

AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED] in care of 555-409 Granville Street, in the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I am the affiant and as such 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 41 years old. I came to Canada from Hong Kong in 2009 and I currently have no legal immigration status in Canada. My husband was unable to sponsor me to come to Canada because he had a prior immigration sponsorship default and child support debts, so I came as a live-in caregiver. I worked in Edmonton as a caregiver for seven months, and then I moved to Vancouver. I currently have an application for permanent residence pending on the basis of humanitarian and compassionate grounds. In addition, I anticipate that my temporary residence permit should be processed soon.
3. I have two adult children in the Philippines and three children in Canada. My children in Canada are aged five, three and one and they reside with me. I am their primary caregiver as a single mother. My sister also lives with us.
4. I used to live with my husband and I stayed at home to care for our children. We survived on my husband's income assistance.
5. When I was in the final stages of pregnancy with my youngest child, I began to wonder who could help look after my other two minor children while I was in the hospital having my baby.


6. Someone mentioned to me that the Ministry of Children and Family Development (the "Ministry") might be able to assist by providing child care, so I contacted the Ministry.
7. A Ministry social worker came to our house to do a safety check. My husband was not home at the time and the social worker asked to speak with him, so I called him to tell him what was happening and I asked him to come home.
8. When my husband arrived home, he was very angry and agitated. He told the social worker that we did not need help and then he left.
9. After he left, the Ministry social worker told me that I could not stay in the house that night because, if I went into labour, there would be no one to look after my children. The social worker took me and my children to a transition house for what I thought would be one night or a few days. I thought that once I gave birth to my baby I would be able to go home.
10. I soon gave birth via caesarian section, but even after I had the baby the Ministry told me that I could not return home with my children. The Ministry wanted my husband to go into rehab for alcohol use. They said that until he does, we cannot go home to live with him or they will apprehend my children. My husband did not and still does not think he needs treatment for his alcohol use.
11. I went back once home with my children temporarily, but Ministry staff told me that they would apprehend my children if I did not leave. They took us back to the transition house.
12. I do not understand why the Ministry did this just because I asked for help. I have told them that my husband was not physically violent and that his drinking was not that bad. We usually did not have enough extra money for him to drink and, when he did, he would just pass out.
13. If I had known that I would have to move out and that I would not be able to work,

I would never have called the Ministry in the first place. I regret the day I asked for help. However, as long my children are with me, I am okay.

- 14. I decided that I need to get on with my own life so I applied for permanent residence status. It is our only chance to stay in Canada. While my application is pending, I am eligible for social assistance and that is currently my only source of income.
- 15. Being a single mother to my children has been incredibly hard. I am currently unable to work in Canada because I do not have a work permit. Because of my immigration status, I am not eligible to receive a child care subsidy so, even if I was able to work, I would not be able to afford child care. I have thought of working for cash as a child care provider while also looking after my own children, but people cannot risk leaving their children in my care when I am not legally able to work.
- 16. If I am able to get a work permit, I plan to try to care for one or two other children in addition to my own to earn some money and be able to look after my children at the same time.

17. 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 20th day of May, 2016.)



A Commissioner for taking Affidavits)
within British Columbia)
Kendra Milne)
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Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2)

