

Good afternoon,

My name is Asheli Miller and I am from Georgetown, SC. I am currently involved in a battle with the Department of Social Services here in Georgetown County. On November 9th, DSS came to my son's school about a report they received the previous week regarding my five year old son. Allison Inetti, (not sure about the last name spelling) was the investigator my fiance and I spoke with. She was initially aggressive and hostile. Accusing both of us for being abusive parents. My five year had, what they described at the time, as cigarette burns and some bruising on his arm. I have seen the pictures and they were not cigarette burns. We don't smoke. They were in fact marks left by a belt, to which my fiance admitted to doing. Allison wouldn't hear of it and she said, DSS felt an emergency safety plan was necessary. We called my fiance's mother to the school to temporarily take the children. You see, I gave birth on SEPTEMBER 11th 2015, to a baby girl named Ryan.

We left to go to the Georgetown County Sheriff's Department. There we were separated and interrogated. They refused me the option of having an attorney. Saying, we are just talking. The victim advocate, Alma Sierra, and Detective Aswald or "WOO" as he is called, were very aggressive and suggestive in making me to be some domestic violence victim. They wanted me to go into emergency housing. So, if you are keeping up, at this point, I've left work. Came to my son's school, learned he had some bruising, and now being forced to believe I am a domestic violence victim. I have a family member, young girl, who was killed in Conway, SC last year because of domestic violence. So you can imagine how disturbing it is for the police and victim advocate to play God and imply I must be. As if threatening me that must be the case, is my only option to keep my children.

Once the interrogation is done, Alma Sierra, the victim advocate informs me they will tear up the safety plan and I can go home. She kept saying how Mr Joshua Kirven, my fiance, is a sociopath because unlike me he wasn't crying. He was too composed. She also asked if he ever threatened me with a gun or if we have any. Why? Because he was in the army, military police, and was wearing his military police hoodie with the emblem on it. Because it has guns on it, he therefore must be a sociopath. I come from a long line of military men, like most people in the South. So once again, you can imagine my confusion and distaste for someone implying being in the military makes you abusive and crazy.

Alma Sierra and now the same detective, speak with me together and threatened to arrest me if I alert Mr Kirven, they have nothing to arrest him. The plan now is to proceed to the hospital where my son has gone for an examination. Alma asks the Detective, if he can arrest Mr. Kirven. He replies, " No, it would be illegal". She tells him, "call another judge, I don't care what you do, make it happen. She asks if we can transport him as well to stall for time". He says " ill see what I can do".

So now me, Mr. Kirven, and the victim advocate drive to Georgetown Memorial Hospital where my children are at this point. When we get there I go in the exam room with my baby and my son. Mr Kirven is left with his mother and now father. They sent SEVEN police officers to arrest a willing and peaceful man. That to me seems excessive. The victim advocate told me, she would personally make sure he doesn't get out anytime soon and stall if she has too. She makes a call and tell me the Emergency

plan is no longer in place and I can take my children home. To report to the family justice center the next day and we can go to emergency housing.

The next morning, I take my NEWBORN daughter and my five year old son to the Family Justice Center, but when I get there Alma calls and says come to the Sheriff's office. She is there with Allison. Saying, we now have a new report. Allison is going to take your children. I am distraught and sick to my stomach. I just delivered this baby and I have raised Lucian alone all his life. They take my baby out of my hands. Allison assures me reunification is possible. 45 days she says.

My compliance:

The day they took my children, I gave them breast milk, clothes, wipes and diapers, even a car seat.

The day of the first and only family meeting, I asked Allison's boss, what I can do proactively. Like classes etc. I threw out parenting? and her response was, " any idiot can change a diaper, I don't think you need a parenting class"

I believe she may be confused with NEW PARENT class and PARENTING classes.

I call my caseworker three times a day, I wrote them a 3-5 page detailed paper on how to care for my son. Why? :

Because the foster mom, Mrs Shaw, was not caring for them. At my visits, they were not appropriate;y clothed for the weather. My baby had diaper rash. My son was covered in bumps. I made my notations clear to DSS. I was ignored, but I was persistent and finally they relayed the message took better care of my babies. Even got me a doctor appointment because I was concerned about my son's weight loss and rash.

Ryan Kirven (my daughter)

While in foster care, got a cold. Instead of the diapers and creams I gave them, used cheap diapers. Once I complained enough, the switched to the PAMPERS brand I had given then and finally dressed her properly.

Lucian Vega (my son)

Lucian has apraxia of speech and asthma, as well as bug allergies and eczema.

While in foster care, he wasn't given his inhaler or medicines regularly (I know this because I asked him and he complained to me) He had a cold and at one time was wheezy. He has scaring on his body now because his eczema went untreated. I gave the foster parent Aquaphor as well as instructions of how to help him recover. To which she ignored. At times, he was wearing dingy clothes and not enough or any jacket for the weather. He complained to me , his foster mom told him if he didn't like the food, don't eat it. I told Daphne, a DSS worker who supervised one

visit. To which she replied to me, "if he is hungry enough, he'll eat". I found that comment to be very rude and inappropriate thing to say about a child. If my son was eating well, why did he scarf down food I bought him. On one visit he ate, a medium bag of Doritos, two rice crispy treats, a six piece chicken nugget happy meal, and was still hungry. He told me the foster mom doesn't lotion him. At two visits, I lotioned his entire body. When I got to certain parts he cried, saying it hurt. Because he was scratching. Again I kept complaining to DSS, my case worker Tracy Antley told me, "my standards and DSS standards are not going to be the same. Mrs Shaw is a good foster parent. I think Asheli you have high standards". I don't see anything wrong with a parent having high standards for the quality of care of their children. In a month, of visits, I can go on and on about my son's care. Truly unacceptable.

When we went to court Dec 16th, 2015, Allison was strong on trying to push us both to register for THE NATIONAL ABUSE REGISTRY. To which we both declined, Mr Kirven wants to be a border agent, and I substitute teacher want to become a full time teacher. If I knew DSS would stall till March of this year. I would've taken the witnesses I had that day and proceeded with trial.

I am told we cannot go to court till March 2016. My five year old has never been away from me, he is upset and suffering. My newborn is not bonding with me because I can only visit her. As a mother, who has never been arrested and very educated. You can understand my pain. DSS does not have any evidence on me but has decided to make an example out of us. As a teacher, I have had to report child abuse. I know what abuse is, and I have never abused my child. I have doctors, and family, friends, willing to have their say. Anyone who knows me, knows my parenting style. I communicate with my son, he is very well behaved. He has come a long way. With his apraxia, about three years ago, he was said to have autism or Asperger. I fought that diagnosis and got him into the special needs program at McDonald Elementary. He was there until May of last year when he placed out. I take him to treatment twice a week, and he got speech services at school. Since the two years we've been together, Mr Kirven has also worked with my son to help him in his therapy. He is not Lucian's biological father. His father has abandoned him so Mr Kirven is all he knows. I was NOT AWARE anything had happened. When I noticed some bruising, I CONTACTED his teacher that Monday NOV 9 2015. Mr Kirven admitted to the excessive spanking and has voluntarily sought treatment at the VA here for PTSD. He wants to learn from this so he can be back in our children's lives. He is willing to do more treatment until he is better, and is ok staying away if the kids come back until he feel fine. With this being said, why can't DSS return my children.

Allison keeps telling me reunification, and several people from DSS keeps saying we are trying to help. My son has been to two different schools, can't go to his speech services and has been taken from his home. That is not helping, I attended one Domestic Violence support group and I found it incredibly intrusive. These women are

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living in fear and are going through something, I shouldn't hear. I felt I was violating them. I am not in fear. I started parenting classes on my own the very next Monday my kids were taken. I have been going since. I wanted to get an understanding of what DSS may think I need. I have learned from these classes. I am an excellent parent Even my instructor feels I don't belong there, but she commends me on still trying. I hear women who are repeat offenders. Who seriously don't comprehend basic parenting and either don't get it or do not want to get it. I've learned some of these people are pros. They have lost their kids, for a shorter time frame than me. For serious offenses.

I am troubled every time I hear this because I'm good parent. I love my kids, I feel bad this happened. But I truly believe Mr. Kirven didn't do anything intentionally and will learn from it. And if he doesn't, I'm prepared to be a single mom. I don't understand why Allison, the investigator kept calling my son while he was in foster care. Someone in foster care told him about Mr. Kirven being arrested. My five year old told me ,"someone at the house I am at, said I can't go home because Daddy beats me. Hey mom does he? Is he still in jail?".

As a mom, it broke my heart. Since my mom has gotten temporary custody. I visit my kids EVERY DAY. I keep telling him daddy is on a special mission. He knows Mr. Kirven was in the military, so it is plausible to him and is working. But he is dying to come home. I'm afraid if he has to wait till March, the damage will be irreparable . There are several other comments, situations with DSS that has occurred in this case, I can write a book. I have been doing research and I cannot see why DSS took my kids and want to keep them so long. I feel they, DSS in Georgetown SC, has a problem with my diverse family. My fiance is white, my son is Hispanic, my daughter white, Hispanic, black. Myself Mexican and black. Comments were made about his military service that to me seem UnAmerican. Being in the military doesn't mean you are abusive or a sociopath.

This whole case is being handled wrong. I am a desperate mother, I cannot sit back and watch my children suffer. I have reached out to you two. As well as the Civil discrimination office in Washington, DC. And I will continue to find someone to hear me. Please can you look into my case. Help me, I beg of you. I love my children and I need to be with my babies. My newborn and my son. I don't know why DSS here is giving me a hard time, I feel there is discrimination going on and I don't think they like someone willing to fight. Allison lied about comments I made and I strongly feel she and the school coerced my son into comments.

Earlier this year, my son was removed from one child development class at Kensington Elem, after I made a call to the District office. Mrs. Eades, his first teacher, made comments to my fiance and and we felt she had a problem with interracial couples. She also kept implying my son was angry and didn't know anything .He was in school more than any other kid in that class because of the schooling he got at McDonald. I made them switch teachers. And ever since then, the principal and Mrs Eades has given me a hard time and I felt they were looking for any opportunity to get back at me. But this

experience has not made me silent. If I ever feel my children are not being taken care of , I will still speak up for them.

I do not know the extent of your powers. But I ask you to sympathize with me and help me. I love my children and I deeply care for them. I am a great mom. People can vouch for that, not because its a popularity contest. But because people see how i'm always willing to fight for what is right. After teaching one semester of NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND English for Carvers Bay Middle as a tutor for Sylvan Learning at that time, I understand what a bad parent is. Arguing or allowing someone to get you out of character is not the way to go. If you want someone to listen. Be educated and speak to them. I am not the person to lose my temper or be hostile. Which is why I have been compliant . I am the person who studies the situation and proceeds as necessary. I believe the pen is mightier than the sword and as the old folks say, you catch more flies with honey. You won't find anyone to say other wise. I do not appreciate her trying to label me as that. If you don't believe me, ask the former principal at McDonald Elementary. Whenever I had a problem, I was always respectful. . I have been very involved and until Mr Kirven came in the picture, the only parent Lucian has known. So I can give you more than just she's a good mom. I can prove to you, she's very intelligent, determined, thoughtful, loving, trustworthy, hard working, and dedicated mom.

I feel like i'm the statistic right now with DSS. I am challenging them and trying to get answers because this is wrong. There is no question about it. Please, please, help me.

Thank you for your time,
Asheli Miller

pronounced ASHLEY

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You can call me anytime.