

#2, 5326 - 47 Ave.
RED DEER, Alberta
T4N 3R2
June 11, 1993

Sandra M. Anderson
Barrister & Solicitor
2000, 10235 - 101 St.
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5J 3G1

Dear Ms. Anderson:

I am writing to you concerning an article that appeared in both the Edmonton Journal and Red Deer Advocate newspapers. The story involves a client of yours who wants to sue the government for having been sterilized in the past.

I was sterilized also so that I could not have mentally handicapped children. I realize now that what was done to me was wrong but I am not going to sue the government because of it. At the time I was sterilized it was an accepted fact that we, the patients, had no control over our bodies, and a lot of the patients that were in the training school had no rights and most of them had no one to speak for them.

I am a twin. My twin sister was adopted but I, being a sickly baby, never was. I was in foster homes until the age of 7 years then went to live in the Provincial Training School in the 30's. It was a great experience for me growing up there. My IQ was only 55 and as a result I was labelled, but now I and many others are trying to rid ourselves of that stigma.

I do not know just where your client hopes to get the money from as a lot of the then people of government are not around anymore. We have enough trouble getting money from the government to assist reputable community organizations. I can see that your client has a lot of bitterness and I can understand that but I think the suing process will cause a lot more heartache.

I am enclosing articles that will help you understand why I had to accept sterilization. I used to babysit quite often and that seemed to fill the gap. I am now looking at what I can do for others and how I can make life better for others. If you wish, you can make copies of the enclosed articles for your client as they may encourage her to get on with her life and not hold the sterilization matter against anyone. I will say that sterilization should apply to people who abuse children and to people who abuse their bodies with drugs/alcohol/cigarettes while pregnant and as a result produce mentally handicapped or deformed children.

I hope to hear from you sometime, Sandra.

Yours sincerely,

Doreen Befus