

## Statutory Declaration

I, [REDACTED]

(Name, first name, address, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

The meeting takes place in the building of the [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] with the interpreter [REDACTED].

(La personne témoin en caractères normaux et les propos de l'interprète en italiques.)

They had a discussion together, a group of them, that they were not going to get involved in unwelcoming the child, coming to the world. She said she's a midwife. The DYP takes some children right away, at birth. They had a discussion and they said they were not going to be involved in doing that. But they never got an answer back.

Q1: You're talking about a group of midwives, or...? Ok.

R1: Me, as a midwife, I have experienced a lot of things myself, too. Let me explain first about my daughter. Maybe it was in [REDACTED]. The baby was born in [REDACTED] and I left for Quebec City with her, with my two kids. They have no father, too, he committed suicide. So I just left there to...be there...

She had moved there.

Wanted to move, but since my father died in [REDACTED] I was introducing him first, and he accepts the guy. Ok, I'll go stay with him in Quebec City. I don't know what I was thinking. I left there with the baby, my own baby and his baby, but I cannot live there. I noticed myself that I cannot live there. But he told me, when I was too angry and too depressed... that I just had an abortion, in Quebec City,

Declarer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Declared before me, \_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

and my mental was getting weird and can't do anything. Depression. So I tried to calm myself and I went out. Leave the house because there are kids that I don't want to get angry with. So I left and I just walked and walked and walked for a long time. Starting in the morning at eleven, and I came back at eleven at night, twelve. When I tried to come into his house, my two kids were there, and the baby was there. When I tried to come in there, he didn't want me to come in. So I started to get crazy. Too angry. But I was thinking: I have three kids inside there. I have to get in, I have to go in. When he opened the door, he told me: "You're not going to go with [REDACTED], to come into [REDACTED] when you want to go home, now. You have to go home, now. If you're not, you're not coming in." So, where am I going to stay? I just think and think. I was thinking and thinking and I was getting crazy. "Do this, do that!" I was getting crazy, uncontrollable. You want that baby? I'll get the paper. You go get the paper from the government that you're going to take my baby.

Go, do it! Call the police, let them come here!

I want to go home! Bring me to the airport!

I was getting too angry. Then, he gave me the paper that he's written himself. Not from the government, himself, with his girlfriend, ex-girlfriend. That he's written. Saying: I, [REDACTED] Myself! And I was getting angry at that. I thought you were going to get some papers... to fill out those papers to... that you're going to take the baby. I was getting too angry.

When I see that: Call the cops, let them come! I'm going to go home without saying anything. If you want that, I'm going to... you should call the cops to come here. So, there were six cops in there, three trucks. They think that I was getting crazy. When one of the cops was talking to me... I just want to go home, I told him. I just want to go home. Can he bring me to the airport with my two kids? Not that baby, I'm not going to take him anymore. Because it's too much, I cannot take her. In the morning, I was breastfeeding her. She was not on the bottle, I breastfed her for a year. She lived here for a year, and I just don't want to take her anymore. I don't want to be involved, anymore. So, I decided: in my life, I will never ever see you no more. I was too angry at myself.

And he was responding in French. She doesn't speak French or understand French.

I can barely understand French. So, I let him bring the baby to the grandmother. I let him and he came back. And I was getting angry at my two kids: let's go! He's going to bring us to the airport. I have tickets to come home. My mom is in Montreal, she's going to take care of me. So he brought us to the airport. And I keep telling them in Inuktitut: "We're going to be fine. We'll be fine. Grandma's there." And I keep telling him: "I just want to be in the streets without anything." Which I would never do. At the airport, my mother gets me, with a friend, and she brought us to the hotel. I only have a ticket for Friday morning, it was Wednesday. She brought us to the hotel and the friends came along with her. And they say: "You're going to need help from the social services and Youth Protection.

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

You're going to ask them right away, when you go home." And I try, I try... I was too angry, and they can't listen because I was too angry.

I'm not a beggar. I needed help. I didn't know what to do. Youth Protection was telling me: "She's with the father and we can't do anything. We won't do anything, since she's with the father." So, I just...ok. I went to social services, they just let me talk and talk and talk and talk. Nothing happens. So I try with a lawyer. They listen to me, but they can't do anything, too. My lawyer was helping me out. I wanted her birth certificate with my name out. She told me it's impossible, that you can't be off of her birth certificate. It still makes me angry. I started to be alcoholic, and alcohol and alcohol and alcohol. So, I tell myself: "Nobody will ever help me at all, never!"

I just continued life, I wanted to commit suicide once. I was too depressed. So, I had to help myself. I wanted to go for treatment, so I went. Because it was too much, I was too alcoholic. I've been going to prison without any court orders. So, I told myself: "That's enough, I have enough. I have to go to treatment." And I went, five years ago now. It didn't help but it helped me a lot without drinking. Thinking about my two kids that were seeing me like this. I think they're too angry, too. One of them died, recently, committed suicide. Last November. I keep blaming myself, sometimes.

I'm very sorry.

I keep telling myself: "Why am I angry? Why am I angry?" Because of those things that he wasn't wanting me to sign. Taking my baby... that I haven't seen her since. I haven't drunk in five years, now.

Q2: Can I ask you a question? Just to make sure I understand well. You had to abandon your daughter because you wanted to go right away back home? Was it the reason why you had to leave here?

R2: It's because he told me... without anything, like... You're not going to come in, that's what he said. You're not going to go into the house, you're going to have to promise me not to take my daughter to go to the North anymore.

Q3: And that was the only way that you felt you could go back...

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R3: Safely.

Q4: Safely, yes.

R4: I was signing that I only can see her twice a year. That I never go there, paying 3000\$ just to go see her. So, that's why I never go see her. So, the lawyers are telling me: "You never see her, and he's just going to win." At the court. Ok, I'll just leave it. And after, I tried to go see her, after. Like, six months. But I was getting too angry, I was drunk. Because when I call him: "I'm going to go see [REDACTED] tomorrow. I'm going to Montreal tomorrow. You're going to have to get me in Montreal." And he told me "no". I just paid my ticket, I just paid the hotel for a night in Montreal, and he told me "no". And I got too angry again. He says "no" because between Montreal and Quebec City, it was windy and blizzard. Because he can't drive.

So, I started to... I just went to Montreal, staying in a hotel, and paid again for two nights. I told him: "You're going to have to come tomorrow, in the morning, because my checkout will be at eleven. You're going to have to come. You're going to have to get me." While I was waiting, I got drunk. He showed up, alone. I told myself: "I'm not going to speak to him' I'm too angry." And he was trying to speak to me it he was getting me more angry. When I got too drunk. I pull out the car while he's driving, and he told me: "What are you doing? Are you trying to commit suicide? Are you trying to get us killed? We're going straight to the police."

"Ok, let's go!" So, I was talking to the police, I just want... want to see her. Once, once in my life. Then, I go: "I'll never see her no more." Then, the police... I went out for a cigarette while they're talking. When I go into the private room, the ambulance was already there, because I was getting too angry. They thought that I was a psycho. They put me into the psycho room, the emergency room. I was just asking: "I want sleeping pills, I want sleeping pills. I don't want to remember anything, anymore." I was sleeping for three days, in there. In the psycho place.

Q5: It was in Montreal?

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Enquêteur

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R5: Between Montreal and Quebec City. So, my cousin... Because he cannot go get me, anymore, alone. Only with friend or family. So, I call my cousin who lives in Montreal. He went to get me, he had to stop working. So, he gets me, and we went there, just to go see her and go get my thing in his house. And I left.

Q6: You could see your daughter at this time?

R6: Ever since, I've never talked to him anymore. Even her. So, life was continuing. I just wanted to stop fighting about it. Just stop fighting about it, because nobody won't ever help me at all. So, I have to take care of myself, less angry. "Ok, calm down, [REDACTED]" Ever since after the Portage (Treatment Centre), it was like five years, I haven't talked about that thing... ever since. Because it makes me angry. Because I don't want to get angry anymore. But it still controls me. Even though I'm not thinking about it. Anger always controls me. That's done with that... with my daughter.

But now, I'm working as a midwife. They were requesting a paper, that the pregnant woman in on DYP, their children are on DYP, and that woman needs to... after the birth, you call to DYP (asking her to call DYP right after the birth for certain specific mothers). Why? It hurts me a lot. Why? Are you going to help the mother? Are you going to help the pregnant woman? Are you paying me to help that woman? To take that baby inside of her, after the birth, it's getting me angry again.

And the work that they're offering us is one person. One midwife, a registered midwife, should be five days a week to work. Another midwife should be three and a half days. And two registered midwives need to be working for two days a week. How am I going to survive on that two days a week? And they're giving more and more and more work. A lot of things to do at the maternity, and who's going to take care of them? Those? Who? This is making me angry, too.

Q7: Just to understand... Because I've seen a house for maternity... it's near the youth center, I guess...

R7: Here? It's [REDACTED]

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Q8: Is this the place where you work?

R8: No, it's a transit for the pregnant woman. It's called [REDACTED]

Q9: You are working at the hospital?

R9: Yes. Those women are waiting for their deliveries, to stay there in that house. Because they can't stay in the transit with their family. They can't bring their family into the transit.

Q10: Ok. They're from another community. They're not from [REDACTED]

R10: Other villages on the Hudson Coast.

Q11: I distracted you, but you were talking about two days a week not being enough for you and also a lot of work to be done.

R11: Yes. This is not enough for a registered midwife, to work those working hours. A maternity must be very slow, slow, slow progress to do. Well, I haven't talked to my boss about that, so... What I'm seeing as a midwife... those files of the pregnant women are written in French. That is making me angry, too... a lot. As a midwife, there's no French people, there's no French speaking. There's only English people. I've been thinking: "Can I write in Inuktitut, too?" Inuktitut writing. So, I went to the nurses: "What am I supposed to do with that person? Does she need injections? Does she need

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medication?" I can't read in French. What if I inject her without understanding these notes? I was trying to be calm, too. I wasn't getting angry, at that time. So, he will talk to their colleagues and write it in English. I keep telling my boss: "We need one English person and one French person coming from South." A midwife. But there's no choice to send two English Southern midwives.

Q12: Why do you say there's no choice?

R12: I guess it's no choice. I haven't asked her why. I keep informing my boss to tell the nurses and doctors to write in English.

Q13: And it's not done.

R13: I think it's done.

Q14: It's done, now?

R14: I don't know, because I have not updated this thing, yet. Since I'm on a... When I was on a maternity leave, I'm just slow progressing.

Q15: Ok. Progressive reintegration of your work task? Ok. Can you tell me a bit about the organization? How it's organized? The maternity sector, with the midwives.

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R15: It's supposed to be a self...

Q16: Sufficient? Self-sufficient?

R16: I guess so, like...

The midwives are supposed to operate on themselves. By their own, without interactions.

So, what we have is a boss from Southern midwives... He's not even a midwife. He used to be a nurse here and he's our boss now. The assistant is not even a midwife, too. So, this is our boss, but at the maternity, me and my other coworkers are supposed to look after those midwives and the students midwives. And we do the telephone conference with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There are midwives there too. So, we have to update once a week or twice a week what the maternity is running. But as the summer... it's getting slow.

Q17: How much staff is there, here? You said the boss, the director, the assistant-director, and then after, like... How many people are there in the team? The midwife team.

R17: There is one, two, three, four, five registered midwives. Two of them are elders. I just graduated two years ago. One is taking care of the maternity. One needs to do the schedules... like who's going to be on call, who's going to work as a postnatal worker. A postnatal worker is... after taking care of the births. And there is one, two, three, four student midwives. So, one person is taking care of all those midwives and I'm the assistant with that woman. And two of them are elders.

Q18: There are two elders in addition to...

R18: They're almost retired.

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Q19: So, this is the kind of organization, the structure. You were saying: we are supposed to be independent, like... running it by our own. But you find it's not the case?

R19: It's like... We have two Southern midwives who come here to work. It's like they're... I don't know how to explain it.

They assist us. They take over, they're supposed to take over. When your shifts are over?

When a midwife, a registered midwife, is burned out, or if the midwife is so tired, those two midwives from the South are supposed... they should take over.

Q20: They like... spare.

R20: They're there just to help midwives. But it looks like... it's kind of like they're taking over the maternity.

They're good in helping the team, but they're taking over the maternity.

Q21: Like, running or...

R21: Yes, the work.

Q22: They have more influence than you have.

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R22: Yes.

Q23: These replacement midwives from the South, are they full-time or part-time?

R23: I didn't ask about that. I haven't heard about that. Because they're just letting themselves to be on call. Whichever they want, whenever they want.

Q24: They have some leaves, too. They can leave for the South, the same as nurses or...

R24: Yes, they do.

Q25: Same style. So, you feel... You said: "I don't understand really well why..." It's not clear what their role in the organization is. Or the role that they are playing is different than what is said to be their role. What the bosses explained to you, what is the role of these spare midwives is not what is happening in reality. You feel it's different, they have more power. That's what you're saying. A more prominent role that just replacement.

R25: Yes. I don't like the hours.

Q26: What do you mean by that?

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R26: That they're offering us, like five days... Me, I should... The Southern midwife, who comes here, like a permanent, told me that I have to have 49 hours, less than 49 hours.

Q27: No more than 49 hours.

R27: When I do the old time, they put my hours into another week. Do you understand? We have to put our hours...

It's their way of saving money, because when they have to pay overtime, they're obliged, it's more money.

No, it's like... I was telling you that a midwife should work five days a week, three and a half days a week, and two days a week. So, they gave me two days a week.

Q28: You're on the "two days a week".

R28: Yes, so why is that, I ask my boss. Why? Because he has to be fair with other midwives. Because they're splitting the money that our budget... is that... and they're splitting, those midwives. So, I only have 49 hours for two weeks, not more than that. If I'm not on call... on call is not countable, it's uncountable, because it's on call... If I'm not supposed to be on call, it's like an overtime I had. Overtime, like, on the record or... work. So, if my woman is laboring, I'm not on call, they call me and I have overtime. But the overtime doesn't count, they put it into another week.

Q29: They don't pay one and a half, they just put this time in another week.

R29: That's what he explained me about it.

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Q30: Did you complain about that?

R30: Not yet, because I wanted to talk to him first, but he hasn't come back to me yet. If it's going to be like that, I told him, I'm just going to go find another place. Find another work. That was getting me angry, too.

Q31: So, I understand that you're going to go and check to see... to make sure you understand what is the situation.

R31: Since I'm working, like, two days a week, I don't know. I don't even know about maternity anymore, since I'm working two days a week. What's going on?

And the Inuit maternity ward became because the Inuit women... They asked for it.

Q32: They asked for it? It was a need expressed by Inuit women?

R32: Local women. Because a lot of us, when we have to go and deliver babies, we have to go to another place where they deliver babies, in the hospitals. And here, they decided they were going to train their own maternity ward, Inuit way, jointly working with the hospital. But it sounds like, from [REDACTED] expression, that it's not really working that way anymore.

What I was told is that the maternity was started from here, [REDACTED]

Yes it was, I recall that.

My father was on the health board in a hospital, and my aunt, and there was from [REDACTED], and there was somebody... That's all I can remember... those... that they were board and they were trying to create a maternity.

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Yes, I recall that.

Q33: So, I will ask you to look at it a different way. Maybe you reflect on solutions. What would you like the organization to be? What would be better for you? For example, in the organization, what would help you stay there and continue acting as a midwife... qualified, you said?

R33: The hours, that I don't like, it makes me down. Don't want to go down there, don't want to work anymore. I have enough.

Becoming helpless and not wanting to work any longer.

Q34: You said that you felt like you were not enough... I don't know if we could say connected... But you were losing a little bit of the interest... the information, also, on what's going on. You're losing interest.

R34: Yes. What my goal was... to do at the maternity was... wanting to do the home births. Going to their home and deliver their baby at home and do the postnatal care at home. Not just at the maternity. And do the breeches...

The baby being born upside down, that's called breeches.

Because we've just been sending people, breeches, to Montreal. How come we are learning about NRP...? NRP is Neonatal Resuscitation Process. Why are we learning about that?

When they're not giving you the responsibility.

Q35: Who do you speak to if you want to talk about your feelings on how things are run? Do you have a place to talk about those things, with the organization?

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R35: There's a complaint counsellor, but I don't really go there to complain about.

Q36: Why?

R36: Me, it's recent. Because I'm too angry to talk about it. I don't want to destroy angry.

She's not ready to speak to them because she's too upset.

Q37: And inside your organization... Because the commissioner, as I understand, might be paid by the organization but he is not inside the team. Do you feel that you have a say into the team? Do you have a forum, or... do you meet?

R37: That's what she was saying, that their boss, she doesn't know anything about... maternity... midwifery. And the assistant, they both don't have a knowledge in midwifery.

Q38: Is that what you meant? So, you spoke about the situation about the work days that you have... the schedule. The fact that you're losing interest because you feel you're not enough into it, into doing the midwifery, and that it's not enough. That's what I hear. About the hours. And then also that you didn't find the opportunity to talk about it. You don't feel like talking about it now. I don't want to interpret too much what you're saying, I don't want to transform what you're saying. I think you said it well. So, do you think you said everything you wanted to say about the midwifery situation?

R38: Yes, I guess so.

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Q39: Was there another subject that you wanted to talk about?

R39: If the hours are... more hours. If we have more hours, you can get interest.

If the shifting or the hours are fairly distributed?

Q40: Can you repeat your question? You asked her a question.

R40: It seems like in the midwifery, different midwives have different hours, and these hours are not fairly distributed amongst the midwives.

If it's really fair with all the midwives, it can be interesting and work together. It's like, one is missing... one is missing, we can't do meetings. One is missing because the hours are not enough... She's away, and what's going to happen to her. Is she going to know about the midwifery?

Q41: Did you get meetings, once in a while? Team meetings.

R41: Every Friday.

Q42: Every Friday? And is it a place to discuss about... the wife... the pregnant wives cases?

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R42: It's every Friday. All the midwives and all the student midwives should be there to discuss about that.

Q43: Do you understand the term clinical?

R43: Yes.

Q44: You understand? So, this Friday meetings is about clinical discussions. Ok.

R44: Well, starting Monday and Tuesday, our clinic days. Wednesday, if we have to meet together on the phone with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ... over the phone. We decide the day, on Wednesday, and Wednesday afternoon is teaching day for the student midwives. On Thursday... Part of Wednesday afternoon is to prepare the papers that... who needs to do the PNC. PNC is like a... prenatal committees throughout the Nunavik. And we prepare the papers for the doctor. What she's doing, how is she progressing, where is she going to deliver, where is she going to be... why is the woman like this, we ask the doctor about it. That's Thursday afternoon. And Friday is just a clinic day that who we saw, a woman, on Monday and Tuesday. Friday afternoon is to prepare the maternity... our on call team who prepares the things... if there's going to be a birth, or emergency.

Q45: During the week-end.

R45: During the week-end. That's how we do at the maternity. Very interesting.

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Q46: I don't have any more questions for the maternity, for the midwifery. Regarding your daughter, the first story you talked about, would you accept to give me the name of the baby, the name of your child?

R46: 

Q47: And do you know the date of birth?

R47: 

Q48: On my part, I'm ok. If you're finished, if you don't have any more questions...

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