

# Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



## Millie's story

**Disclaimer:** This is the story of a person who shared their personal experience with the Commission of Inquiry through a submission or interview. The names in this story are pseudonyms and identifying details have been removed. The person who shared this experience may not have been a witness and their account is not evidence. They did not take an oath or affirmation before providing the story.

Nothing in this story constitutes a finding of fact by the Commission of Inquiry. Instead, these stories have been published to show how people are experiencing the current child safety system in Queensland. Any views expressed are those of the person who shared their experience, not of the Commission of Inquiry.

**Content warning:** Some material may be distressing. These statements may include references to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, suicide, or self-harming behaviours, and may contain strong or confronting language. Some narratives may be about First Nations people who have passed away. Readers are encouraged to engage with this material in a way that supports their wellbeing.

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I have a special needs child who is 12 years old.

They removed him at 8 years old.

Child Safety went for a long-term order but failed. I ended up with a 2-year reunification order, but Child Safety isn't complying with the order. I've had 8 CSOs during this process, and numerous team leaders.

I have a mild intellectual disability which they are using against me, saying I've got no capacity. I've completed numerous parenting courses without being asked or told to. I get one sleepover a week when it should be more.

I found the court process hard and challenging and scary. I had a great lawyer from Brisbane in QLD. The Judge heard my voice as the Department didn't listen. I have been judged before they knew my story.

I went through 15 years of domestic violence and got the blame, when I'm the one that had numerous injuries. I have a protection order in place.

The provider that has my child is failing him. Child Safety isn't listening to him and what he wants. He has threatened to run away. They don't abide by their code of conduct which I've mentioned to them more than once.

I have a family intervention worker. I have support every day. I never miss a visit.

I'm totally disgusted with Child Safety and the whole system that is screwed as it's designed to fail parents. Our voices want and need to be heard loudly and clearly.

Enough is enough. Please fix the system.