



Canada

Court Watch Report



Published by the Canadian Citizen's Free Press – By the citizens and for the citizens of Canada
Website: <http://www.canadacourtwatch.com> – Friday, June 27, 2008.

Girls turning to prostitution and delinquency while in care of the Children's Aid Society

Recent cases expose the problem of kids in CAS care having little or no supervision to keep them out of harm's way

By Mike March, Justice Reporter

Those who believe that young teens under the supervision of Ontario's Children's Aid agencies are in caring hands and on their way to a bright future in the world had better think twice.

During the recent trial in Brampton of Imani Nakpangi on charges relating to running a sex service, it was revealed that a teenage girl supposedly living under the care of Ontario's child protection system was lured into the sex trade when she was only 15 years of age.

Another girl, who was only 14 years of age at the time, was also lured into hooking by the same unscrupulous pimp.

The foster teen, now 18 years of age has had her life as a kid taken away and her future destroyed.

In a written statement read into the record by Justice Hugh Atwood at the Brampton, Ontario court the teen said, "I feel unworthy, dirty, tainted, like nothing, I feel I am only good for one thing – sex."

Both of the girls affected lived in the Region of Peel where the CAS has, in the past, failed to protect children in its care from sexual predators such as Douglas Donald Moore, the 36-year-old convicted pedophile, who was involved with the sexual molestation of young boys in the care of the CAS just a few short years back.

During testimony at Nakpangi's trial, it was revealed that in the over 2½ years that the CAS foster teen was working in the sex trade, she had earned approximately \$360,000 for the pimp.

The younger girl earned an estimated \$65,000.

Fortunately, at the end of the trial last week, Nakpangi was put away and given a well deserved five year prison sentence.

While the person who took advantage of this foster teen has been dealt with, there was no condemnation of those at the CAS who had the "duty of care" to protect the girl in the first place.

The circumstances surrounding this teen's terrible experience, especially her supervision while she was in care of the CAS prior to her involvement in the sex trade, leaves many questions unanswered.

How could a girl who was only 15 years of age at the time and supposedly under the watchful eye of CAS workers, manage to be taken advantage of so easily at such a young age?

What was really done by the CAS at the time to protect her and to keep her out of harm's way?

How much money did the taxpayers of Ontario pay to the CAS agency to supervise and protect this underage girl and was any taxpayer money collected by the CAS while the teen was not really in CAS care but out working the streets?

Any parent in Ontario negligent by allowing their 15-year-old daughter to be exposed to this kind of risk would be facing a child protection hearing by the CAS demanding to have their child taken from them.

But what is to be done when those claiming to be professionals and being paid are the very ones who are failing to protect children from these risks?

Who is watching the child protectors at CAS and what is being done to make them accountable for their failure to protect a child from sexual exploitation and as a result of this failure ruin a child's future?

Most would believe that the CAS which had charge of this girl when she was only 15 years of age should bear some of the responsibility.

One parent, KA from Oshawa says he and his wife have been dealing with a similar situation over the past couple of year in which they claim that the involvement of the CAS has helped to destroy their daughter as well.

Mr. KA's name cannot be published because his family's matter involving his 16-year-old daughter is still currently before the court.

According to KA, his 16-now year-old daughter,

who is in care of CAS, has been running the streets and getting into all kinds of trouble.

KA says that tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars have been spent in an endless parade of incompetent CAS workers, children's lawyers and the courts who in the end do everything to collect money for services from the taxpayers but do little in the best interest of his teenage daughter.

In fact, the last time KA was in court he walked out and left the building, absolutely fed up with the whole system and what it was doing to his daughter.

In KA's case, his family asked the CAS for help in keeping his rebellious daughter under control and off the streets.

CAS agreed to help claiming it had programs to deal with teens like this and took the teen into their care on what was supposed to be a temporary basis.

What shocked KA's family was that after his daughter was in care of the CAS she was under even less supervision and was being allowed to run the streets with little or no supervision.

When KA tried to revoke the agreement with the CAS and to have his daughter returned, he was now faced with the situation in which his teenage daughter did not want to come home.

While in the care of the CAS, the teen had become accustomed to the freedom of being allowed to do almost anything she wanted.

She could simply go AWOL whenever she wanted, often for days, with few, if any consequences from CAS.

Once in care of the CAS, KA saw his daughter's grades and attendance decline as she began to network with many of the other foster teens, many of whom have issues involving sex, drugs and crime.

KA had been to many times hoping of having his daughter come home, but was now finding himself powerless to remove his daughter from the bad influences surrounding her while in the care of the CAS.

"Of course my daughter now wants to stay in the care of the CAS. She gets to do whatever she wants and whenever she wants to leave the facility and stay out all night, she just walks out, knowing well that the CAS will do nothing to stop her."

"As far as I am concerned, the CAS is being soaking the taxpayer's claiming to be helping her, yet in reality it is the CAS which is contributing to her delinquency."

KA felt that what the CAS really wants is the money that they get from the Ontario Government for

kids that they have in care.

"While my daughter is out running wild, the CAS keeps on collecting its money. The taxpayer's of Ontario are getting hosed big time by the CAS."

KA said that his daughter is on the streets for days at a time and returns to CAS only when she needs something such as clothes, money or free stuff.

"When kids see that they can get more freedoms and few responsibilities in the care of the CAS, of course this makes it tempting for them to stay there," said KA.

In these types of situations, a lot of taxpayer's money could be saved by forcing these teens to go on general welfare and for them to be forced to live on her own, outside the influences of the CAS.

This would eliminate a whole layer of CAS workers who basically are getting paid by taxpayers for services they are not providing.

Collecting general welfare was what kids did a number of years ago and it seemed to work fine before CAS agencies got in the business of babysitting and pandering to teenagers who run wild on the streets.

KA says that CAS agencies should get paid per day only when kids go to school and can be shown to be in the CAS facility at night during set hours.

"If these CAS agencies are going to run what many see are hotels for teens, then they should get paid just like the hotel, by the night."

Paying these CAS agencies based on performance makes sense as it would provide incentives to ensure that kids are given better supervision and therefore less apt to get into trouble.

The way it works now is that CAS agencies get paid for each child they have legally in their care whether the children in a CAS facility or out living on the street.

On top of the basic funding, CAS collect the government's child tax credit for the child.

As it stand right now, if a teen in care runs off for days or even weeks, nobody at CAS really cares as it means just one less kid that CAS workers have to care for but for whom they still get paid.

It's time that per diem funding be imposed upon CAS agencies for kids in their care and a fool proof attendance system be implemented to ensure that these teens are in their beds at night, attending school during the day and not out roaming the streets.

This would at least be one step which would help to reduce the huge budget deficits and force CAS workers to exercise greater due diligence in ensuring that teens in care are kept out of harm's way.