

To Whom it May Concern,

I am giving a written statement as to what I recall happened with Charles and Rebecca Lake, children of Charles and Linda Lake. I married into the family in October of 1977. I was married to Charles's brother Gary Lake. Linda, wife of Charles came down with Bel Palsey and Meningitis and was hospitalised for many months. After which she was in rehab for several months. The two children then both under five years old came to live with me and my husband for about a year. I dont recall the exact month but I know it was shortly after July of 1978 because I had a newborn and suddenly I had three children. It was alot for us but I was raised that family helps family in time of need. I found out that my mother-in-law was collecting state assistance for both children while we had them and supported them with our own money. After that I decided if she was receiving the money it should be her supporting them. In the meantime I knew that Charles had been trying for months through the court system to get his children back, but to no avail. Every door opened for him it always seemed that two doors shut. I often heard his mom say he (her son) only gave me 95.00 this week and owes me 5.00. I also heard her say to both of the childrens parents that she was not getting enough money to raise the children. I often wanted to remind her that she was not only getting money from both parents but the State of Ct and she made more money then I did. To me it always seemed that it was about the money and that was the reason she kept the children. I remember on several occasions when Linda the childrens mom would stop over she

was yelled at for not bringing food for the children. I will say that the children Charles and Rebecca always had a roof over their head and food in their tummy's but it was always at a cost. The cost was the verbal abuse they received which I wont go into detail with as does it really matter at this point. I will however say that a grandmother collected quite a bit of money from both the State and the Childrens parents which I always thought was unfair simply because to her it was never enough. I suppose all and all the biggest cost of all was that two children were seperated from their father whom I beleived wanted them in his life. I am happy to say the children are both grown now and living happy lifes but does anybody really know how this entire ordeal affected them inside. Anyhow that is my written statement as to what I know went on I hope in some way this helps. I have nothing to gain here by simply telling the truth.

Karen Cantatore

*Karen Cantatore*

August 22 2014

*Sworn to before  
me this 22nd  
day of August 2014*

*Susan Ciarrarra*

SUSAN CIAMARRA  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 4762712  
Qualified in Westchester County  
Commission Expires Aug 31, 2018