

KENT COUNTY CASE NUMBER: 06-21909-AM

Grandmother raises a granddaughter 24/7 from birth to age 5 years and 33 days.

Grandmother asks for child's mother to have help with chronic fatigue, being bi-polar and alcoholism.

Child Protective Services sees no problem in the situation and agrees *child is well cared for*.

D.A. Blodgett (contracted agency for CPS) is assigned to manage the case.

D.A. Blodgett caseworker does not agree with grandmother and takes her to court.

Caseworker accuses grandmother of giving child a cookie to finish lunch one day.

Caseworker accuses grandmother of helping child in bathroom at age four.

Grandmother is told no child needs assistance in private or public restroom at age four.

Grandmother therefore accused of making child dependant upon an adult.

Caseworker states that *'MAYBE SOMEDAY'*, grandmother might let granddaughter visit with her mother. Tells judge it is a "Gut Feeling" that could happen.

Grandmother had been under a court order not to allow that and had never done so.

Grandmother was never accused of abuse/neglect, which are the criteria for removing a child.

D.A. Blodgett circumvents the CPS manual for removal of child and judge allows it.

Judge tells D.A. Blodgett - "do not do this again", rather than insisting rules be followed –

**Grandmother's right to due-process is therefore violated by judge!**

Judge states that she does not know how a grandmother could love both her daughter and granddaughter. Direct Quote - "I think that the grandmother's talents are best used in assisting her daughter, not in trying to balance the interest of her daughter and her granddaughter, which I don't know if anyone could do that. I truly don't."

Judge **recommends** that child be placed into foster care.

This allows Social Security Title IV federal funding begin to flow to state.

If judge **ordered** child be placed into foster care, county would have to fund child's foster care.

State of Michigan's Office of Children's Ombudsman investigates case.

D. A. Blodgett is cited for rule violations and says - "we will try to do better **next time**".

Child was picked up from her home, driven to a strange home, dropped off with strangers.

Never to return to those that loved her.

**Can you possibly even begin to imagine what the granddaughter thought, all alone in a strange home wondering where her grandmother went?**

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