



Coleen's story

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In November 2024 my neices and nephews were removed from their parents due to extreme neglect, subject to abuse, domestic violence situations and constant drug use, many reports were made prior to the removal of the children but somehow they wernt removed until a domestic violence incident and the police removed the children.

The four children were split between their 2 grandmothers, the oldest and youngest were placed with once whilst the two middle children were placed with my father and stepmother.

In the year my stepmother had the children, myself and others witnessed physical, mental and emotional abuse towards the children mainly being my young neice. Many reports were made to child services by multiple witnesses, childcare workers, even the childrens other grandmother and all going ignored. In December 2025 both children were removed and placed in my care, not because of abuse allegations but because one of my half-brothers was staying at the house when he wasnt supposed to because of his dv history and prison record.

In the following month, I truly felt unsupported, not heard and abandon, there was rarely communication, no financial support or any help with two extra children in my care, as a single mother of two myself I did financially struggle as well as mentally as my nephew was involved with sexual incidents involving his younger sister, I reported everytime there was a sexual incident and asked for help as I was worried for my own children and my neice and this all went unanswered with again no support to the children or myself. My nephews' behavioural issues were also heightened and I noted that I was infact struggling but again no help. The little communication between myself and our child safety officer mainly involved her telling me when the children would be returning to, this date constantly changed and an interview was actually performed by an officer in a different area. The officer was amazing I can't fault her at all, she explained the process of what was happened and was surprised by what had been happening. Once the interviews with the children were over, she had explained next steps etc. My nephew eventually returned back to his grandmother after being with me for a month, whilst I got to keep my neice in my care.

Since Jan 2026, and my nephew returning back home, I am still struggling to get supports in place for my neice, it is now March 2026 and we have no one here to support us which is devastating unfortunately. My neice requires

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



therapies ect for the abuse and emotional trauma that she has been subjected to. There is still no financial support in place by child services, despite constant contact via email from me and phone calls that go unreturned. It feels like we are being ignored and that im fighting for this beautiful little girl alone.

Whilst ive had my neice, some how my step-mother has ended up with the oldest sibling aswell, I would like to know how she can have a child returned and then get another child placed in her care when shes had a harm report against her, its absolutely disgusting that these children have ended up in her care , when unfortunately she constantly ignores the rules and boundaries set in place from child safety aswell as still presenting abusive behaviours towards the boys.

Whilst I hold no animosity towards my stepmother I don't feel she is fit enough to handle two high-care needs children, I just want what is best for my nephews and for them to be safe and happy.