

ATTEN: LIZZIE Mouse

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November 10, 2015

With more of an advance notice of this date I could have made plans to be here today at this court. I'd like to express my thoughts and experience with the ICW Act, the Oneida Child Protection Board along with Brown County Child Services as well as the Guardian of Litem.

Just one statement about the guardian of Litem; I never once met this person face to face; it was always just a phone call.

My understanding is that ICW was created to help keep our Children within the immediate family instead of placement in a non-Indian home. That was a step in the right direction for our Native peoples although the act is very long and complicated to try and understand. This Act is very lengthy and very much to absorb.

Between 2004 and 2005 Brown County along with Outagamie County assigned several Social Workers to my case, a Great Aunt, to my nieces and nephew. Also at that time the Oneida Tribe's Social Worker, who is now retired, just to mention after all she, Carol Graney, did which was to take sides with the county workers, coach the new Social Worker that didn't know anything, Amy; don't recalled her last name, and cause hurt feelings within my family.

A quick overview of what happened is that with the birth of my niece Abigail, Ms. Garney gave me a cut-off date to contact her with my decision to have Abigail placed in my home. That date I remember was a Friday so I called her office to inform her that I wanted to take baby Abigail into my home as I have her full sister Leah. I got her voicemail and left the message; her voicemail stated that she was off, on my cut-off date, and would return on Monday. That following Monday she returned my call informing me that it was too late and the letters had gone out to other relatives that maybe interested in placement of this child. What a dirty treat that this Social Worker played on my emotions; I felt betrayed by this woman that I'd been working with for the last few years.

I went before the Oneida Child Protection Board along with my sister, mother and Aunt to plead our case that Abigail should have the opportunity to grow up with her full sister. We all were allowed to talk and explain the importance of siblings bonding. The Mother to the husband that Abigail was placed with sat on that board and I feel that she had a strong influence on the decision that the board made to keep her where she was/is at now.

The Oneida Tribe's cultural: they have clans, turtle, bear, wolf (am I missing one?) these clans were made up so that there wouldn't be any intermarriages.....first cousins marrying first cousins etc....well that's where they placed her. The husband and wife's fathers are brothers. These people are/have gone against their own belief as they follow the Oneida cultural heritage up to that point. I was given names from Ms. Garney of relatives that may be interested and I NEVER gave that couples names, as I don't believe in that type of marriage.

In ending Brown and Outagamie County worked well at making it hard for us to try and get this child placed in an immediate relative's home. They worked by turning, and saying things that caused myself

and my sisters to have hard feelings toward one another. Today with them out of our lives we have been able to overcome all that they did to cause hurt feelings and are now a close contact family, my siblings, we are now able to work with one another. Thank you for your time.

Hope you get this...other things I wanted to say but no time.

Margie M