

## PERTINENT BACKGROUND IN BRIEF

When Alex and Paige were just little girls, they were sexually abused by Jason Kenneth Whittington, the boyfriend (now husband) of their biological mother Kelly Campbell - and she knew exactly what was going on. Whittington was on a court order to stay away from children due to his violent criminal history and multiplicity of mental illnesses. When the girls told biological mother what happened, she called them "bitches" and "liars," all the time knowing what he had done to them. She married Whittington just a few months later.

When the girls told their father, with whom they lived and had a really good relationship, he hit the roof. He notified police and child protection authorities, sought medical attention and support to help the girls cope, cancelled visits to the biological mother and took measures to protect the girls. But the police and child protection authorities made one mistake after another and, in the end, their negligence prevented a prosecution. Despite having a ton of evidence, including medical and psychotherapist opinions, and documentation of Whittington's modus operandi, authorities paid so little attention to the case, it eventually fell apart. The biological mother even went on television confessing that Whittington had touched the girls inappropriately, and that he even apologized to them. Nobody cared. The girls would not see justice.

The girls outright refused to see their biological mother, so she brought a custody dispute to court. Biological mother and her pedophile husband made a series of false reports to police and child protection authorities, and they sure investigated those. There were surprise visits, threats, bullying, intimidation and even threats with a firearm, but the family resisted and when the dust settled, all the allegations were proven false. None of the authorities were willing to discuss what had happened to the girls, they only wanted for the girls to see biological mother so the complaints would stop. Some of the authorities later apologized, others have not.

The trials continued and the judges refused permission for the girls, twelve at the time, to speak, so they could not give testimony. Given the lack of charges against Whittington and Campbell, and the lack of action on the part of child protection authorities, the courts continued to order access for biological mother and the girls continued to refuse. This went on for some time. Eventually, the courts got angry and engaged police to use force against the girls to physically make them see their abusers. At no time would any judge in Canada allow the girls to speak.

Alex, Paige and their Dad fled Canada that day.