

## Statutory Declaration

I, Brien, Lizzie (L) et Brien Allan (A)

(Name, first name, address, birth date)

Cell phone: [REDACTED]

Birthdate: Lizzie [REDACTED] 1958. Allan: [REDACTED] 1959

Recorded on, 2018.06.14

I do solemnly declare that,

A : Our son has a Down syndrome. Before Christmas, we had an emergency for our son so we went to the clinic. He lost weight. He suddenly didn't want to eat. He hardly eat. Only drinking. We didn't know what happened so we took him to the clinic in Mistissini and they said there is nothing wrong, just take Tylenol.

QUESTION: It was a nurse or a doctor?

A and L : Nurse and doctor, both.

QUESTION: Why did you decide to take him in emergency to the clinic that day?

A : Because he didn't feel well. When he lied down, he always take his stomach.

QUESTION: Did the doctor ask you questions?

A : Yes, a lot of questions. He said there is nothing wrong, that he is going to eat when is hungry. So his weight went down to 155.

QUESTION: The doctor knew all that?

A : Yes. Once I went to see the doctor and asked him: « If you don't know what's wrong, why instead of waiting 3 or 4 weeks for the results of the blood tests, why don't you send him to Montreal. He didn't eat yet, it's an emergency. Don't wait for the results. » And the doctor said that he would only send him to Val d'Or because it would cost a lot of money to send him to Montreal for nothing. »

QUESTION: That's what he told you?

A : Yes. He said « There is nothing wrong with him ». I don't know how many times we went there for the same problem.

QUESTION: For the same problem?

La présente déclaration statutaire a été présentée par téléphone  
 courriel  courrier  en personne  à monsieur/madame  
Allan et Lizzie Brien qui nous confirme  
que son contenu correspond bel et bien à ce qu'il/qu'elle nous a  
rapporté(e) en date du 2018-06-14 2018.  
Signature du déclarant : [Signature]  
Date : 2018-11-05  
Therese  
ag avec  
compét.

[Signature]

A : Yes.

QUESTION: You went to the clinic here in Mistissini how many times since Christmas ?

A : Many many times. Once every week.

QUESTION: Every week?

L : Yes.

QUESTION: Telling you to give your son Tylenol because he has nothing?

A : Yes. And one time, finally, they suspected something in the stomach so they told us that he had an appointment to put the camera inside his stomach. They found out that he couldn't digest his food properly. That is what was causing the pain. They said: « When we get the results next week, we are going to give him antibiotics. » They started to give him two kinds of antibiotic. One kind, we had to give him 4 times a day, 2 pills. And the other kind it was 2 pills, 4 times a day. That is 16 pills of antibiotics a day for two weeks. He finished them off and still had pain and he lost more and more weight.

QUESTION: Seems like it didn't work?

A : And they gave him a different kind of antibiotics for two more weeks.

L : The first ones didn't help so they started a different kind for another two weeks. The same two pills but stronger

QUESTION: When did he start to take those pills?

A : It was during the goose break. He had emergency from our camp to Chibougamau.

QUESTION: So you went to the hospital in Chibougamau?

A : Yes.

L : While we were driving, me and my daughter, on the Route du Nord to take him to Chibougamau, he almost passed out. My daughter said « Jonathan what's wrong with you? » He wasn't sleepy, we knew he almost passed out, so my daughter drove fast to the hospital. When we got to the hospital, they admitted him right away.

QUESTION: In Chibougamau?

L : Yes, and the doctor came right away cause they saw he was very weak, drowsy but he didn't sleep. They admitted him in the emergency room. They did check-up, they took urine tests, blood tests. His urine was almost red, like dark brown. They took it to the lab and when the doctor came back he said that he was almost dehydrated. « You almost lost your son », that's what he said. And he asked me: « What kind of pills is he taking? » I said thyroid and synthroid pills.



QUESTION: That the doctor here (Mistissini) gave him?

L : Yes, the doctor here (Mistissini) gave him those pills because we came back and forth at the clinic and the doctor was kind of frustrated. I think he gave him these pills because he was tired of him.

L : When he went in emergency to the hospital, the doctor in Chibougamau took off all the pills... He said that all these antibiotics was too much. ... In our son's file, the doctor saw that he had the camera in his stomach, and he said it was not an infection, not a bacteria, it was just that he can't digest his food. It is not an infection. He didn't need those antibiotics.

QUESTION: So what did the doctor in Chibougamau do after that?

L : He took off all those antibiotics and gave him only one pill for the stomach. For a while, it helped. The doctor said if he feels okay, stop giving him those pills. And now he's starting to eat because we stopped those pills.

QUESTION: You were satisfied about the services at the hospital in Chibougamau?

L : Yes, he gave us more attention.

A : He worried about our son. He said to us: « When he's sick again, don't take him to the clinic, bring him to Chibougamau».

QUESTION: Do you know the name of the doctor over here?

L : His first name was Joe. He's not here since very long.

QUESTION: He's pretty new?

QUESTION: We take name because we are here to understand what happens, not especially to blame people. I understand your frustration about this situation. This doctor told you to bring your son to Val-d'Or, did you accept that?

A : Yes, we took him to Val d'Or.

L : He was supposed to have a nuclear test for his thyroid. That's what they blamed at first when he lost weight. They say sometimes the Thyroid goes up and down and sometimes they lose weight or they gain weight sometimes. So, that's what they wanted to find out, how the thyroid was. They wanted to give him that nuclear test and they would give him a one-time pill for the rest of his life. But Down syndrome they are not easy to handle. The moment you put him in that machine, he wanted to jump off. It was hard for the nurses, so they just made an x-ray. They said it's not nuclear test but as long as we see how his thyroid is working.

QUESTION: So it seemed okay?

L : That's what they said but they told us to continue to give the pills that we were given to him.

QUESTION: So you went to the hospital of Val-d'Or only once?

L : Yes.

QUESTION: You never went to the hospital in Val d'Or except for this?

A : No, but we wanted to take him to Montreal and the doctor here didn't accept it.

L : That's where he was born, in Montreal. A social worker gave me a card, she asked me if we had a doctor back home and she said call me if they don't want to help if he gets sick or something. But I lost the card. I don't know if she's working anymore, it was 27 years ago.

QUESTION: He was born in what hospital?

L and A : Ste Mary's then he was transferred to Children's hospital because they didn't know what was wrong with him, he was very weak and floppy.

QUESTION: I'm happy to hear you received good services in Chibougamau. Do you know the name of the doctor?

L : No, we forgot his name but we know him well.

QUESTION: How many times you went to the hospital in Chibougamau.

L : It's the second time he sees that doctor in Chibougamau.

QUESTION: And there, you are well informed?

L : I think the Chibougamau doctors and nurses know our son.

QUESTION: Do you appreciate their services?

L : Yes.

A : When we take him to the hospital in Chibougamau, they say they don't have authorization to send Jonathan to Montreal for a full check-up. You have to take him back to the clinic to make arrangements but they didn't accept it. They said there is nothing wrong.

QUESTION: Okay, I understand, Chibougamau has no power to send him to Montreal, it's really the clinic here? But they said he is okay, he cannot go to Montreal?

L : Yes.

QUESTION: Have you ever called directly to Montreal?

L : Not yet.

QUESTION: Do you know why they don't want to send him to Montreal? They said he is okay and the doctor you talked about, Dr. Joe, he is the one who said that it cost too much money?

A : Yes. That's what the Cree Health Board would say.

QUESTION: Okay, I understand your point about the Cree Health Board after that. You went to the clinic many many times, every week. It was the same doctor every time?

L : No. There were different doctors. I went to the clinic with my son. I asked the nurse I want Dr. Joe to see my son. Dr. Joe came, that's how we got to know that doctor. At first, I thought he was doing a good job, he always tried to help my son and then, because we came so many times to the clinic, I guess, he got frustrated and got tired of us.

QUESTION: That's how you felt?

L and A : Yes.

QUESTION: Because, his attitude changed?

L, A : Yes.

QUESTION: He was not nice?

L : Yes, after all he was not nice.

A : The last time we took him he didn't want to see him...

L : ...Yes when we took him there he said : « I said I will see him in one week. So I don't have to see him right now. » That's what he said and the nurse came back.

QUESTION: Did you explain all that to the doctor in Chibougamau ? Did you explain your situation with the clinic here?

A : Yes, we did. That's why they said don't go there.

QUESTION: Come here?

A : Yes.

QUESTION: But when you wanted to give him a check-up in Montreal, an annual evaluation, they could not do nothing?

A : Yes. In Chibougamau, they told us to take him back to the clinic, they will make arrangements appointments.

QUESTION: Because the Cree Health Board pay for that, is that right?

A : Yes.

QUESTION: Okay, it's about administration?

A : Yes.

QUESTION: Talk to me about the Cree Health Board there.

L : They said « You're gonna go there for nothing, and the Cree Health Board has to spend a lot of money for you to go there and you're going there for nothing. »

QUESTION: The doctor at the clinic here?

L : Yes.

QUESTION: And what do you have to say about the Cree Health Board?

L : They are only looking at money rather than our health.

QUESTION: When you say the Cree Health Board you mean the clinic?

L : Yes.

A : What I understand is that both of us can go to Montreal and our son is 27 years old and he's very hard to handle.

L : They always want one of us to take him there but we always want both of us to go, because you know how Down syndroms are.

QUESTION: Yes, I understand.

A : The Cree Health Board doesn't understand that.

L : When I go to the washroom I have to leave him there with nobody else to take care of him and that's what the Cree Health Board doesn't understand. They say: «You can go with him».

A : One escort only, not two.

QUESTION: But, his condition is very difficult so you need to be together but they refuse. Do they understand the difficulties of you son? What is his name?

A and L : Jonathan.

QUESTION: Is it Jonathan Brien? Can I have his birthdate?

L : June 1st 1991.



QUESTION: Are the nurse here okay with you?

L : They do the same thing as the doctor did.

QUESTION: If I asked you if you have recommendation to improve the services here, what would it be? I understand the Cree Health Board should authorize both of you to go with your son. But, here at the clinic, do you have something to recommend?

A : When you don't know a patient, his sickness, why don't you send him to Montreal to have a full check-up before it's too late instead of trying pills and pills. Before it's too late cause we lost lots of people like that.

QUESTION: The clinic or the Cree Health Board don't want to send people to Montreal because it cost too much money?

L : It's like the lady who just passed away, she was only about 65 or 66 years old. She said « They still don't know what's wrong with me. They keep telling try this pill, try this pill. I have been coming here back and forth for a long time. » I told her why don't you go to Montreal for a full check-up? « I guess they are short of money », that's what she said. She passed away few days after, a week after. She went to Montreal and the doctor said it's too late, it's leukemia. She said « I have been coming to the clinic, asking why am I having this pain and they just told me take Tylenol go home and rest, you are tired. And she passed away a week after.

QUESTION: Do you have something else to share to us?

L : They did the same thing to me twice. I didn't know I had appendicitis. I kept going back and forth to the clinic saying I had so much pain. The doctor told me you're tired, go home, rest and take Tylenol. I tried that.

QUESTION: They didn't check on you? They didn't do any test?

L : No.

QUESTION: Still in the clinic in Mistissini ?

L : Yes, and they even lied to me and said, when I was having so much pain.: « You're gonna see a doctor. » And that's a nurse that came. I have seen this Chinese nurse before. I looked at him and said: « Is this the doctor? » and the nurse said « yes, this is the doctor ». I said « no, this is not a doctor, this is a nurse. I saw him before ». They tried to lie to me. Somebody took me to Chibougamau right after midnight because I couldn't stand the pain anymore. I had blood tests and I had a surgery in emergency. The doctor came to me after the surgery and he said « If you didn't come in one more day, I don't think you would be here because you had appendicitis ». I thought it would be a 2 hours surgery but it was a 4 hours surgery because I had to clean your inside. »

QUESTION: If you were at the hospital earlier, the surgery wouldn't be that complicated?

L : I would die if they didn't take me there. If I didn't have the surgery right away...

QUESTION: Who decided to send you to Chibougamau's hospital?

L : Us. The doctor didn't want to send me to Chibougamau, he said it's okay, go home, lie down, you're tired.

QUESTION: And the doctor in Chibougamau said that if you had waited two more days, you could die ?

A and L : One more day because it was already busted.

QUESTION: I'm happy that you are here with us. It's a good move that you went to Chibougamau. I guess, you are not trusting the clinic here anymore?

L : That's true. There's another thing. I was having a chest tightness and I couldn't walk around anymore. I kept going to the clinic, they just gave me "puffers". They said take 4 puffs 4 times but I said I don't think it's a good idea 4 puffs, it's always written on the label. I kept going back and forth to the clinic and they said « There is nothing wrong with you. There is nothing we can do. » They took me to Chibougamau again. I was admitted and I told « I was spitting blood, I spitted in a napkin, it was pure blood, I took it to the clinic and they told me that it was normal. » I called at the hospital in Chibougamau and I asked: Is it normal to spit blood? And they said « No. Where are you? Can you come right away? » My husband took me to Chibougamau's hospital. I had asked antibiotics at the clinic because I knew I had infection but they said « No, because you are diabetic so you cannot take antibiotic ». I called again and they said: « Even if you come over, I will not give you antibiotic ».

QUESTION: And, at Chibougamau, what did they discover?

L : That I had pneumonia. They said it's very bad infection.

QUESTION: Did they give you antibiotics?

L : Yes, they gave me antibiotics by intravenous.

QUESTION: When was it?

L : April 2018 and the appendicitis was in December 2017. That's very bad. I don't want to trust these people anymore.

QUESTION: You don't trust the clinic anymore? So you are gonna go right away to Chibougamau, paying for the gas?

L : Yes.

QUESTION: The Cree Health Board don't pay for the gas?

L : No.

QUESTION: Do they pay the medical?

L : We have our medical card.

A : The other thing is that the doctor told me here « If I have to take your son to Montreal, you'll pay everything.»

QUESTION: You have to pay the doctor's service's cost?

A : And we know it cost a lot of money.

QUESTION: I'm happy you received good services in Chibougamau. What you say is that every time you go to Chibougamau, they diagnose well your situation and give you the right medication?

A : Yes. Even though if the doctor in Chibougamau send a letter here at the clinic to send Jonathan to Montreal, they don't agree here.

QUESTION: That happens?

L : They refused that.

QUESTION: Do you have a copy of that letter?

A : No

L : They have those in Jonathan's file.

QUESTION: The hospital in Chibougamau sent a letter to the clinic saying that Jonathan has to be transferred to Montreal but the clinic refused that because they don't agree?

A : Yes.

QUESTION: Thank you for your sharing, your story fits exactly in our mandate.



