

It was October 6, 1998 at 06:00 a.m. when I received the phone call that my children had been taken away from their great grandfather the night before. I was in shock and ended up leaving my job, I don't even remember telling anyone that I was leaving that day. A friend of mine came and picked me up and took me to look for my kids. We went to the Police Department to report this but they would not tell me for sure where the kids were, but they told me that the kids were ok.

I went for a weekend not knowing for sure where my kids were at.

Monday October 8, 1998 I went to the Exploited Missing Children's Unit in Wichita Ks and spoke to Marla Drinen who explained to me what had happened that weekend. She said that they received a phone call that my children were at their great grandpa's house and that the SRS decided to take my kids into child of need of care, she told me that SRS could raise my kids better than I could. I accused them of kidnapping because they never told me what was going on until Monday.

This was the beginning of total hell in my life, and my children's life. The children were 9yrs, and 6yrs old. For a year I fought to get my kids back. I was told by the Youthville Supervisor that I could not get into a relationship while I was going through all of this, I went through parenting classes, psychological evaluation, I had to work a full time job, and submit to random drug tests. youthville would call me up when I first got to work at 03:00 pm and tell me that I had to be at Central and West street to do my drug test by 5:00 pm, if I was late I could not see my kids. I did not have a vehicle and Youthville made sure I did not have anyone to help me, they would not supply me with transportation.

After going through all of this for a year I finally gave up my rights to the state, Remember, they said they could do a better job than I could to raise my kids.

SRS told my kids that I was dead and that is why the state has them. My kids went for years thinking that I was dead so when I finally found them they were in shock. My son is 22 yrs old now, and my daughter is 19 yrs old now, they were both adopted, but they went through hell while they were in state custody. My son and daughter

are both addicted to perscribe drugs because of the stress that the state of kansas put on them.

Please change the law instead of just taking the kids out of the home, try to help the families to stay together. If the state would have given me as much help as they give to the foster homes, or Adoptive families you would see a major change in the families staying together. Instead of telling me they could do a better job at raising my kids, they should have asked me what they could do to help me to raise them.

Thank You, (*Presented by Kathy Hinters*)
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