



Kinship care support



children's hearings scotland

In accepting with love and without doubt to care for my grandson until he reaches 18, I was horrified at the process this took and the levels of investigation I would be under. This was at a time when support, empathy and an understanding ear would have helped immensely. However, I had to divulge everything about me: my childhood trauma, my full medical records, my bank accounts and of course understandably Police checks. My home was gone through which felt invasive. This all made an agonising time in my life so so much more traumatising. I am sure there must be ways of conducting this process without having so much damaging effects on the Kinship Carer under so much conflict as it is.

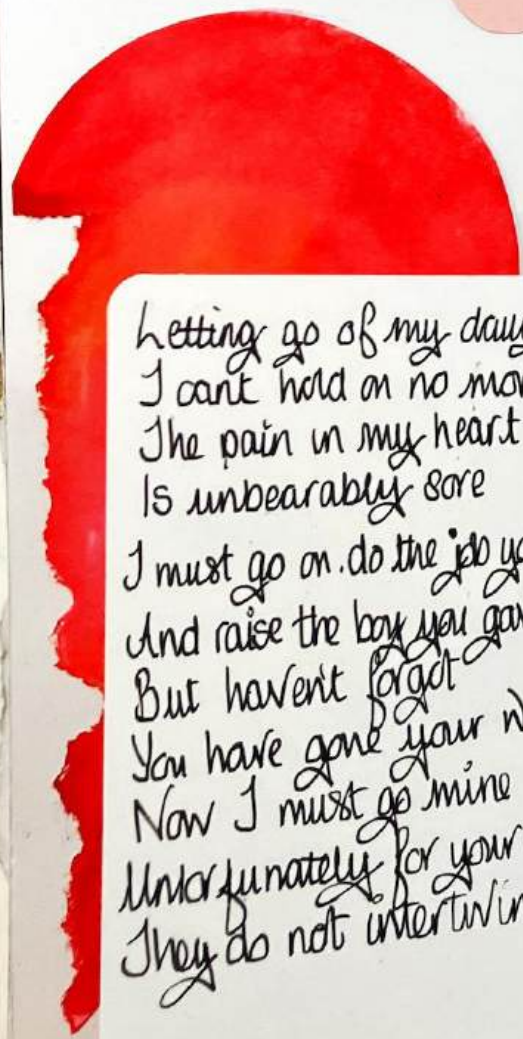
I do have to say now that I am on the other side, both my grandson and I are doing well. There were many people in our lives in the beginning and a few did try. However it is the process; sometimes memories sneak out of my eyes and roll down my cheeks

Hung up, tied and left for dead... You were all here to help? At least that's what was said.

The visits, the interviews and questions galore.

You left me with nothing. Stripped to the core...

The above is a true reflection of my feelings at that time.



Letting go of my daughter
 I can't hold on no more...
 The pain in my heart
 Is unbearably sore
 I must go on, do the job you could not
 And raise the boy you gave birth to
 But haven't forgot
 You have gone your way
 Now I must go mine
 Unfortunately for your son and I
 They do not intertwine

Perhaps one day when alls well
 in your head.
 We can right out some wrongs
 And you may be the one
 Singing him nursery songs
 My last baby girl,
 Not having you to hold
 Feels so strange
 And incredibly cold
 I'll we re-ignite
 love you
 My beautiful girl, stay safe
 J.P.



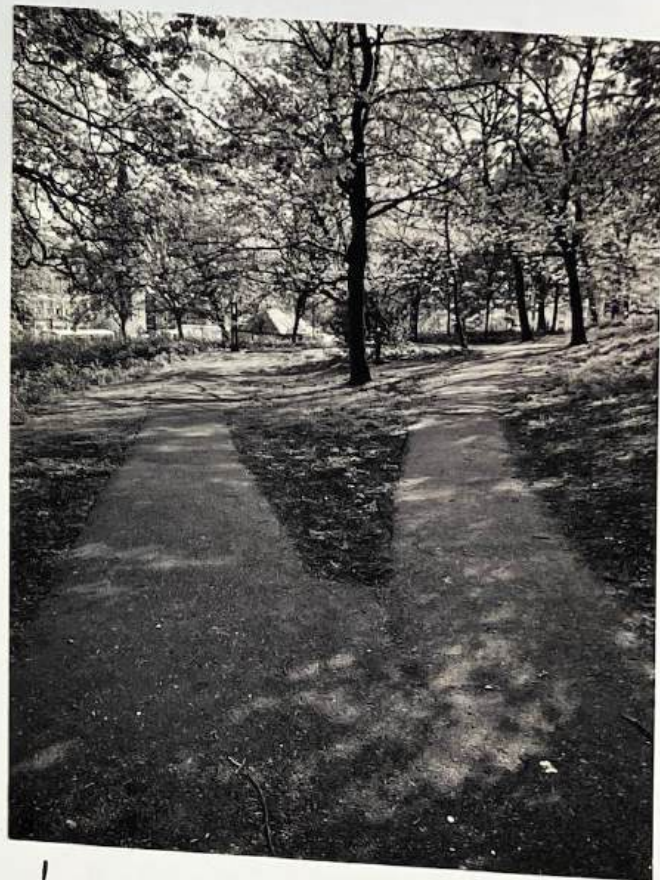
WRITING the ON wall

Despite the patience of all involved it became apparent very quickly that my daughter would be playing no part in my grandsons upbringing and what was originally a temporary arrangement was to become permanent and all life's plans and family dynamics altered quite dramatically.

"We
are
our
choices."

- J.P. Sartre

My daughter began to drift before ultimately removing herself from the family including her son. ...



And so my new path was chosen for me, which I walked with my grandson. Whilst my daughter, this mum walked her own path separately.

Kinship Carer/ Maternal Grandmother
Edinburgh City Centre

2014

Those with Power
Decision Makers
Complete Strangers

URGENT

DO NOT FILE THIS LETTER
UNTIL READ BY PARTIES CONCERNED.

Dear Whom, It May Concern

Whilst debating the future of my small family please respect the fact that we are already torn and fragile due to our circumstances. Please see further than the facts that you are presented with today to allow our good points to be seen also.

Please treat us kindly with person-to-person care as we are so much more than simply concerning statistics. Try to be sensitive with your compulsory interviews and investigations and appreciate the load they add onto an already difficult situation. Do offer that rub against an arm or that look telling me that I will be ok.

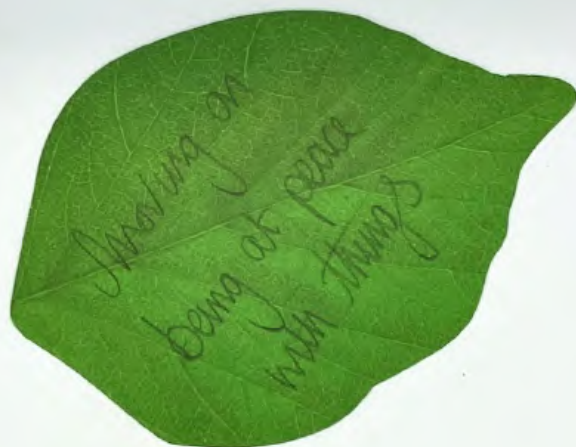
Please also remember that I am trying to do the right thing here, trying to do good and so please do not tear me down with your procedures.

Last but by no means least please, please have the respect to enquire about this little boy whom you are in sole decision making for the rest of his life. Do ask what he looks like, do ask what he does and does not like do ask how he is getting on. In doing that you will see that this is a real live little person we are debating about and not just another statistic or case through the door.

All of the above were the reasons behind why I made an A2 sheet collage of my grandson, so that he would be SEEN for who and what he was and not as a case or product to determine on.

Kindest Regards

Kinship Carer to an amazing grandson



GRATITUDE

I am forever indebted to my eldest 2 daughters without their support I would not have managed. They gave their love, time and devotion to my grandson and I. Despite having their own little ones they often took my grandson along with them to allow me some time practically but more importantly mentally and emotionally. Being torn between my daughter and my grandson broke me mentally and my eldest 2 daughters did what they could to help cushion that as best they could. I also so wrapped up in looking after a new baby and dealing with the trauma that it came with alongside studying that there was not much of me left to help them with their new bundles. I was in such an emotional mess that I missed out a huge amount of my other two grandchildren growing and supporting my daughters and for that it pains me greatly to this day.



Girls, I cannot thank you both enough you both stepped up to be the best Aunties and supportive daughters. EVER! OBRIGADA



GRAZIE



DANKU

MAHALO

GRACIAS



HUKRAN SANA

MERCI



THANKYOU

DANKUZZEL

STARZ

TESEKKUR EDERIM

DANKU



CAMBAN

RAHMAT

FRANK