

CONCLUSION

Since our Panel's decision I am given to understand from the children's social worker, Jo Hughes, Lambeth, that the children continue to spend weekends and holidays with the couple. This, I feel, suggests that my professional role and assessment has counted for nothing in terms of my statutory responsibilities in the protecting of children. It further makes a nonsense of the whole process of assessment of suitable prospective adopters and/or foster parents, given that such breach of procedures and statute can still blatantly be abused through a professional network system, whose main responsibilities and accountability are to the overall welfare and protection of children.

I feel that this case gives rise to a lot of cause for concern, least of all that these children, and possibly others, are being put in a situation of risk. This I find in my task and brief as a professional person, and I feel the appropriate authority such as the DHSS should be made aware.

Agreed closure to AFU.

JP

DPA

Bernadette Khan
Social Worker
Adoption and Fostering Unit
13th November 1989 - VFM