

AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] 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 a 39 year old woman with two children, aged 12 and 5. My children reside with me half of the time and with their father half of the time. I am their primary caregiver.
3. My husband, my older child and I came back to Canada six years ago after travelling. I got pregnant with my younger child shortly after we arrived. I did not really think about child care at that time. I had primarily worked in a coffee shop and service jobs and I did not have a lot of confidence about going out into employment. I took it for granted that I would stay home to care for my children.
4. My older son was bullied in school and I pulled him out of school to home school him. Shortly after, my relationship with my children's father fell apart. At that point, I needed to decide what I would do.
5. I first took a five week Shiatsu class because I thought that I would be able to work right away afterwards, although that was not the case. I needed child care in order to attend that training so I paid a nanny to provide full day care. I also relied on friends and child care exchanges with other mothers. I paid friends what I thought was fair and what I could afford.

6. Almost a year later, I started massage school to become a registered massage therapist. I am attending school part-time in order to reduce child care costs. When I initially started school, I needed half day care for my older child and full day care for my younger child. I did not want to put my younger son in a larger child care centre because he was very shy and attached to me. I was able to find a friend who worked as a nanny to four or five children in our neighbourhood and she was able to care for my younger child and my older child attended after school care.
7. I paid the nanny approximately \$600 per month out of my monthly child and spousal support of approximately \$1,800. I applied for a child care subsidy, but because of my income I only qualified for a subsidy of \$33 per month. Since that time, my ex-partner's income has gone up and I receive approximately \$2,250 in child and spousal support. I also now work once a month as a cleaner to earn some extra income.
8. Now that my younger child is also in school, both my children attend before and after school care with a licensed care provider located in their school. I pay for their child care two days per week, I care for them myself one day per week, and their father pays for their child care the other two days. Until very recently, I also provided after school care on one of my ex's days to reduce child care costs.
9. We were very lucky to get spaces with the child care provider at my children's school. It is probably the cheapest in the city and they did not have to wait on a waitlist for spaces. The child care provider has been very accommodating of me in terms of payment and time.
10. I have been happy with the quality of the care my children have received. It is stressful to find a caregiver that you trust and that will be a good fit for your children so that you know your children are emotionally well cared for.

