

From: Nancy
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2017 8:11 AM
To: Youth Justice System in Victoria Inquiry
Subject: Re Parkville youth justice

To whom it may concern,

In December of 2013 which was 3 years ago now I was 6 months pregnant to my first child and stood down from Parkville youth justice. A client absconded from a hospital leave I was sent too and my life and career were ruined. I had been sent to this leave as management couldn't find a place to put me after a client abused and threatened to kill my baby on the unit I worked on for 3.5 years. Rather than keep working on a unit I felt most comfortable with staff and clients I felt safe and supported with, I got moved and this client did not get any consequences for his threats.

On this particular day I was sent to the hospital with another female staff member without handcuffs and with a client that management knew was a risk of absconding, yet did not inform me of this and risked my life and the life of my unborn child. The female staff member that was with me somehow managed to keep her job even though she had been the one watching the toilet door he escaped from, I am assuming it was because she'd been hired since Ian started, yet because I'd been there for 3.5 years I was considered as one of the "dead wood" he refers to. We are told not to chase even if a client does run and this wasn't the first time a client had absconded from a leave, yet it was the first time a staff member had been stood down for it and more importantly a heavily pregnant staff member. I received no support or follow up phone calls from any manager to check up on me and the decision was made that I was to lose my job just before I was about to give birth. With all the joy of having my first baby, came all the sadness and stress of losing my job and this led to depression, which although is now managed is still not 100%. I have been unemployed and my career has been ruined and since suffering with my mental health it's been so difficult to regain any confidence. This was especially hard after becoming a first time mother. This unfair dismissal became common practice since Ian became director. I absolutely loved my job and got along so well with clients and staff, yet that was all taken away.

Staff were treated as criminals and the clients were given anything they wanted and received no consequences for the poor or threatening behaviours, which progressively got worse. I doubt this email will change anything, however I don't really have much else to lose at this point.

Kind regards Nancy
Sent from my iPad