

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 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 36 years old. I have no legal status in Canada. I initially came to Canada from [REDACTED] in 2009 as a student and I have resided here on an ongoing basis since 2011. I am in the process of preparing to apply for permanent residency status on the basis of humanitarian and compassionate grounds.
3. I have one child, a son who is three years old. He resides with me and I am his primary caregiver as a single mother. My son is a Canadian citizen.
4. Not having legal immigration status in Canada has negatively impacted my self-confidence. People often try to take advantage of me.
5. I left my boyfriend and son's father in 2013 because of abuse. The abuse was primarily emotional and related to my immigration status. My ex-boyfriend would constantly threaten to have me deported. I resided in a first stage transition house from August to September 2013.
6. I am currently unemployed and I do not have a work permit. I am not eligible for social assistance or a provincial childcare subsidy my immigration status does not meet eligibility requirements. My only source of financial support right now is monthly child support from my son's father. He does not pay it

consistently and I have to keep calling him to ask for it.

7. Recently, I took my son to visit a pre-school that he might be able to attend. He enjoyed it and I think he would very much benefit from exposure and play with other children.
8. I have asked my ex-boyfriend to pay for pre-school for our son, but he refused to pay for it and indicated that it is my responsibility.
9. Because I cannot afford childcare for my son and I am ineligible for a childcare subsidy, I cannot work even if I had a work permit. The jobs that I would be able to get would not pay enough to cover childcare, rent and other necessities.
10. I understand from my immigration lawyer that, if I am not working and cannot prove to immigration authorities that I can support myself, my application for permanent residence may be rejected.
11. I have tried working under the table as a cleaner to earn some income, but because I cannot afford childcare for my son, I was forced to bring him with me to the job. I was constantly worried he would break something while I was working, which caused me stress and resulted in me losing patience and screaming at my son. In the end, the employer did not pay me.
12. Because I have no income to pay for rent, I currently do not have a fixed address. I have been relying on friends to allow me and my son to sleep on their couches for temporary periods. We often stay with one friend for a week or so, and then move on to another friend's house.
13. Recently, I have had many appointments with my immigration lawyer to try to get my permanent resident status application submitted. I need to get the application in to be eligible for any kind of financial assistance, so I have been

trying to pay a babysitter to watch my son so I can attend those appointments. I spent all my money on that and I have now been staying in a transition house temporarily because I am really struggling.

14. I have been staying at the transition house for almost 30 days, which is the usual limit for a stay. They have extended my allowed stay by one week. After next week, I do not know where my son and I will go.
15. Without access to childcare, I care for my son 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I have to bring him everywhere with me, including to appointments with my lawyer and doctor. The stress of my financial and immigration situation makes me feel depression, grief and anger, which often causes me to cry and be very upset. This obviously has a negative impact on my son because he is always with me so he sees my grief and distress.
16. I constantly experience a great deal of stress and depression. I worry about harming my son. For me, the worst situation as a parent would be if I became abusive to him.
17. In the past, I have left my son with another mother and her child when I had appointments that my son could not attend with me. He used to enjoy going there, but lately has refused to stay there. When I try to leave him there, he screams. I think something happened while my son was there to make him that upset so I do not leave him there anymore.
18. Even a few hours a week of free childcare would allow me a small amount of free time to go to appointments, complete basic tasks and deal with my stress and grief without my son present. It would also allow me to have more energy and fun when I am with him.

19. Affordable full time childcare would allow me to get a work permit, obtain a job and work like a regular person, and become self-sufficient. That would also help my application for permanent resident status so that I can stay in Canada.
20. Not having access to childcare means that it is hard for me and other women to escape the cycle of abuse. Because I cannot work and be financially independent, I am at risk of becoming a victim of abuse. If I was able to support myself, my self-confidence would increase and I would be less likely to be victimized.
21. The constant pressure and stress of not being able to support myself and be financially independent also puts me at risk of continuing the cycle of abuse with my son because I do not have the resources and supports necessary to deal with my stress.
22. 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 10th day of March,)
2016.)



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

