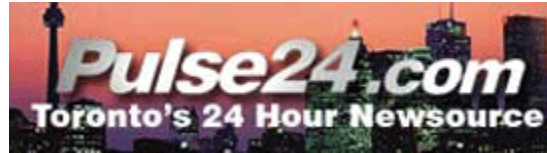


Over the years, children's aid agencies and workers have become experts at covering their backsides and stonewalling people who try to obtain information. Here is a story where a child died because of CAS incompetence and even in this case, police get stonewalled by the children's aid society in an effort to cover up for worker incompetence and agency carelessness.



Absence of Emotion

June 9, 2006

All these years later, Mike Davis is still haunted by the memory of the death of Jeffrey Baldwin.

Davis was a cop in 2002, the lead investigator on the case of the five-year-old boy who would come to be the unfortunate poster child for child abuse in Toronto.

His grandparents, Elva Bottineau and Norman Kidman, were sentenced to life in prison for the crimes, and won't be eligible for parole for more than 20 years.

Even four years later, Davis can't comprehend the cruelty of the couple, who he interviewed after their arrests for the terrible crime.

"They didn't say anything at all," he remembers. "I sat with them and I went through each and every picture of little Jeffrey. And there was absolutely no emotion whatsoever from either, either Ms. Bottineau nor Mr. Kidman. None whatsoever."

Davis remains incensed that the Catholic Children's Aid Society placed the little boy with the pair, even though they had previous records for abusing children.

"This is something that was contained within their files," he charges. "Criminal convictions. Convicted child abusers.

"And absolutely nobody from the Catholic Children's Aid Society looked into their files to see and do any background checks on these parents before they were given custody."

The society's Mary McConville takes issue with that statement.

"I absolutely disagree with Mike Davis' characterization of this agency's conduct with respect to the investigation and our cooperation during the trial."

Davis' response?

"At the outset, you had a social worker that was in charge of this case and I tried to make some inroads to interview this person and at no time did she ever come forward.

"She obtained counsel. And from that point on I never had the opportunity nor was I afforded the opportunity to interview this person, with the exception that I was to give an undertaking that she would not be charged with a criminal offence.

"Which was absurd because I could not give that undertaking due to the fact that I had absolutely no idea what she was going to say."

The coroner has pledged to look into this case further with an inquest pending.