

Statutory Declaration

I, 

(Name, first name, address, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

Declaration taken by the investigation agent Benoit Théoret in  on 2018-06-15 with the help of the Interpreter: 

Q1: [Not on tape]

A1: With the incident that she is going to be talking about, she has always written down what happened, the dates and even the hours, but her papers are all over the place even before they leave. She may be able to start looking for it and collect them and give them to you later, but she's also being pulled to go out hunting so she might not be able to do it.

Q2: So do your best with your memory and we'll see. Maybe I will be able to do my job without having the precise dates, so if you don't know exactly the date, maybe you remember the year and you remember the season or the month. So, as precise as possible, even though it might not be possible to know exactly the time and the date.

A2 : She's being trying to go get the dishes and stuff were made by the justice, but sometimes she would be told that there's missing files so does that mean that maybe you would be able to maybe find those missing files?

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

Q3: You have to remember the goal of our commission is not to do the job of any of the services that are there, it's more to hear what went wrong and to provide at the end some recommendations on how to do better for the aboriginal people.

A3: *I forgot to say you're not here to correct anything.* First, she's going to talk about her baby in regards to the DYP services. There was a lady named [REDACTED] while she was pregnant she offered her to see if she would like adopt that child when that baby is born. After she had consulted with her children whether if they would mind that her mom adopt and when they agreed, that baby was born on [REDACTED] and she had that baby for three (3) months and [REDACTED] the biological mother would start calling up her mother and her father while he was still alive and to her kids, but never directly to her, saying that child is not the child of the *hallunak* (de race blanche) guy she was going out with because that baby was pure Inuk, because the father was Inuk. And she would call in the middle of the night, day and night, anytime, intoxicated saying that she's going to commit suicide.

Q4: Do we have the year?

A4: She has the... Declaration of birth. Adoption. Declaration of Inuk customary adoption. That's the original. And the declaration of birth for Quebec.

Q5: Okay. [REDACTED]

A5: That baby was born in [REDACTED] I haven't seen that baby since that baby was taken away. But she had that baby for three (3) months. [REDACTED] The biological mother [REDACTED] when she was intoxicated, she would harass her parents and her children, but never directly to her. And she was getting tired for them to be harassed by her all the time and she would only call when she's intoxicated and never directly to her. So she called the DYP saying that can someone take care of my baby, at least for one week for now? She's never done that with her own children, but it was the first time that she asked for help to the DYP. So they agreed to have the baby for one week and without her knowledge, their baby was placed in different homes here in [REDACTED] and then

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Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

that baby was brought to POV (Puvirnitug) without her knowledge. And when they finally that DYP social worker called from POV's hospital saying that the baby was in the hospital and they asked her to come to the baby. Actually, she had the phone call from here while the baby was still here and they asked who is going to escort the baby to POV and she didn't even know that she was going to be sent away. My daughter went to her, she went to escort the baby and once my daughter was going to bring her back to Inukjuak and give that baby to me when she was discharged from the hospital. And the social worker [REDACTED] refused for that baby to be brought here.

Q6: To be brought back here?

A6: Yes. So ever since that baby was brought South, she has never seen that baby or heard of him. She tried to get information where that baby is, to see what's going on and nobody ever told her about anything.

Q7: When she said she tried, who did she try to talk to?

A7: To DYP.

Q8: At the office?

A8: Yes. She goes at the office, she calls someone on the phone and nobody ever tell her anything.

Q9: When you go to the office like that, do you have to speak French or English or you can talk Inuktitut?

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Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

A9: Inuktitut. With the interpreter.

Q10: Did you feel that they understood your demand?

A10: Yes. Finally, the investigators are all changing. The social workers, about three to four (3-4) years later, finally somebody came to ask what was going on, what happened.

Q11: Who is this person?

A11: She has been ask three times, she doesn't know. I don't remember any other when I was being asked, but I know that I was asked three (3) times. Once the baby was in POV, I was given... Two (2) times I was asked to sign some papers without being explained to what was that paper about. Even when I asked, they didn't answer my question, why? For what?

Q12: You said you met three (3) persons, or at three (3) different times?

A12: Three (3) times she had been asked, three (3) times. Met three (3) times, but two (2) times she has been given two (2) papers separate times, not at the same time. Two (2) different papers to sign. These were three (3) different people and these were other people. Those two (2) people that in two (2) different occasions they were two (2) times that she was asked to sign paper by elderly persons. And they wouldn't tell me what it was about, but since I know that people, parents who have their children under the custody of DYP usually have to sign paper so I was just thinking to myself, maybe that's it. And after, there was a request for me to sign papers and one my daughter told me that don't sign any papers if they're not answering the questions that you're asking for and what you're signing for. And that paper I didn't know that it was about adoption papers, I refuse to sign it and I never did.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q13: Could it be possible that the two (2) times that you met with the elderly person to sign a paper, that these papers would have been adoption paper?

A13: Maybe. I don't know because there was two (2) people and both elderly. Even though I tried to ask, they didn't answer my questions. And I know that they were white people.

Q14: Good. I understand.

A14: So after having met those three (3) different people three (3) times, we finally went to the court [REDACTED]. That came from the meeting of these three (3) people.

Q15: And what happened?

A15: Since this was my first, I was not happy when I was being asked in the court. And when I was asked what I wanted, what my expectations are, I told them that since I never voluntarily gave him up, I want him back with me when he's ten (10) years old.

Q16: When you say her, you say the baby [REDACTED]?

A16: He is now seven (7) years old. So when I was asked what I wanted to do, what my expectations are from here by the court, I told them I want him back and once he's ten (10) years old. Gradually to get him back to me step by step. Let me go visit him, at his birthday, visit every season, so it will be

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Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

gradual, trying to know us back. And spring, summer, fall and winter time, but just two (2) days ago, I was told that he's not my child.

Q17: Who told her that?

A17: The DYP. A person name [REDACTED] at DYP told her that. That she was told that it's not her child.

Q18: Not anymore?

A18: Ironically, I saw these right after. She's been having these for... When she told me that this child is not mine, I got really mad, but my daughter happened to find them recently after I was told that these are the official papers of adoption papers.

Q19: And what is the next step?

A19: [REDACTED] the DYP social worker told her that she should communicate with her lawyer. Because we don't have a phone at home and once I'll have the time, I'll try to get in touch with that lawyer.

Q20: About POV, you said you met two (2) different person and signed a paper...

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

A20: No, first this was a time when the baby was brought to the hospital, to POV. While that baby was away, I signed two (2) papers by the two (2) elderly. I was never ever notified when that paper was brought to the hospital, nobody ever told me that when she was brought to Val-d'Or.

Q21: How did she learn about that?

A21: It was the biological mother who was only communicated to, not her. And I did my best to try to ask information, but I want to know, but nobody ever said anything except for the biological mother who was given all the information.

Q22: Can I see the paper?

A22: This is the declaration of birth from Montreal which is from the hospital. And here is one, it comes with the father signature and the biological mother and adopted mother from the mayor of the town and it was signed. It is customary adoption.

Q23: Can you tell me who...?

A23: [REDACTED] was the mayor at that time

Q24: And who was the President of the Land holding?

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Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

A24: [REDACTED]

Q25: It says here to send copy to the Nunavik enrollment register office.

A25: Maybe.

Q26: Did she do it?

A26: Yes. I did all the necessary legal papers as soon as we arrived here.

Q27: Because I see here the declaration of birth also that your name is already there as other parent.

A27: Yes, it's true that it states her has other mother.

Q28: And your date was about like...

A28: [REDACTED]

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q29: Ah, a month later.

A29: That was the next day because the baby was born on [REDACTED] And this is [REDACTED]

Q30: Next day, yes, that's true. This one is a witness, right?

A30: This is the midwife. She was the witness.

Q31: And the baby was born in the [REDACTED] Hospital?

A31: In [REDACTED]

Q32: Do you think we have all the information that you wanted to tell us?

A32 : Since I'm still fighting for him, I'd like to know why nobody can tell us no information, how come we're not allowed to visit him or get any pictures of him or any kind of information about what's going on with him. I envy the other parents who go see their children to go at the visit to visit their children even less than a month later [that] they've been down.

Q33: They've been send down?

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

A33: The other parents who have their children taken away downtown. In less than a month, their parents are able to go visit them, but how come not her?

Q34: I want to tell her that if she gets in contact with a lawyer, she's going to be able to have more information.

A34: Even after I talked about all this, there's still nothing that has been done and after this meeting.

Q35: For sure, our lawyer is going to ask to access the information.

A35: Your lawyer or hers?

Q36: The lawyer of the Commission. I'm pretty sure he's going to try and access the information, but they're not allowed to talk to her about that. Also, since it seems to be contested in a way, but the information they're going to gather is to be able to understand what went on and bring the story to the Commission and make sure a recommendation is done, anything like discrimination, different treatment or any sort of violence have been used against her, the adoptive mother.

A36: Yes at least if I can. I do not just want to drop that with no information. I'm trying to request for questions that I have that have not been answered. I do not just want to be disrespected like this because I see it as a problem, it's my problem as well, at least when somebody explains to me, if I can get some kind of explanation, then I'll be able to understand more what I should do, and without knowing these, there's nothing that you feel like you're immobilized. But I just don't want to be shoved away on the side. When I am asking questions.

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

Q37: What is important, is because how I see it from the story that she's telling, is that there seems to be a conflict somewhere. We don't have the information now to understand what kind of conflict there is and you already received an advice, by someone from the Youth Protection to refer to the lawyer and I think this way, I think only with the lawyer you would be able to get the information to understand what went on and what you can do if you really want to get the child back if it's going to be possible to get the child back, for example. The lawyer is going to be able to provide you with this information.

A37: She understands. I just explained to her that you are not there to change whatever the DYP has to say or the judge, or whatever the legal documents have decided, that you're not there to make some changes. You're here to investigate how the DYP have done a proper legal way to deal with her file or not. But the commissioner will be the one to look at all these and the way that you guys are going to represented it to the commission that the DYP will have to be... He'll know, the commissioner will know that the DYP are doing things in the wrongful way. They'll have to make some changes. That's the purpose of the commission. That's exactly what I explained to her. Did I explain right?

Q38: Yes. I just want to add something, did you ever do business with legal aid?

A38: Yes, she has a legal aid lawyer. Yes, she's eligible for legal aid. She already has a lawyer.

Q39: Okay, but you have to know that the lawyers, most of the time, the lawyers that are for Youth Protection, they're specialized lawyer. Most of the time, they won't do anything else, they just do Youth Protection.

A39: During the court in POV, there were two (2) lawyers she didn't get any card or name from them, that were from the court. And after they talked to her, they went to the biological mother talk like a negotiation. I don't remember their names, but they were both very young.

X

Enquêteur

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Déclarant

Q40: Okay, I just want to explain to you about legal aid. They say you might be eligible? There's three (3) different ways. Either you are going to receive help, you're going to receive the services of a lawyer directly working for legal aid or you will hire a lawyer that will accept the contract with legal aid or if you want, you can hire a lawyer that doesn't accept the contract with legal aid, but then you pay the lawyer directly. There's the three (3) possibilities for you to hire a lawyer for Youth Protection. I could also give her a phone number for her to find a lawyer, if she wants to.

A40: She already has a lawyer it's [REDACTED] I'm not sure if [REDACTED] is a DYP lawyer, but she also might be a criminal court lawyer.

Q41: So I can give her a phone number so that maybe not directly, but with help she could call there and ask for a lawyer's name and phone number.

A41: 1-844 that's toll-free right?

Q42: Yes, it's toll free. So it's not legal aid, it's the association of law. So she would ask the lawyer from DYP and I'm from [REDACTED] and they will refer her someone. Do you have another story?

A42: She wants to go first.

Q43: You want to go? Okay.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

A43: This is a copy of her statement, complaint statement.

Q44: Do you want me to keep a copy of your papers?

A44: Yes.

Q45: I will take a photo.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant