

Individual 35

Hello, I was in contact with Christine of your committee on what you required.

My name is [REDACTED], I work for [REDACTED] and I have a child of [REDACTED] years old. Here are some of my experiences of domestic abuse which I have incurred over the last [REDACTED] years and still continues on through [REDACTED].

Met partner in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], he then moved over here to live with me in NI. Life was okay until I became pregnant, that's when control started. He went where he wished, stayed out all night weddings of work colleagues, birthday and Christmas parties, I was excluded from all, he met my friends, but I never got to meet his.

Sold my car in the pretence that it was too small for when the baby came along, bought a bigger fancier one not economical to suit his image, which I had to beg for when the baby was born. I ended up paying for the expensive car and lots more which left me in a lot of debt with a poor credit rating.

I was then talked into moving out of my house, again for the baby, he rented another house which I became aware of was in his name only, when he started taking his girlfriend (his words) into the house after I returned to work when the baby was born.

The night I went into labour he went out to [REDACTED] and left me on my own, he had already alienated my family from his house, they were never made feel welcome while he was there. While in hospital he refused to become involved in family photos.

I had not an easy labour, stitches etc, and was only out a day when he decided to go to the pub from early morning to watch a football match, not returning, I was alone with no food in the house, and had to send for my mum and brother. To add insult to injury he sent [REDACTED] [REDACTED], needless to say mum told [REDACTED] otherwise.

He coerced me into putting his name on the birth certificate, shaved off the baby's hair in a temper when he was only week's old. Stayed in his room, summoned me by phone to take baby up to him, he was not allowed noisy toys as he wanted to watch TV, At the christening he kept us waiting in a cold chapel for an hour until he decided to turn up,

Took the baby away one day on the pretence of taking him to his work, it turned out that he took him to get their photos taken, which he took great pleasure in displaying them on the wall.

The PSNI escorted him off the premises in He then took me to court for child contact which he got everything he asked for. One particular day during contact he cut the child's finger with a knife, always criticising his hair, clothes, shoes and bribing him with all the latest gadgets, games which I cannot afford though he does not contribute any money towards essentials, and when I contacted Child maintenance he does not exist, no national insurance no. This was all reported along with a long list of other events to Social services and PSNI but the child was not believed, but he was.

He keeps on breaking the court order and gets away with it if I do I am in contempt of court for trying to keep [REDACTED] safe. Family proceedings in court are very frightening, it is inferred to you by the Court Officer and Social Workers that they have no concerns and they can't see a problem, because when they go to observe a visit it is well rehearsed because in my case the father is informed well in advance but not the mother. The child's voice is not listened to, they are experiencing reoccurring

control lies, parental alienation over and over again, so who do they learn to trust, and to keep them safe so they have to quickly learn to accept and build up resilience which is harming their childhood ACES, and through lots of research has become known to have a great impact in later life on their health and well being which should be addressed sooner rather than later, prevention rather than the cure. Children need positive role models to educate and learn them what healthy relationships are.

The Courts continue to allow the preparators to carry on abusing with no thought for anyone but themselves, allowing them to access Legal Aid as a right regardless of the children's rights or for the resident parent. Persons holding down a job and providing for their children and have just gone over the threshold cannot avail of legal aid, so this leaves a lot of opportunity for the predators as they don't work or provide but want for nothing. The law gives them the right to have contact with their child and use control, but there seems to be no legalisation that forces them to live up to their responsibility as a parent to provide food, clothing, sporting events etc.

This is a short version of it, if you require more information please contact me

Best Regards

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the sender's name and signature.