

I Evelyn Mundy [nee Parker] was put into foster care because I was a neglected child [my mother had TB and was put in The Royal Derwent and my father was an alcoholic] I was later made a ward of the State in 1964 and placed in Mt. St. Canice. I escaped several times over the many years there becoming pregnant at 18 years of age in 1969.

The powers to be sent me to "Elim" Salvation Army home for unmarried mothers where I was treated like an unpaid slave. Mr. [redacted] from the Welfare Department and Major [redacted] from the Salvos told me that my child would be placed for adoption as I was a welfare kid, a gutter slut, I was nobody's child and not even my family wanted me, therefore I was an unfit mother and could not raise a child. I did however have a mature lady friend [who later became my mother-in-law] who was quite happy to help me with my baby. Mrs. [redacted] went to see Mr. [redacted] in person to express her concern at the situation and offer to help me including giving me and my child a home with her and her family. The answer was the same for all requests NO, NO, NO, NO.

The Dr. at Mt. St. Canics had me on tranquilizers and this medication was sent with me to "Elim".

WHY WAS I NOT RELEASED FROM WELFARE ON MY 18<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY WHICH WAS BEFORE MY SON WAS BORN????????? After my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday welfare made the State my legal guardian to the age of 25 years. WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY?

Eight days after my son was born I was forced to sign adoption papers in front of Mr. [redacted] and Major [redacted], I was still on tranquilizers, I was not counselled and they tried to blackmail me by saying the baby bonus would be withheld if I didn't sign. I remember being forced into signing ONE paper while Mr. [redacted] held my hand with the pen in it BUT refused to sign the SECOND paper. Today the signature on this second paper is in dispute and has been since the enquiry in 1997 when promises were made by the committee to scrutinize the signature which never happened. This signature has been sent by welfare to two hand writing experts and it has been declared indecisive. Surely this signature could be compared by experts with the other signature at the time. I repeat again this signature is not mine. The second time it was sent was in 2002 during the enquiry into abuse of State wards while in care. Psychological evaluation in recent years has assumed that I ran away because of physical and mental abuse and probably became pregnant because I needed someone to love and to love me.

There has been no healing for me past this adoption. I made contact with my son and meet him but he won't believe me when I tell him what happened he believes the version put forth by his adopted parents. I have no idea what he was told. I shall go to my grave with a broken heart because someone wanted to play God with my life and that of my son.