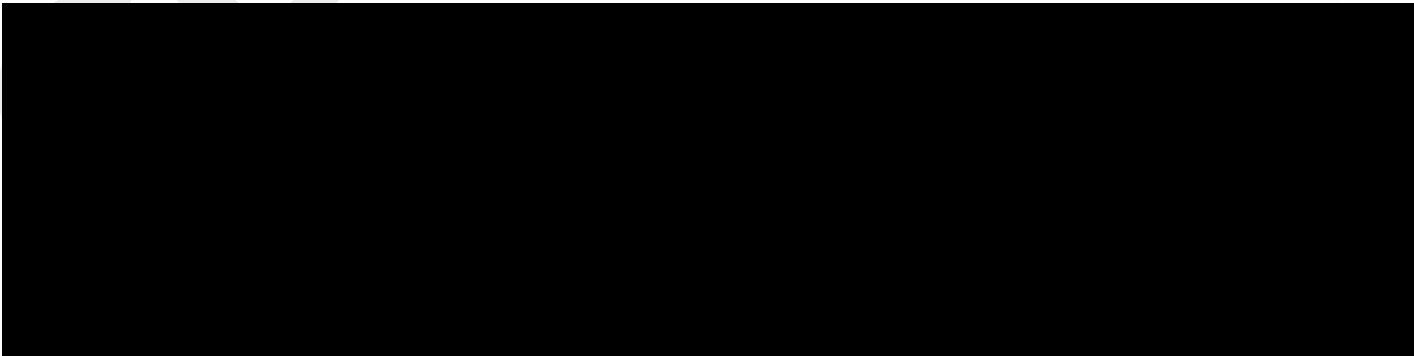
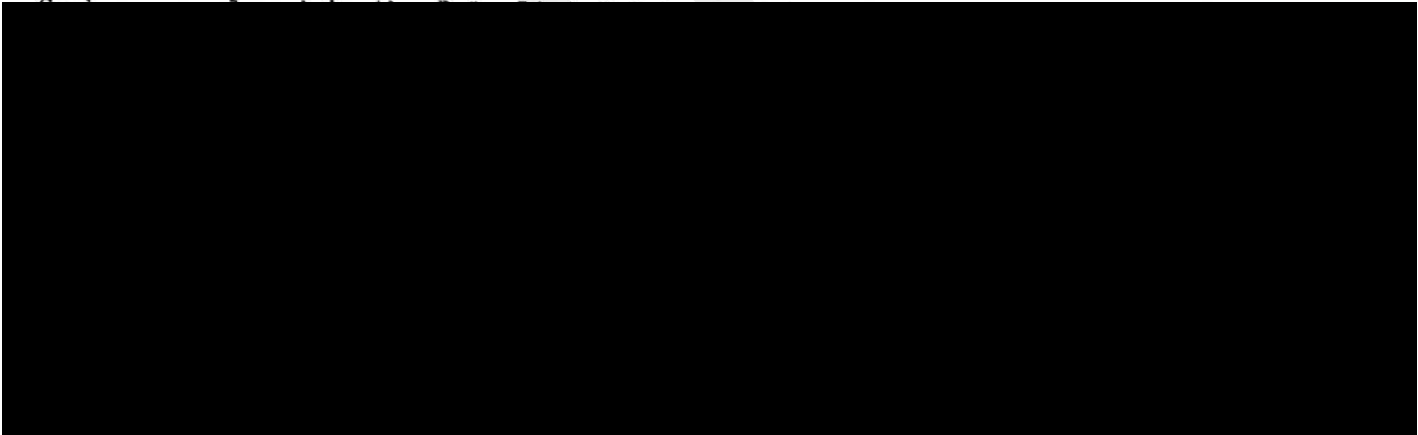
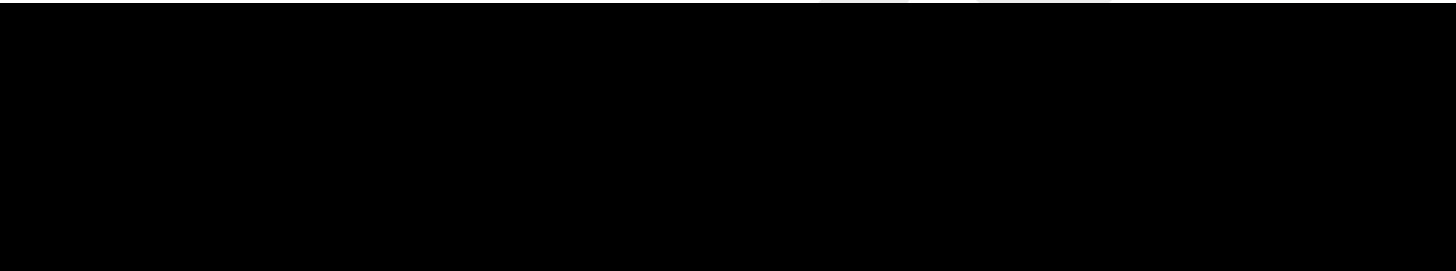


Tarbett children - Assumption of Parental Rights (cont'd).

Mrs. Tarbett deserted the family in February of 1981, and returned for a few days only in August, 1981, to disappear again, and her current whereabouts are unknown. Mr. Tarbett had the sole care of his four younger children from February 1981 to mid September, 1981, although the three eldest children were all subject to children's hearing supervision orders. This six month period showed a steady decline in Mr. Tarbett's parenting and general standards and the situation was giving cause for concern when in early September Mr. Tarbett requested that the four children in his care be voluntarily admitted to Local Authority care. At that time Mr. Tarbett was asked to give careful consideration to the implications of his request as per the previous warnings re the social work department's concern about the possible harm being done to the children by inconsistent parenting and being frequently placed in care by the parents and removed again. Mr. Tarbett returned to the social work department on the 14 September, 1981 and reiterated his request for voluntary care measures and signed his children into care stating that the children were outwith his control and furthermore that he was unable and unwilling to cope any longer. Mr. Tarbett was informed at that time that the children would be admitted to Burnside House and assessed and the cases referred to the Reporter to the Children's Hearings. Mr. Tarbett was evicted from his Kirkton home late 1981 and has stayed with his parents in Mid-Craigie since.



Tarbett children - Assumption of Parental Rights (cont'd)

Tommy and Lisa are the youngest of the five children and were placed in Carolina House Children's Home from Burnside House by a children's hearing by the recommendation of residential staff and social worker. Relative to their elder brothers they gave the impression of being the happiest and most settled, but symptoms have been, and are, present of their traumatic upbringing. Mr. Tarbett if not actively disruptive towards the plans for Tommy and Lisa, has not been co-operative. There was a period from March to April 1982, when Mr. Tarbett made no contact with either Tommy or Lisa for 6 weeks despite encouragement from the social worker to do so, and this period included Lisa's stay in hospital for a few days for a minor operation which Mr. Tarbett was informed of. As stated the frequency of his visiting has given rise to concern but equally so has the quality of visits and contacts he has made. Residential staff have observed him to be under the influence of alcohol on visits, although not drunk, and have had to warn him about this. Staff also comment upon the scant attention he often pays to Tommy and Lisa and on one occasion he fell asleep during a visit.

It is the feeling of both residential and field social workers that although Carolina House meets both children's immediate needs, their long term requirements and security would be best met with a foster family together.

As stated previously, Mr. Tarbett's co-operation in the care plans for his children has been poor or more usually non-existent, and this is not a new phenomenon dictated by personalities of those involved, as the records of several years can substantiate.

In September, 1979, Mr. and Mrs. Tarbett appeared in Dundee Sheriff Court Chambers following application to the aforesaid by the Reporter to the Children's Hearing to establish or otherwise the grounds of referral to a children's hearing on 24 August 1979, referring to the three older boys which alleged 'that lack of parental care is likely to cause them unnecessary suffering or seriously to impair their health or development'. The ground was established and a subsequent children's hearing made supervision orders on the three boys.

On the 21 January, 1982, Mr. Tarbett appeared in Dundee Sheriff Court Chambers to answer the same alleged ground for referral applied to both he and his wife's parenting. Unfortunately, Mrs. Tarbett was not present as her whereabouts were not known. This ground was also established and a subsequent children's hearing placed Tommy and Lisa on supervision orders.

As previously stated, Mrs. Tarbett's whereabouts are unknown, although efforts to trace her have been pursued by the social work department to no avail. Mr. Tarbett has stated to the social work department that his wife is living [REDACTED] in London and this would appear feasible as to the social work department's knowledge, Mrs. Tarbett has nine convictions for this offence locally over a period of several years.

Thus all five Tarbett children are currently subject to residential supervision orders under Section 44(1)(b) Social Work (Scotland) Act, 1968. This measure alone, however, does not assure the children or those concerned with the professional care of them of the continuity of adequate care and planning and it is felt that the assumption of parental rights by the local authority is the correct course to take in these circumstances.

Tarbett children - Assumption of Parental Rights (cont'd).

Recommendation:

The grounds for this request are contained in Section 16 Social Work (Scotland) Act, 1968, as amended by Section 74 of the Children's Act, 1975.

Applied to Helen Lundie or Tarbett (mother)

Section 74

subsection 2(a) has abandoned the child

- (d) is of such habits or mode of life as to be unfit to have the care of the child
- (e) has so persistently failed without reasonable cause to discharge the obligations of parent or guardian as to be unfit to have the care of the child.

Applied to David Tarbett (father)

Section 74

subsection 2(e) has so persistently failed without reasonable cause to discharge the obligations of parent or guardian as to be unfit to have the care of the child.