

June 30, 1998

The Children's Commission  
P.O. Box 9207  
Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9J1

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to formally file a complaint against the Ministry of Children & Families in neglecting to reimburse us for the ongoing cost of therapy for our child, Jeremy Rodrigues. Furthermore, I had a **six month contract** with the Ministry and on June 18, 1998, I received a letter stating that I must get in touch with a social worker before July 1, 1998, if I required 'care' for my child. The fact that I receive some funding towards my son's Lovaas program and the Government chooses to call it 'daycare money' is of no concern to me.

My son is 4-years-old and has been diagnosed with autism. He has no language, no self-help skills, doesn't dress/undress himself, doesn't feed himself, isn't toilet-trained, has no social skills and until recently hasn't played with toys appropriately. My husband and I have watched as each passing year Jeremy would grow not only older but more delayed. His behaviors and tantrums would increase. We have also dealt with incompetence and complete lack of knowledge concerning autism and autism treatment here in the Okanagan. Now we have found a program which truly works for our son. We started our Lovaas-type Applied Behavior Analysis Program at the end of April 1998. Our son had made more gains in **two weeks** of ABA than he had with two years of available interventions. Jeremy continues to improve with the Lovaas Program.

But it is going to be a long road for Jeremy. The interventions that we have had privy to here in the Okanagan are grossly negligent in addressing the many needs of an autistic child. There was and is complete lack of cooperation with our family towards this program and what is in the best interest of our child. We receive no other interventions or cooperation from any other programs from this Ministry and fully expect that considering we have **medical opinions** prescribing this as the only and best course of **treatment** for autism that the Ministry should reimburse us fully for this ongoing cost of this treatment program.

I have watched as each Ministry has tried to pass the buck about who will help these children and who should pay. Well, currently the Ministry of Health has delegated the **treatment of autism** to the Ministry of Children and Families. Until this can be corrected, I look forward to full reimbursement for my child's treatment program from the Ministry of Children and Families.

I thank you for any help that you are able to give us towards receiving proper and appropriate treatment for our little boy.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rodrigues

Penticton, B.C.