

Disabled Mother Pleads to Save the Lives of Her and Her Child and End Systematic Abuses; If We Don't Help and We Don't Care, Why Are We Here?

by Deborah Maddison - British Columbia, Canada

I am a woman who is disabled in Canada.

I used to work as a 911 dispatcher and save lives, yet once I could no longer do the job, my own life became worthless.

They were willing to pay for equipment to help me work with my disability, yet told me I couldn't care for my own child at home, despite numerous medical reports to the contrary.

My illness is 'invisible' so many make wrong assumptions and think you 'just don't want to do things' you would give anything to be able to do.

Because I am on Disability, I had to live on approx \$1,000 a month, with my child, and cannot earn any more money or even keep my child tax checks, ensuring we will always be impoverished.

Yet, because I am disabled, they took my child and gave a foster family an extra \$1200 a month, on Top of whatever they make, to take my daughter away.

I am a disabled woman who was abused, and couldn't leave the situation because they said if I left, though they knew he was an addict, they would take my child away because I have a disability.

Because I have a disability, when they took my child, they said it was because I was medically unfit to care for her.

When I proved myself fit through multiple medical reports, because my ex was an addict who abused me I was told because I didn't leave my abuser sooner, (due to *their* orders) I had 'poor judgment' and so I could not even see my child.

Because of childhood abuse and what I endured from my abuser and the stress of my child taken, my PTSD and IBS flared up for the first time in over a decade, and I lost my remission from a systemic illness, putting my life at serious risk the longer this goes on.

Because I had to take prescribed medications to deal with the anxiety and IBS, I was called an addict, even though every prescription is necessary for life, and cannot be abused.

Because they wanted to ensure we couldn't work together as parents I was told if I did not get a no contact order and stay away from my abuser, even though I had left him for almost 8 months before this, I couldn't get my daughter back.

Because I am disabled, my lawyer forced me to consent to this and other orders I didn't want, saying it wasn't 'worth her time' to deal with my case.

Before they took my daughter, we were thriving, the healthiest we had ever been and her father and I were working together with shared custody and supervised visitation by choice.

Because I am disabled, I was not allowed to change to a competent lawyer of my choice, even though the lawyer was willing to take the case and Legal Aid are mandated to allow you to do so, leaving me the only one never heard in the matter of my own child.

Because I am disabled, and not an addict, once I got the no contact order they demanded, they gave **THAT** person and two other known abusers of their children and mine, visitation, not me, to punish me for staying too long AND leaving without their 'permission' because I have a disability and my abuser does not, except his serious addiction issues, making me wrong no matter what.

Because I have a disability and never touch unperceived drugs I have passed 2 hair tests and have been told to go to drug treatment anyway, so they can justify apprehending my child.

Because I used to be prescribed pain killers for very serious pain issues, which I quit myself when my abuser stole and abused those making me sick, I was told this means 'I must be at risk of abusing my own medication in the future', even though in 14 years this has never been an issue and I quit by choice.

Because I am on disability, I cannot fill my prescriptions early so they cannot be abused and my blood is constantly monitored, yet they ignore my 14 years of clean tests and say I am 'refusing treatment', and 'non-cooperative' for not going to a drug and alcohol centre.

Because I have Lupus, I am allergic to most drugs, chemicals and alcohol, and would not live long if I used them at all.

Because my abuser IS an addict, he needs only go to AA and gets to see my child every week, even though the Ministry has a restraining order against him and have charged him with weapons and threatening charges, because this is how they can justify their actions and appear to be 'taking action.'

Because I am not an addict, alcoholic or even smoke or drink caffeine, I cannot go into a treatment program without an addiction, so I have not even seen my child in over 5 months and she is only 3 years old, I missed Christmas and now Easter, and she is soon turning 4 and I will miss this too if no one helps

My daughter has asthma and they have taken away her medications because they want to insinuate I am 'making that up', even though a top pediatrician diagnosed and treated her, and now she is getting sick.

Because my disease is both Genetic and Terminal, I am terrified the stress will trigger this same disease in her as it did in me, and she won't live to see 12, which would be murder of an innocent, but simply called 'another statistic.'

When children are abused or murdered in care and families destroyed, because it is government sanctioned it's called a 'statistic' instead of 'abuse and murder.'

Because my daughter was the victim of an abduction attempt by her paternal grand/step grandparents, and had never been away from me before, she was already traumatized to the point she couldn't even be in another room from me and was terrified of strangers, and now she will now be scarred for life.

Unbelievably, though it took 6 months of therapy for her to deal with this, these abusers, *who have hurt her physically as well*, are allowed access and may even get her placed with them as they can afford a lawyer and get to court and I cannot.

Because I am disabled, my legal aid lawyer decided my case wasn't worth working on and cost me to lose my child for another 3 months, also refusing my instructions to ask for any access to her.

Because I am disabled, and 'not worth the time' my lawyer set a date and didn't even show up, causing a ruling against me in my absence, though she knew no one could get there when she did it.

Because I am disabled, with an auto-immune disease, when the stress from the systemic abuse and abduction of my child made me sick, they said it proved they were right and I am medically unfit, despite multiple doctor's reports stating that stopping the stress would immediately stop the symptoms, and not stopping it may cost me my life.

The latest social worker from Langley MCFD Traci Braley stated that my disability 'was no reason to take a child from its mother', though she has made no effort to do her job to assist me to see and get my daughter back as well.

She was provided with all medical documentation and stated passing my hair test would be all she needed to settle the 'treatment center issue' and transfer my daughter back to me, then decided it was too much effort to help, or was just lying in the first place, shattering my hopes and heart again.

Because I am disabled, if this happens, though it is almost equivalent to manslaughter, they will say it would have happened anyway, and they were right to do this, even though I was in remission and doing well before they did so.

Because I am disabled, I am 'invisible' so workers ignore my calls or hang up on me, while calling themselves 'professionals' and patronize me, then try and blame it on me.

Because I am disabled and was abused I have been told I must have a mental disorder, despite multiple psychiatric reports to the contrary.

Because I am disabled and cannot travel 1800 kms and an ocean away to see my child, I have been told 'I don't care and don't want to.'

Because I am disabled, the stress can kill me, and I sometimes feel this is the goal.

Because I am disabled, I cannot drive, and have been told I simply don't 'want' to get around easily.

Because I am disabled, neither cab fare nor public transportation is possible for me to use I have been told I just don't want to get there.

Because I am disabled, I do not have the \$2,000 it would cost to make the 2 day trip for a one hour visit, even if I physically could, and have been told I 'just don't want to go.'

Because I am disabled, I started a non profit, which I was forced to halt, and am at risk of losing everything, because the Ministry is trying to make me into a full time 'patient' when I could be a full time parent and contributor to my community again.

And to the government, that makes me disposable.

If this isn't the worst types of abuses, I don't know what are.

That is what it is to be a disabled woman in Canada.