

Croydon Panel decided that children in care had a right to the same degree of protection as that expected within our statutory responsibilities to children, therefore, the application could not proceed. A further matter to be addressed was that Mr Carroll had not informed his employers, Lambeth, of his conviction. Croydon informed him that they, themselves, would be passing on the information to Lambeth Social Services Department. (For further information, refer to Form F on file).

In the process of this assessment I did ten interviews, three of which were with the couple individually, and four sessions together with the couple.

Three referees were seen as part of the assessment. The first was a senior social worker in Lambeth, who could only discuss her observations related to her professional relationship with Mr Carroll, and knew very little about the couple as a couple, their relationship or home life. Another referee was a lay preacher who, having known the couple for some years, also knew Mr Carroll as a colleague on a committee, but really had little in-depth knowledge of the couple. The third referee was a residential social worker and colleague of the couple from the past, who was aware of Mr Carroll's conviction; however, felt strongly that she could support the couple's application to foster these particular two boys.

The couple were presented to Wandsworth Adoption and Fostering Panel on 24th August, 1988. The Panel felt unable to approve Mr and Mrs Carroll as foster parents for the following reasons :

1. Mr Carroll needs to come to terms with the circumstances of his conviction and the emotional implications for himself, given his strong use of denial, which is evident in the manner he has chosen to deal with the matter to date.
2. Mr Carroll needs to explore more deeply some of the more painful issues related to his identity and origins.
3. The dynamics of the couple's relationship gave cause for concern since it did not appear to be as fulfilling, open and honest as it presented on the surface.

4.

Sensitive/Irrelevant

DESCRIPTION OF COUPLE

Mr Carroll is a tall, large man, with greying hair, and has quite distinct blue/grey eyes. He presents as articulate, with an outgoing personality. He spent the major part of his childhood and upbringing in a Roman Catholic institution, apart from 2 years with foster parents in his early adolescence. This fostering placement broke down, and he then returned to live in the same institution until leaving school.

At age 18, while on a visit to his old institution, he indecently assaulted a 12 year old boy living in the institution. The detail and circumstances in which he outlined the incident to me were quite different to those on his recorded conviction record. Mr Carroll was put on probation for 2 years in relation to this offence.

Mr Carroll had withheld this information from his wife and employer, Lambeth.

Sensitive/Irrelevant

ACCOMMODATION

Sensitive/Irrelevant

COUPLES RELATIONSHIP

Sensitive/Irrelevant

Mr Carroll uses denial strongly surrounding his conviction, his painful childhood experiences, and that of his birth mother's rejection of him. He further needs to explore his origins and identity.

Sensitive/Irrelevant

OUTCOME OF APPLICATION

The case was presented to Wandsworth Adoption and Fostering Panel on 24th August, 1988. The Panel's decision was not to approve the couple as prospective foster parents. The couple then decided, after further consideration, to withdraw their application as prospective foster parents. They also, at one stage, were demanding a copy of the Form F. There were quite a number of telephone calls between our Authority and that of Lambeth's, who felt concern about Wandsworth Adoption and Fostering Panel having not approved the couple.