

August 22 2005

EXHIBIT 23

Hello, Mr. Chairman and committee members,

My name is Lynette.Schlinger and I am here on behalf of my two small children. I too as a small child was taken because the caseworker was going out of town and thought something might happen. I would like to know how the DFS can say that my mother gave me drugs when they have no proof. Then many years later I found someone that I decided to have a child with. I had a midwife, I went to the hospital a couple of times with premature labor and other first pregnancy complaints. They put me on bed rest, then they said other than my son being breech there was nothing wrong but they did not let me see the ultra sound and they told me that I would need a c-section. I went tot the hospital to have my son and when he was 2 days old the doctor after seeing my child in the nursery the doctor came to my room saying that we have a report that the nurse saw the father shake the child.

We could not understand what she was talking about. We asked why the nurse who was in our room did not say anything. Then we asked for the nurse to come show us what we did wrong. They would not give us her name or have her come show us what we did wrong. In the case notes it said she did come in and show Tony how to correctly wake the baby for feeding.

When my child was 6 days old they said we were going go to another room to talk about discharge. As we went into the hallway we saw 7 officers. We went into the other room this person stands up with her hand out and said I am from DFS. I am here to tell you we are here to take your son. Their concerns were that there was possible drug use, parental relationship and unknown risk to the child. Both my son's father and I are sober and do not do drugs. We were asked if we had family that our son could go to. We were to told it would take to long for family to come and they were putting my son in foster care. The father's family lived in Hamilton, one hour away.

After 3 months of fighting we got him with family. After another they let him come home with services in place. We only had him a month and they began saying my son's father was abusing me. We have had discussions but never any abuse.

Shortly, I found out that I was going to have another child. DFS said they were going to take this child also. They told me if I would leave the father and go to a group home they may give me my children but could not let the father see them. They said they could get court orders if necessary, couple of days later I went to the hospital because of bleeding and premature labor. While in the hospital there was a hearing where the judge ordered DFS to stay away from me. My daughter was 2 months early. We went to court and the

outcome was to go live with the father's family in Hamilton. Things went well for a while until we started having differences with the family and DFS was contacted with less than truthful statements.

So DFS came and took both children again. We were told they were going to do a parent assessment. The people that did the assessment told DFS that we could parent with help. Then DFS said they didn't think we could parent and they were going for termination.

We have been fighting for our children for 2 years.

I want my children returned to me. I do not feel that DFS has the right to keep my children since we have never been accused of anything, no abuse, no neglect.

Until my children are returned you will keep seeing and hearing from me.

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