

AFFIDAVIT

I, Anna Geeroms, project manager and business analyst, of 2487 Turner Street in the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I have personal knowledge of the matters included in this affidavit except where statements are made based on information and belief, in which case I verily believe them to be true.
2. I am 39 years old. I have four year old twins who reside with my husband and me, as well as a 13 year old stepdaughter who resides with us half of the time.
3. In 2011, when I was pregnant with my twins, I did research on childcare providers near my home. I chose my favourite licensed care facility and registered for its waiting list.
4. When the twins were six months old and I had not heard from the childcare provider I was waitlisted for, I realized that it was not likely that we would get childcare spaces in that facility by the time I was scheduled to return to work. After additional research, I placed my twins on waitlists with 11 more licensed childcare providers.
5. I was scheduled to go back to work one year after the twins were born, and at that time we still had not heard from any of the childcare facilities we were waitlisted for. As a result, we were forced to hire a nanny.
6. It was very hard to find a qualified nanny that we could afford. After a stressful search, we eventually found a graduate student with no childcare

experience by posting public flyers advertising the position on Commercial Drive in Vancouver.

7. We paid the nanny \$14 an hour for care four days per week. In 2013, we paid over \$21,000 for childcare. Although I initially went back to work only four days per week, the cost of childcare forced me to increase to five days per week in 2013.
8. Our nanny was often sick so I had to reschedule or miss work to provide childcare. That was incredibly stressful because I was already trying to get back up to speed at work after taking more than a year off.
9. Eventually our first nanny quit and we hired a second nanny who had a daughter one year older than my twins. Her parents cared for her daughter during the day while she cared for my children.
10. In 2014, one of the licensed facilities we had been waitlisted for finally called to say that they had childcare spaces for the twins. The twins started at the licensed childcare facility on July 1, 2014 at an initial cost of \$725 per month per child for full time spaces five days per week.
11. The childcare facility is a non-profit organization that relies on grants to keep the cost of childcare down. After losing a grant, the cost of care for the twins rose to \$890 per child per month for full time care effective July 2015. On January 1 2016, the fees rose again to \$910 per child per month.
12. The twins were sick a lot after they began attending the childcare facility, and they were often sent home or not able to attend childcare because of illness. At times I have had to use vacation time at work because I ran out of sick days to care for the twins.
13. Since approximately March 2015, the twins' grandparents care for them two days per week and they are in childcare at the licensed facility three days

per week. I began renting out my childcare spaces the other two days per week in March 2015.

14. Of the 11 other childcare facilities the twins were waitlisted for, I received a call and offer of childcare spaces for the twins from only one other facility, and that was in September 2014. The twins were already attending their current childcare facility at that point.
15. The twins are scheduled to begin kindergarten in the fall of 2016, but my husband and I are considering keeping them out of school an extra year because of concerns about how they will handle the transition to school.
16. Because we were not able to secure childcare at the licensed facilities closest to our home, our current childcare provider does not provide after school pick-up at our catchment elementary school. We have requested cross-boundary approval so that the twins can attend a school closer to the childcare facility, but we have not heard whether our request has been approved.
17. If we are not approved, the twins will have to change childcare providers for afterschool care when they start school. Not only will they be in new school environment, but they will also lose the consistency of their childcare providers and peers at their current childcare facility.
18. I am particularly concerned about my son, who has been experimenting and questioning his gender identity by wearing clothes and hairstyles that are traditionally associated with girls.
19. After some initial difficulty, his current childcare provider has handled the situation well, but I am worried that he will experience bullying when he begins attending school with older children. Ensuring a smooth transition and maintaining any stability possible are particularly important for him. He

feels comfortable and safe at his current childcare facility and changing facilities would create additional risks of stress and insecurity for him.

20. I consent to the use of this affidavit in any court proceedings.

AFFIRMED BEFORE ME at the City of)
Vancouver, in the Province of British)
Columbia, this 25th day of February, 2016.)



A Commissioner for taking Affidavits)
within British Columbia)

Kendra Milne)
555-409 Granville Street)
Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2)


Anna Geeroms