

To whom it may concern,

Having been in foster homes for fourteen out of eighteen years, I believe I speak with much unprofessional authority.

The primary concern is to place a child in a safe and loving environment. Failing this, in a safe institution. I believe foster parents must be checked in many fashions. AS is now all police checks including overseas police checks are the first line. In addition psychological profiling is a must. Personality checks and other psychological testing should be mandatory. A legally written contract should be included. This would let potential foster parents know that they will be sentenced severely if found to be abusive. Definitions of abuse should be clear and understood. Foster parents need to understand the fostering of a child is a privilege and as such any deviation from caring will be dealt with severely.

I spent the first four years in a foster home whereby physical , emotional and sexual abuse was rife. My biological mother reported abuse to the department and was not believed. It was a directive from the director that no action was warranted. This should never happen. All reports should be investigated. Later the director wrote "██████████ concerning behavior was probably due to the not so satisfactory foster parents she has had in the past."

It was too late by then. My mothers reports should not have been ignored no matter how unreliable my mother was deemed. Later teachers and headmasters voiced their concerns and again no action was taken. Later a prominent doctor from pmh Children's hospital wrote numerous letters to the department outlining her deep concerns. Again these were dismissed and no action was ever taken. Why this was so, I do not understand. Any concerns especially from professionals should be investigated thoroughly. I believe had the department listened and taken action in my case the abuse would have been able to have been stopped and I could have been given treatment to help me get over the trauma. Still later when my wardship expired at age nineteen and I spoke personally to the then director of child welfare , ██████████ and told him everything he promised me he would take action and still nothing was done. So many people wrote to the department...I have all these letters ..and not ONE was investigated. My life was ruined from being severely abused from one year of age until the age of fourteen (as also assessed by the redress panel) and yet had the concerns made from the numerous professionals and my mother been investigated my life would have been a very different story. I am still very angry about this. I would undeniably been better off staying with my mother who may well have been neglectful but never abusive in the manner I was to experience for fourteen years. The department had warnings after warnings and did nothing. This cannot happen again. Any concerns should be followed up and investigated.

They also need to understand non verbal admissions. An abused child is too scared to come out and advise authorities but the vigilant and intelligent worker will note non verbal admissions. For example . After I was raped at six yrs of age..approx..I was the next night hospitalized for convulsions the doctors report stated" child will interact with staff and doctors, but will not even look at parents" surely this would be a red flag and followed up. I have many letters from my file (foi some thirty years ago was much much better than now) whereby letters by professionals to the department questioned foster placements and my safety there and follow up letters by the department directing no action to be taken. Ooh why why why. I could have been helped. Instead I was left to be raped, Tortured, And driven to insanity for fourteen years until I begged the department to put me in a orphanage.

I am able to produce all these letters and even letters from the department that stated my concerning behavior was likely to be a result of" the strange foster parents I had had over the years" During the redress the police were brought in to investigate firstly my accusations of rapes etc. The man who was the twenty something year old nephew of my foster father who was the perpetrator was charged in his sixties for those offenses and pleaded guilty to all. He had gone on to do the

same to his own biological children and in total had forty eight charges against him. They were plea bargained to about twenty eight and he is now in jail serving sixteen years, fourteen years non parole for these offenses. The judge said he was a "monster" in the worst degree. None believed me or the other professionals and so I waited for almost forty eight years for justice. The other person the police spoke to during the WA redress, was [REDACTED]. He admitted he recalled the meeting he and I had when I was nineteen (when I disclosed all abuse) but he told the police he couldn't recall the content of the conversation. The police said "we won't take further action against him as, he is in his eighties and we will just look like bastards hassling an old man who can't remember the content any how". This burns me up. I have a letter the social worker from the orphanage I was in telling how she took me into the meeting and waited for me and counseled me afterwards. This is why he did not deny the meeting..but because she was not on the room while I disclosed he is able to say he could not recall the content of the conversation I ask...how can a man remember a meeting forty odd years ago with one of a million ex state wards but forgets what was said. Still telling lies.

I am not good at expressing myself on paper in this forum but please could you investigate all I have said and set into motion a law that says if the department are told by professionals or others of concerns for a child and do not follow up that they are charged with neglect at the least.

Thank you for your time in viewing this protracted and poorly written letter.

I look forward to speaking to someone from the RC (again). The first time I talked to them I forgot so much in my nervousness.