

10th October, 1998.

The President & Executive,
Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc.,
51 Davenport Street,
SOUTHPORT. Q. 4215.

*Connection
Two reports rec'd
29/10/98
Police. Incidents checked
Client Grievance Mechanism
not necessary
until 6/10/98.
No Minutes
rec'd as
requested.*

Dear Lloyd,

Further to my requests in April, '98 we received two reports from the Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc. on the 6th October, '98, together with a reviewed copy of Client Grievance mechanism. These reports relate to my initial complaint re my suspicions that my daughter was sexually molested on 10th April, 1995. and a second report relates to our meeting with staff and the President and Vice President on 26th March, 1998.

Neither report is signed, nor written upon an official G.C.F.S.G. letterhead, one report is undated and the second is dated 29th April, 1998. In view of the fact that this family wish to proceed further with this matter in the hope of charges being laid, we ask that an official report be supplied to us wherein details of my complaint and the complaints of my daughter be supplied in your report. No specific details regarding the suspected molesting of my child have been mentioned in your report only quote " Maree expressed her concern to Melissa, Melissa admitted to Maree that it was wrong to have sent a male worker .." and quote "Maree spoke to Dorothy about her concerns with caring for Bobbie in his home" No where in this report does it give details of my complaint and the reasons for my suspicions of my child being sexually molested. Could I please have an urgent appointment with Melissa Edwards on her return from holidays regarding her report..

*But refers
to Meeting
on 30-4-98
?*

In the Report dated 29 April, '98 it is inferred that I was frightened that [REDACTED] might molest Bobbie if he minded her whilst [REDACTED] was out. I object very strongly to this inference in view of the fact that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have minded Bobbie for 15 years, since she was 18 months of age. No, I will never ever be persuaded to take this risk again but in this case my concern was that [REDACTED] would have their car to pick up a client, and should Bobbie have required rectal valium and urgent transport to hospital it would have placed Bobbie at risk and placed a lot of responsibility upon [REDACTED] should she have Status Epilepticus.

We are disappointed that the Vice President did not see that a complaint regarding the suspicion of sexual molesting of a child did not warrant reporting to the President and Executive. We can't believe that such a serious complaint would need to follow the Client Grievance mechanism before being brought to the notice of the President and full Executive. Does a child have to be seriously injured or killed before the President or Executive is advised? (Our child and this family has been seriously hurt). I don't believe that any Executive member has the right to make this decision.

At the meeting at our home on the 26th March, '98 we were asked not to allow this incident to become public due to concerns of other families needing respite for their children with disabilities. This, we were willing to abide by, but we are very annoyed that the Vice President, although not willing to advise the President and Executive regarding the initial complaint, saw fit to discuss this matter with others in the community. This is a serious breach of confidentiality particularly in light of the seriousness of the complaint and we ask for a letter of apology from Ms. Olive Bowly.

We do not hold the Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc. responsible for this disgusting incident with my child but we ask that your Executive act responsibly in this matter in the hope that there will be charges laid and ensure safeguards be in place so that no other child be placed at risk, now or in the future.

We have given to Lloyd details of training available during the "Sexual Violence Awareness Month". Could you please ask your Executive to ensure that your Committee, Manager, Co-ordinators and interested Parents be subsidised from training funds to attend this very important Forum. *

What is at stake here, is the safety of our vulnerable children and adults with disabilities AND the reputation of the Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc.

Yours faithfully,

Maree & Bob Welch.

Delivered to S Hartings home (letter box) by M. Welch 16/10/98

* Forum exploring the legislation, legal Policy Procedures & Practice for Victims of Rape
Friday 23rd October 1998.