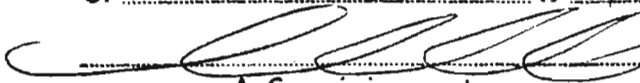


THIS IS EXHIBIT 1
TO THE AFFIDAVIT OF

WILLIAM THOMAS ROSS

SWORN BEFORE ME THIS 20th DAY
OF JUNE 1994


A Commissioner, etc.
B.D. ROSS

(519) 449-5203

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I, Bernice Douglas Ross, of Burford, Ont. am the step mother of Bill Ross. I am acquainted with his wife, Catherine Lois Eleanore Ross. This statement was prepared by Bill Ross based on interviews with me. I worked together on this statement with Bill until I felt my views were accurately reflected.

I agree with the comments of my husband in his statement, except for his description of the weekend visit, since I was not present. This was because I can not stand to see the way Catherine treats my son and their children.

I was a foster parent for over twenty years, caring for children with problems (42 in all, some for years), both privately and for Children's Aid. I have only had two children that I had to return as unmanageable. I maintain social contact with some of the children I have helped. Over the years, I have gained a great deal of insight into children and parenting. I have a reputation as being good with children.

Here is what I have observed about Bill, Catherine and their children:

Bill was always the one caring for the children up to the point that I told him what a good mother he was many times. Catherine didn't get the hint.

At family gatherings, Catherine always insisted that the children eat in another room, away from her. When the children acted up and were brought to Catherine with their plates for supervision, she immediately returned them to the other room and left them there.

Catherine would not allow others to correct or discipline her children, even when she was in another room and refused to do so herself. This left the children running wild.

After a few visits, nobody in our family wanted them to stay overnight as she was very nasty to Bill and wouldn't control the children or allow Bill to do so. They ended staying at my son John's house mostly, since he minded Catherine the least.

I found the children very easy to manage when Catherine was not present.

The children would not sit at the table and eat but would run around and refuse to sit still while Catherine was present. When she was absent, the kids sat still and ate.

The only rules that Catherine enforced were those that had the effect of keeping the children away from her.

When the children got on her nerves, she would shout threats to make the kids behave but would never carry them out, except as noted above.

My other grandchildren who have spent time at Bill and Catherine's home do not like her at all. Once, I heard Catherine refer to herself as "the wicked witch of the west". This happened while she was making my grandson finish his meal (which he didn't like) while her children fed their meals to the dog and ran around wild.

I do not consider Catherine to be a good mother as she is not consistent, resulting in the children paying little attention to her. She does not attend to their emotional needs or treat them as little people. She does seem to take good care of their physical needs. The children are very bright and can sense the tension around them resulting in an unstable home life, from which their development can suffer greatly.

I have no opinion regarding Catherine and alcohol. She did not drink to excess in my presence.

I have known since the summer of 1991 that Catherine was not being financially honest with Bill. We went for a walk together in Elora (near the cottage) and window shopped. Catherine asked me not to tell Bill if she bought anything since money was tight and he might not understand her need to shop.

All of my grandchildren are important to me. If I felt Bill was not fit to raise his daughters, I would say so. He is a much better choice than Catherine. I am sure he is up to the task of providing a stable and happy home environment for his children.

I hope this statement helps to determine what is best for all concerned. I did not enjoy writing it and facing the fact of Bill's failed marriage. I have only the best interests of my beloved granddaughters in mind.

Douglas
Bernice H. Ross
May 31 1994