

GET INFORMED!

Every year in Ontario thousands of children are forcefully apprehended from their Homes, schools and loving families by children's aid agencies (CAS) in Ontario and placed into foster or group homes.

While some apprehensions are warranted, too often the apprehensions are done without proper investigations by incompetent and over-zealous CAS workers who are not even licensed as social workers in the province of Ontario.

In many cases, children end up being thrown into a child protection system which often does far greater damage to the children than if they had been left in care of their biological families.

While in CAS care, children have reported being the victims of many forms of abuse such as:

- Being forced to take often dangerous mood-altering prescription drugs
- Physical and emotional abuse by CAS workers
- Personal possessions being stolen by CAS workers and group home residents.
- Sexual and physical assaults by other children in previous foster and group homes and by CAS workers themselves.
- Exposure to drugs and sex in CAS operated foster and group homes.
- Exposure to the influence of other children in care who are involved with various forms of Threats and coercion by CAS workers.

As a result of being in care, many foster children end up being emotionally damaged and angry at the system itself for the mistreatment that they have been subjected to while in care. This anger and frustration can carry into any foster or group home that the child may be placed, often with devastating consequences.

Teachers and school officials must educate themselves about the laws and the risks involved with cooperating with children's aid societies. They must be prepared to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and even their own families from potential harm.

Schools Can Be Sued!

Child Protection Agencies do not want teachers and school officials to know about the risks of being taken to court.

All School officials should understand the risks of being sued and taken to court by students and their parents.

Even a child can sue their school at any time they become of legal age should the school have engaged in any actions which resulted in what would be considered abuse or violations of the child's rights or freedoms.

Should a teacher or other school official engage in actions such as detaining a child for any reason, letting CAS workers interview a child in the school or forcing a child to not have contact with their Parents or legal guardian, even under direct instruction from a Children's Aid Society then the school could be held legally responsible.

**Cooperating with CAS does
carry its risks
Get to know the risks and how
to lessen your exposure to risk
and potential lawsuit.**

For further information about the issues about problems associated with CAS, contact the local organizations indicated



www.CRPA.ca
www.FixCas.com
www.OntarioCFA.com
www.Ombudsman.on.ca
www.CanadaCourtWatch.com
www.QuinteAccountability.com



*Kingston & Quinte Area Citizens for
accountability*

Understanding the Risks to Teachers & School officials

Regarding Children's Aid Societies In Ontario

Some helpful information that will help teachers and school officials avoid costly mistakes associated with Children's Aid Societies in Ontario

www.QuinteAccountability.com

Some things you should know before having an interaction with a children's aid society.

Introduction

In recent years, the issue of child protection workers, assessors and even children's lawyers entering schools to question and even apprehend children with the support of school officials has become a subject of growing concern amongst many parents, teachers and students. Teachers and school officials with both public and private schools across Ontario often find themselves faced with requests and in some cases demands from child protection workers to have school officials become directly and/or indirectly involved with child abuse investigations or to permit the detention and/or questioning of students at their schools.

While at first glance, the request to detain and/or question a student at the school may appear to be harmless and with good intent, on the contrary, the school is one of the least desirable places that a student should be questioned by a child protection worker. In most cases, it is psychologically harmful to students to be subjected to CAS workers questioning them at their schools due to the embarrassment causes with peers and teachers.

The authority of a Children's Aid Society Worker

Under the law in Canada, a Children's Aid Society worker has no more authority than does any other ordinary citizen off the street to enter a school or speak to a student at any school. CAS workers are simply employees of a private corporation (CAS) which gets funding from the government.

As ordinary employees of a CAS agency, CAS workers have absolutely no authority over school boards or their employees. In fact, coming into a school to speak to a child can constitute a violation if the students rights.

Understanding the private corporate status of CAS agencies in Ontario

Many school officials and law enforcement officials are of the belief that the child protection workers and CAS agencies are part of the Government of Ontario and that workers with these agencies have almost unlimited powers. This is not the case at all. It is important that all school officials understand that CAS agencies in Ontario are **privately owned and privately administered** non profit corporations under a private funding contract with the Government of Ontario. CAS agencies are just private companies engaged in the business of protecting children in Ontario within the guidelines established by legislation although past history has raised serious questions as to the ability of CAS agencies to really protect children.

Most CAS workers are performing the practice of social work without even being licensed or legally allowed to do so

In Ontario, child protection workers who engage in the practice of social work must be registered with the Ontario College of Social Workers. Most CAS workers do not belong to the College to avoid scrutiny by the College's complaints committee and thus bypass the protection of legislation intended to protect children and families. The competency and ability of CAS workers who are not members of the Ontario College of Social Workers should be considered suspect. To find out if a worker is registered then contact the College of Social Workers in Toronto at (416) 972-9882 or toll free at 1-877-828-9380.

Do CAS workers have the right to A students school information?

Unless there is a court order, all information about a student is confidential and must not be given to a child protection worker without the proper release forms being signed. No verbal information should be given either. While refusing to disclose information to CAS workers may seem uncooperative, CAS workers do have the right tools at their disposal to obtain this information lawfully themselves.

Students cannot be detained for questioning by CAS workers

When it comes to the issue of students and child protection, it is highly unethical and in all cases unlawful for school officials to detain, lead, entice or coerce a student into being interrogated by a child protection worker without explicit **and informed** consent of the student and or the parent/guardian of the student.

Even police do not have the power to detain or question a person without informed consent unless the person is fleeing a crime or is suspected of committing a crime.

Why CAS agencies seek the support and involvement of school officials

Whether by intention or not, the underlying objective behind why child protection workers solicit the support of school officials is so that the CAS workers can gain information from students without the informed consent of the students or the knowledge of their parents. By becoming "friendly" with school officials, many CAS agencies are able to get school officials to let their guard down when it comes to the legal issues of detaining and/or interrogating children.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of knowledge of the fundamental principals of law, many child protection workers and school officials believe this to be acceptable practice but it is not. In many cases, the undefined phrase "the best interest of the child" is used by most of these uninformed persons as justification to violate the law and to violate the rights and freedoms of students and their parents.

Schools are liable for working under the instruction of a CAS Agency

Many school officials do not understand that CAS agencies will often try to convince them to aid in actions that are unlawful because they know that most schools are uninformed about the law.

Unfortunately this leaves school officials in a position that they can be sued or even can be charged with a criminal offence for something that was done with good intentions because CAS told them to do so.