



## Nadine's story

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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.

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My name is Nadine. I am writing to you with deep urgency and a heavy heart regarding the ongoing Commission of Inquiry into systemic issues within Queensland's child safety system. I respectfully request the opportunity to speak with you directly and share critical evidence that exposes not only failures but also corruption within both the child safety and court systems.

The Child Protection Legislation exists to safeguard vulnerable children from harm. Yet in our case, the very system designed to protect has instead inflicted serious and lasting damage on our grandchildren. Despite clear breaches of duty and disturbing failures, those responsible within Child Safety appear to operate without accountability.

What would be considered criminal child abuse if committed by an ordinary citizen seems to be dismissed when perpetrated under child safety authority. This double standard not only undermines justice, it enables continued harm. Our grandchildren deserve protection, not betrayal.

The abuse and harm caused to our grandchildren is continuing under child safety supervision. In child protection matters all courts need to follow one law they must rely on actual evidence and not hear say and false information. My family has endured unimaginable trauma due to the actions and negligence of Child Safety offices. These failures have placed our young grandchildren at serious risk, including exposure to a convicted registered child sex offender, their biological father who raped our eldest granddaughter in 2021. Despite a five-year no-contact order issued upon his release in December 2022, Child Safety forced the children to speak with him, justifying the breach by claiming he had raped his stepdaughter, not his biological children.

Child safety placed our grandchildren with their paternal aunt and her partner, individuals with no prior connection or relationship to the children or their mother. This placement occurred despite her partner being unable to obtain a paid Blue Card, a fact known to Child Safety as early as November 2023. Between March 2024 and July 2024, while under this care, our grandchildren were sexually abused due to having access to their paternal family including their paternal grandmother where none of them had any prior connection or relationship to the children or their mother, disclosures they made to their third foster carer upon entering her care in July 2024, after child

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safety removed them from the paternal aunt's care due to non-compliance with kinship care legislation. These disclosures were not reported to police by Child Safety, nor were they escalated appropriately.

We only became aware of our grandchildren's disclosures of sexual abuse in December 2024. Upon learning this, we immediately reported the matter to the Child Protection Investigation Unit, who met with us at the Police Station and confirmed no one had reported the disclosures to be investigated by the police. The officers reviewed the court documents and expressed confidence that the truth would be evident to the court.

However, despite the District Court's responsibility to examine factual evidence, it appears the truth was not seen, or worse, was ignored. The evidence we provided clearly demonstrated the risks and failures that endangered our grandchildren, yet it was dismissed without proper consideration.

We have been a consistent and loving presence in our grandchildren's lives since birth and we both have paid blue cards, I have held mine since 2009 and my partner has held his since March 2024. I have also been a qualified counsellor and support worker for children and families who have been victims of domestic violence and I have extensive certifications. From February 2022 to October 2023, we cared for our grandchildren in our home, doing everything within our power to protect them from harm. At the time, they were between 8 months and 8 years old, vulnerable, innocent, and deserving of safety. The system failed them, and despite our efforts, their voices and ours have been silenced.

We are not alone. This story echoes across other families, including a former foster carer who resigned after seeing first hand the harm caused to our grandchildren by child safety and is willing to provide internal emails that further expose systemic corruption and negligence.