

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Jennifer Betteridge, scheduling analyst, of 17662 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in the City of Surrey, 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 42 years old. I have two children, a three year old and a 19 month old. Both children reside with me and I am their primary caregiver as a single mother.
3. My husband left nine days after I gave birth to our youngest child and we are now just filing for divorce. There was never any discussion about who the children would live with; the responsibility automatically fell on me, although my husband said he would help out with the kids.
4. I am employed by a company in Richmond and I earn about \$65,000 per year in gross income. I take home approximately \$1,500 every two weeks.
5. Because of significant debts, we were forced to sell our townhouse after my husband left. The children and I moved in with my parents in South Surrey. Although I would prefer to live with my children independently, I cannot afford to pay for childcare and rent, plus basic necessities for myself and my children on my own. My parents are low income and living together helps us pool our resources.
6. My children are currently in a licensed childcare facility two days per week at a cost of \$60 per day per child, or approximately \$1,145 per month. The children stay with my mother on Mondays and go with their father on Wednesdays and

Fridays, although I often have to find alternative childcare when my husband is unable to take the children. I do not qualify for a childcare subsidy because my income is too high.

7. In addition to childcare, I pay approximately \$400 per month for our vehicle, which I need to commute to work, in addition to other costs like Medical Services Plan payments, life insurance, vehicle insurance, fuel and groceries. I also pay \$350 per month for a consumer debt proposal.
8. I have enrolled in the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program, but to date my husband has not been able to pay any consistent monthly payment. I receive random amounts of child support when funds can be garnished.
9. My mother suffers from depression and anxiety so I really have to watch how she is doing. I sometimes feel like I am taking care of everyone. Leaving the children with my mom one day per week is not my ideal childcare arrangement, but we are doing it because it works right now and it allows us to reduce childcare time so that my kids can attend their current childcare facility on a part time basis.
10. Because I commute between South Surrey and Richmond and sometimes work early hours, I need childcare with flexible drop-off and pick-up times. I am very happy with the childcare facility that my children currently attend because it provides this flexibility, it is located close to where we live, it provides the children meals during the day and the children can transition to pre-school there. All of these benefits help to take some pressure off of me as a primary caregiver.
11. I am able to afford our current childcare facility only because my children attend two days per week. I cannot afford to send them there full time. There may be cheaper childcare options, but they do not have many of the benefits provided by our current childcare facility.

