Globe last night.

"There's nothing to be said to anyone by way of condolences."

Constable Basilone said the force is concerned "for everyone involved, including our officers."

An autopsy was performed at Hamilton General Hospital yesterday on the boy's body, but the results weren't immediately available. Spokesmen for the two children's aid agencies

involved couldn't be reached for comment last night.

The news that another young charge of a children's aid society has come to a violent end while "receiving services," as the language of child welfare casts it, couldn't come at a worse time for the province's 53 CAS organizations.

Just last week, Ontario Ombudsman André Marin appeared before a legislative committee to ask that his office be allowed to probe complaints against children's aid societies and to demand independent oversight of the agencies.

Officials with Ontario's Ministry of Children's and Youth Services are also braced for a barrage of questions about the role of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto in custody arrangements that saw Jeffrey Baldwin placed with his maternal grandparents although both of them were convicted child abusers.

The boy, not quite six years old, died of septic shock and pneumonia, but expert witnesses at the grandparents' criminal trial have testified that prolonged, chronic starvation was the underlying cause of death. Jeffrey weighed only 21 pounds and resembled a Third World famine victim when he died.

Elva Bottineau and Norman Kidman, now 54 and 53 respectively, are charged with first-degree murder in the death, and their trial is slowly winding its way to a close, with lawyers in the case expected to deliver closing arguments next month.