



JW

Tayside Regional Council

72/74 Haldane Terrace,
Dundee.

Social Work Department

Dundee Division

Area 2.

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT

The following person:—

Surname..... JONES

Christian Names 1) Christina; 2) Andrew
or forenames..... 3) Sarah Jane.

Address 8 Balgowan Place, Dundee.

Presently in Roineach Mhor Assessment
Centre.

1) 2 4 67; 2) 26 12 69;
3) 15 7 72.

Date of Birth.....

Religion Protestant

Occupation..... Schoolchildren

Marital State..... N/A

is to appear on 31 October, 1980 at 2.45pm Dundee Children's Hearing Court in connection
with the crime or offence of 32(2)(g) Alleged lack of parental care and Christina 32(2)(g)
Alleged Offence.

Previous Appearances as known to the Officer making the Report:

FAMILY:

Mother: Ann Jones k/a Mill (36) unemployed

Others: [REDACTED]
Andrew (10) Westmarch School.
Sarah Jane (8) Attends school at Roineach Mhor.

HOME CONDITIONS:

The family home is a 4-apartment home in the Kirkton area. It is shabbily but adequately furnished and Miss Mill despite her low income being on supplementary benefit does maintain a relatively good standard of cleanliness.

SOCIAL BACKGROUND:

The Jones family are a single-parent family. All three children have different fathers, while Mrs. Jones eventually married Sarah Jane's father but this marriage did not last. Apparently [REDACTED]

The family have lived in Kirkton for the last four years. When they moved there Miss Mill's mother lived with them but shortly afterwards she died. The children's grandmother appeared to have been very supportive and she was a tremendous loss to Miss Mill when she died. It would appear that Miss Mill's health began to deteriorate slowly over this period and that she found it more a more difficult to cope. The family position was not helped by a paramour of Miss Mill's, a [REDACTED] who was believed to stay around the Albert Street area. He had a disruptive effect the family and there were allegations of alleged cruelty to the children.

According to the neighbours and people who knew the family there little outward sign of anything wrong within the family. The children were normally well dressed and tidy. They attended

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BACKGROUND:

attended school and Miss Mill seemed to be able to hide any signs of her mental illness quite well. The only noticeable signs were that she became more and more withdrawn and that she began to cut herself off from the rest of her family and friends. She still managed to cope financially and the family until this year never came to our department's attention.

Our department first became involved through two sources: The first was via our intake team when Miss Mill had been referred because of a possible housing transfer and the possibility of Community Industries becoming involved. The second was an informal referral through Kirkton High School to Miss Buttars, a social worker in our office, concerning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Mill was far from well. [REDACTED] it appeared, was also very [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Matters reached a head towards the end of July around 22 July [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
to contact Miss Mill but she had refused to answer the door. Miss Buttars and Mr. J.R. Anderson, S.S.W. made a joint visit then and expressed their concern about the two remaining children to the family's G.P. The G.P. also made a visit but he said with the facts available Miss Mill could not be admitted to hospital under a compulsory certificate. [REDACTED]

Following a case conference on 30 July, 1980, it was felt that because of the concern for the other two children steps should be taken to admit them into care. Events however took a hand, on 4 August, 1980 Miss Mill was compulsorily admitted to Liff Hospital after she barricaded herself in her house. Sarah Jane and Andrew were admitted to Roineach Mhor where they have remained. At first it appeared that Miss Mill would be in hospital for some time but she recovered well and was discharged at the end of September.

Contact was maintained between Miss Mill and her children when she was in hospital and since being discharged she has visited regularly and the children over the past fortnight have visited their mother at home on Sunday afternoons.

Christina:
[REDACTED]

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BACKGROUND:

Andrew:

Andrew seemed the least affected of the three children by his mother's illness. There has been little trouble with him at Roineach Mhor where he is getting on very well. He appears to have a close relationship with his mother and appears anxious to return home. He is doing very well at school and has returned to his school at Westmarch. One of his main activities is the Boy's Brigade and he attends a local company regularly.

Sarah Jane:

Ann Mill:

Miss Mill continues to do well since being discharged from hospital. One of her main worries while in hospital was her finances which because of her benefit being cut did become quite serious. Since being discharged Miss Mill has made a concerted effort to get her finances straightened out and this has proved successful. She still keeps in touch with the psychiatric service and has an out-patient appointment in November. Co-operation with Liff Hospital has been very good and any decisions made has been made in conjunction with the medical staff.

One important development has been that her family have rallied round her and appear to be very supportive especially her brother who lives in Douglas and an elderly aunt who helped her greatly when she came out from hospital on pass. Miss Mill after a month in hospital was no longer a compulsory patient. She has co-operated well with the medical staff and she has proved very co-operative with myself. I have discussed future plans of the children returning home and Miss Mill has agreed to these suggestions and despite her main maternal wish to have them home immediately she realises that it will help her more if the children are returned gradually.

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ASSESSMENT AND
RECOMMENDATION:

This family have gone through a serious crisis with the onset of Miss Mill's illness. It has obviously been a disturbing period for the children [REDACTED]

Since her discharge from hospital Miss Mill has so far coped very well and relationships have improved although there is still a lot of work required before the children can return permanently.

Clearly any return home, given the initial problems leading to the children coming to care, will have to be supervised very closely. The whole family, including Miss Mill, I feel need reassurance that once they are reunited the same problems will not recur.

Because of this I would recommend that a period of compulsory supervision under Section 44(1)(b) Social Work(Scotland) Act, 1968, be considered with the children remaining at Roineach Mhor with the proviso that the present efforts of reuniting the family be continued. Once this stage is complete the next step would be to vary the supervision to compulsory home supervision section 44(1)(a). These plans have been discussed fully with the staff at Roineach Mhor, the medical staff at Liff Hospital and Child Psychiatry, and all have agreed that compulsory supervision will help to provide the stability required to reunite this family on a permanent and successful basis.

E. Titterington
Mr. E. Titterington,
Social Worker.

30 10 80

I will attend the hearing.

29th October, 1980

Report for Children's Hearing

re: Andrew Jones d.o.b. 26.12.69

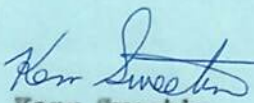
Enclosed is a copy of the preliminary report on Andrew which gives an accurate picture of the boy up until September.

Since then the only notable changes are as follows:- Andrew seems to be much closer to Sarah now, and they can often be seen together chatting and playing games. No great emotion is seen on Andrew's face at any time so it is difficult to assess how he really feels about his sister, but the fact that they spend a lot of time together is indicative of the closeness of their relationship. For a few weeks now Andrew has been attending the Boy's Brigade Company he belongs to. He appeared to enjoy this at first but now seems ambivalent about attending. He tends to forget and needs reminded of the time etc. This may be a natural phenomenon in as much as he changed over from junior to senior meetings and he may not like the change very much. However it is an outlet for him in the community and is being encouraged.

Andrew does not have a very good attitude towards authority and dislikes being told off for misdemeanors. He becomes huffy, dour and puts on a look of injured innocence at times. He is quite a forceful character and seems to stand out in a crowd even if not doing anything. This therefore attracts attention to him and he is easily caught out at mischief, which he naturally finds very frustrating.

Like his sister Andrew has been home for a few hours on Sunday afternoons. He seems to thoroughly enjoy these visits or at least he tells us so. When asked what he did on Sunday afternoon he said he was out playing with his pals most of the time. Andrew appears to be drifting through the family situation almost unaffected. It may be that he can be returned home fairly soon after a gradual re-introduction.

However at this stage it is felt to be in his best interests to remain in Roineach Mhor for a period in order that this re-introduction can be monitored. This is therefore recommended.


Kerr Sweetin,
Assistant Officer in Charge

Copies to:

Reporter to the Children's Panel, Dundee
Mr. Titterington, Social Worker (2) ✓
Mrs. Frank, Child Guidance
Mrs. Erskine, Teacher in Charge
File