

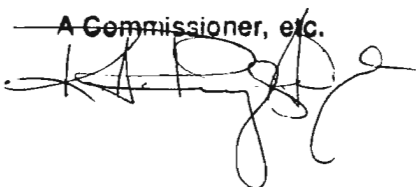
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June 20, 1994

VIA COURIER

Mrs. Katrina A. Prystupa
Barrister-at-Law
Suite 204
120 Holland Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Y 0X6

This is Exhibit "A"
of the Affidavit
of Catherine Ross
sworn June 21, 19 94
A Commissioner, etc.



Dear Mrs. Prystupa:

Re: Catherine Ross

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 16, 1994, requesting a medical report on Mrs. Ross.

I can advise you that she was referred to me by her family physician, Dr. Ronald Rushforth, and I had the opportunity to initially examine her on the 22nd of April, 1994. I have seen her on several subsequent occasions. I had the opportunity to also review the Police Report dated June 10, 1994, headed "Confirmation of Domestic Occurrences". I have not had the opportunity to examine Mrs. Ross' husband or the children involved.

At the time of my examination, Mrs. Ross reported a background of being born in Toronto, but coming to Ottawa as a young child. She is employed full-time as an administrator in the business unit at Mitel and, from the information at hand, enjoys her work. She describes relating well to her colleagues and superiors. In addition, Mrs. Ross is studying psychology on a part-time basis from the University of Waterloo.

Mrs. Ross' parents dissolved their marriage when she was 10 years of age. Her mother resides in Ottawa and her father has since remarried. She is the eldest of four children. Her brother suicided when he was 17 years of age and, understandably, this was extremely traumatic to the family. The effect of this on Mrs. Ross and her mother was quite considerable and resulted in a degree of low self-esteem. It is possible that an element of guilt within the family has continued in regard to her brother's death.

In 1985, Catherine married and two daughters, aged seven and five years, have resulted from this union. Mrs. Ross mentioned that her husband works at Bell Northern Research as an electrical engineer. Mrs. Ross described her marriage as markedly emotionally abusive. She

mentioned that the relationship is characterized by a lack of trust by her husband towards her. There have also been two incidents when the police have been called, and these are described in the police memorandum. Against a background of considerable family and marital tension, Mrs. Ross and her husband sought marital counselling. Mrs. Ross found this unhelpful and has reported to me that she wishes to dissolve the marriage and, in this regard, consulted yourself. Her husband, however, is of the view that they should continue to reconcile. Against this background, Mrs. Ross became extremely anxious. She consulted her family physician, Dr. Ronald Rushforth, who placed her on Alprazolam (a tranquilizer) in a dosage of 0.25 mg. per day which assisted her. Mrs. Ross mentioned that, against a background of increasing tension within the home, she resorted to alcohol in excessive quantities. She has not previously experienced any psychiatric difficulties causing her to seek psychiatric assistance.

At the time of my initial examination, I found Mrs. Ross to be an intelligent lady, who was clearly anxious in response to the circumstances and her feeling of not being in control. Mrs. Ross felt mistreated and misused by her husband and recognizes that she has remained in the marriage because of feelings of dependency. With assistance and exploration of her difficulties, Mrs. Ross wishes to overcome her dependence and not remain in an abusive home. Previously, she has attempted to reconcile her differences with her husband, but now recognizes that her husband's behaviour is unacceptable to her. She has attempted to work out her differences with her husband in regard to the children, but has come to the conclusion that the better environment would be if she and her husband live apart. She had hoped that by remaining in the marriage further abusive occurrences would not occur. She now recognizes that change will not take place until she begins to exert control over her home situation.

Over time, Mrs. Ross has been assisted in exploring her difficulties. I found no evidence to suggest that she suffers from any major psychiatric illness. There is no evidence that she is depressed. Her anxiety is understandable and secondary to the apprehensive expectation of her home situation. With exploration of her difficulties, Mrs. Ross has become more assertive in taking control of her life. I found no evidence to suggest that Mrs. Ross is suffering from alcoholism. As mentioned, she did consume alcohol against a background of extreme anxiety and fear. At the time of my examinations, however, Mrs. Ross has not been dependent on alcohol and, indeed, her intake has been reduced considerably. Currently, she consumes approximately one glass of wine with meals. She has been able to fulfil her social and occupational obligations and does not demonstrate any stigmata of alcoholism.

It is my definite opinion that Mrs. Ross has been experiencing a degree of anxiety associated with the incompatible state of the relationship between she and her husband. She is fearful that further assaultive incidents will occur. By her own account, and the confirmation with the Ontario Provincial Police reports, it is clear that Mrs. Ross has experienced physical, emotional and verbal abuse and threats from her husband. It is my opinion that to expose Mrs. Ross and her children to such an environment is clearly hazardous and not in the best interests of Mrs. Ross or her children.

As mentioned, although I have not had the opportunity to examine the children, from my observations of Mrs. Ross there is no psychiatric symptomatology that would preclude her from raising her children or become involved in their care and upbringing. Mrs. Ross has been the

principle caretaker of her children and is deeply concerned about their well-being. I have found no evidence to suggest that she is unable or unwilling to properly care for her children due to regular or extensive consumption of alcohol on a daily basis. I have never seen Mrs. Ross intoxicated. At the present time, Mrs. Ross feels that the situation between she and her husband has broken down and that living in the same environment is extremely stressful to her and the children. I am most supportive of her desire to be independent. Accordingly, I am most supportive of her application for separation. I found no evidence to suggest that she would not be able to care for her two children.

I have found Mrs. Ross to be a credible lady, who clearly has been significantly impacted by the unfortunate circumstances within the home. She has not feigned, exaggerated nor malingered any symptomatology.

I trust this information is sufficient for your purposes and if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Selwyn M. Smith".

Selwyn M. Smith, M.D.

SMS:jw