

FROM THE WHISTLEBLOWER JILL JONES-SODERMAN – JULY 23, 2016

I fear the fear that I hear in the voices of those who call for consultations to the offices of the FCVFC. Those who call in crisis, despair or contemplation for review of their situation, most often have their fears confirmed by the message as to the considerable challenges faced by those in the grip of DCF investigations, custody litigation in family/dependency courts.

I wish that I could be the messenger who reassures and offers facile answers as to what to do. The answers as to what to do is available, after analysis, evaluation, research, investigation. The FCVFC is all about the fore mentioned. An initial review may provide indications of grave challenges, the need for nerves of steel and an imperative to prepare to work very hard, to be honest with yourself and savvy as to whom you trust. Those who think that running to a random lawyer to adjudicate the most critical dispute of their lives, need to inquire more deeply into the perils of custody disputes.

The message I impart to those who request consultation is based on years of academic training, supervision, personal analysis and more than thirty years of institutional practice, private practice, engagement with the FCVFC in the most multi dimensional, challenging work of my professional life. My assessments do not come without an abundance of having seen that, dealt with that problem, knowing the perils to be faced and the one wrong step can result in tragedy. My assessments come with a cautionary message, urgency and best wishes to the person with whom I am engaged.

If I alarm you, be aware, you should be alarmed if you have entered the realm of the shifting, alternate reality of the courts and the grip of agencies like DCF or the police. If you dismiss the suggestion to examine carefully now, you will understand later, and later is likely not a good place. Recommendations are not made lightly or thoughtlessly, or without empathy for the listener, as we at the FCVFC are prepared to help, support, assist, advise, intervene, work through to a solution and never leave until we mutually agree – we are resolved!