

Mr. Mahier
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FILE NUMBER	901/4/0	200
DATE ATTACHED	01716	BY

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8th December, 1980

The Solicitor-General,
Comalco House,
50 Ann Street,
BRISBANE.

Dear Sir,

The Honourable S.S. Doumany, M.L.A., Minister for Welfare, has suggested that I seek your opinion on the following issue.

The Department used to place children at an institution conducted by the Salvation Army called Riverview at a suburb of Ipswich by the same name. I have been contacted by a **REDACTED** of **REDACTED** **REDACTED**, who had no hesitation in giving his name and who indicated that he had been a child in care many years ago, probably under the legislation which was superceded by the existing Children's Services Act. Mr. **REDA** said that he had spent a number of years at the Riverview Home and he had become aware that there were records of "State children" in some of the old buildings owned by the Salvation Army.

My caller took the view that these records should be destroyed, the events for which he had come into care were long since past and he would not want any record pertaining to himself to fall into other hands. My caller alleged that he was speaking on behalf of a number of other persons who had spent a period at Riverview.

To the best of my knowledge, the records are not Children's Services files, but are internal records on children kept by the Salvation Army. I immediately wrote to the State Social Service Secretary of the Salvation Army suggesting that the personal records of former children in care be destroyed.

Relations between the Department and the present occupant of the position of State Social Service Secretary of the Salvation Army are somewhat cool, so I drew my letter to the attention of the Honourable the Minister.

In the event of there being some disagreement with the Salvation Army, the Honourable the Minister has suggested that I seek a legal opinion as to who really owns the records. I will re-state the facts as known to me :-

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1. To the best of my knowledge, the records are old and are not official records of the Department of Children's Services.
2. My caller referred to himself as a State ward under the State Children's Department which leads me to believe that he may have been in care pursuant to the legislation which came into existence in 1965.

Would you be so kind as to provide me with your advice as to my position.



Robert Plummer
Director