

To,
Tom Dobbie,
6 Coventry Avenue,
Great Sutton,
Ellesmere Port,
Cheshire,
Chester,
CH66 2GL

CONCERNING THE CASE CH10P00736 TO BE PUT BEFORE:-

His Honour Judge Barnet,
Chester Justice Centre,
Public Law Court,
Chester.

From,
Debra Dean-Chadwick
17 Crescent Road
Ellesmere Port
CH65 4DY
19th October 2012

Introduction.

I have been asked to write a brief report to the court by Mr Tom Dobbie. He calls me as an expert witness in child care, and as a previous manager at a children's centre. He did not call me at his request as a personal witness at this time, although he intends to do this for further court work involving EPSS.

I am the ex wife and long term friend of Tom Dobbie and we have a son, Graham who is 26 yrs old on the day of the court hearing.

Qualifications:

BA (HONS) 2:1 in Youth & Community Professional Studies (This degree course enabled me to study alongside Social Workers)

Knowledge and Experience:

I have worked with children and families for over 30 years with the Local Authority, Action for Children and Barnardo's. I have also been a volunteer for two Children Centres and was a chairperson of a Pre-School committee and a Before and After School Club committee. For more than 15 years I worked within Children's Centres working in partnership with Education, Health and Social Services. My latter employment with Barnardo's was as a Manager at a Children's Centre supervising staff who as part of their work was to support families at a level two and closely working in partnership with Social Services. I have experience of writing case notes and reports, and trained senior staff to write up notes professionally. I therefore have extensive knowledge and experience of Child Protection, and reporting. I have attended many 'Child In Need', 'Team Around The Child' and 'Common Assessment Framework' meetings as a professional.

If my professional opinions are called into question, I can supply contacts of other qualified and experienced professionals that I believe would have similar findings to mine.

Background.

I have been supporting Tom and his children since August 2010, and have written supporting documents surrounding this case that have been submitted both to the civil lawyers and to probation. I am particularly concerned at the negative interaction between EPSS and Tom and the contents of various reports.

Based on knowing Tom personally for 32 years and living in his household with his children whilst visiting over a period of two years, he is an exemplary example of a good father to his children in his residence; Aurora and Orion Dobbie. In addition I have never witnessed Tom acting in any aggressive way towards our son Graham or his children Aurora and Orion on the contrary he has a unique parenting style of being able to calm and diffuse difficult situations and talk and explain rather than shout or become angry.

It is worth noting that Probation independently came to the conclusion there had been a gross miscarriage of justice when the lower court pronounced Mr Dobbie guilty after finding Mrs Dobbie had been violent and abusive.

Analysis of this latest EPSS report put before TH Judge Barnet, Chester.

At first sight, this new report is an improvement over the previous report in that it lacks so many blatant errors; there is however obvious prejudice for Mrs Dobbie and against Mr Dobbie. This prejudice is quite obvious and clearly follows that Mrs Dobbie seems to be so extremely compliant, and Mr Dobbie is stating non compliance. Andrea's conclusions fall in line with her beliefs – which are essentially those of Mrs Dobbie.

Much more concerning, is that through this prejudice, Andrea is too readily willing to risk the children's well being through her own lack of knowledge yet again. I still put forward my recommendations below.

Analysis of previous EPSS report put before HH Judge Dodds, Liverpool.

I have read many of the reports about this case and I must say I am extremely perplexed at the lack of professionalism in the context of most of these.

In the EPSS report there are many inconsistencies: -

- Same incident reported differently at different points in the document e.g. The family situation with regards to their feelings about the marriage.
- References to events outside the document – many untruths. E.g. that the current document describes Mrs Dobbie's mothering abilities with her stepson, Graham, to be in a positive nature. This is the opposite of truth. She was grossly damaging to Graham, he had to have counselling. Graham submitted a report in August 2010 which clearly states the opposite occurred. Graham wants to put in an official complaint against Mrs Dobbie however due to his health this has been discouraged at the present time.
- The report is evidently biased to Mrs Dobbie's opinions and needs
- Extreme lack of facts, other than meeting dates.

I do not believe that this report is acceptable as a professional report or submission.

Furthermore it has been well documented that Mrs Dobbie has lied not only in Court, but to many of the professionals that have worked on this case.

My recommendations therefore to remedy the situation for the sake of the children, would be:

1. Aurora and Orion Dobbie to continue to reside with their Father Mr Tom Dobbie
2. A Key worker assigned to collate all the historical evidence surrounding this case and another report written without prejudice and bias
3. Professional counselling to attempt to undo the psychological damage further inflicted upon the children due to being continually coerced into untruthful ideas that are against their own experiences of abuse.
4. To continue to have access to their mother Mrs Dobbie but not more than 50%.

It is in my opinion as a professional and on a personal level that to minimise the contact of Mr Dobbie and his children will further impact on their health and emotional well being.

This situation is very personal as the whole family are connected to me including Mrs Dobbie, Avril and I have met up on various occasions with our children at the swimming baths....