



Consent Form (copy attached)

Three days after [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] my parents arrived at the Haven to collect me for our flight back to Hobart. My friend [REDACTED] had given birth to her son and the Sister had called for a priest because the baby was dying. The rule was that after we left the Haven there would be no contact whatsoever with friends we may have made and we used our first names only. [REDACTED] was screaming. I had fed her (we looked after our babies and were encouraged to knit clothes for them) and I had changed her but couldn't quieten her. Matron came and quickly ushered my parents and myself out of the hospital section. She sat my parents in the hallway and took me to her office. She told me to write my address on a form and sign it. When I did she screamed at me and called me a stupid girl because I had put my Hobart address on it and not the Haven's address. I filled the next one in as instructed and read on it "consent form". I told her that I didn't want to sign it because [REDACTED] had been crying when I left the hospital and she might be sick which meant she couldn't be adopted and would be left in the orphanage. (I thought that if she was sick I may be allowed to keep because she couldn't be adopted). Her reply to this was "I will phone your mother when she is placed". I left feeling really confused and still can not remember the flight back home. As it turned out [REDACTED] had a heart ailment as an infant which resulted in a heart operation. She phoned two weeks later to tell my mother not to pay any more maintenance because [REDACTED] had gone to her new home. I found out years later that I had 30 days revocation period on the form. I was never given a copy of the form. [REDACTED] was discharged on the 26th July, 2 weeks after her birth before the revocation period. I also found out that my discharge date had been recorded as the 20th July (not the 15th July). When I wrote to the Salvation Army in 1997 to ask for more information, I received a letter from [REDACTED] (their solicitors), to say that they didn't want to deal with me directly again. I've enclosed a copy of that letter.

I believe [REDACTED] was "earmarked" for adoption to a couple already picked out by Matron. On numerous occasions I would be working outside and I would see a couple watching me, accompanied by Matron. When [REDACTED] sent me a photo of her adoptive parents I recognised the man in the photo as being the same one at the Haven. It was common knowledge that prospective adoptive parents did visit the Haven. We also believed that they were asked for donations on these visits.



