

A copy of Judge Waldron's letter was sent to Christine Campbell MP, these are the hansard notes from Parliament.

Courts: adoption

Ms CAMPBELL (Pascoe Vale) — I ask the Attorney-General to investigate how the County Court deals with applications for the discharge of adoption orders and in particular how Mr Brian Thiele handled a request from Cherylyn Harris in June this year.

The County Court received a written request from Ms Harris for an application form to overturn the illegal adoption of her daughter. On 21 July, having failed to receive a reply to her letter of June, Ms Harris phoned the County Court in Melbourne and spoke to Mr Thiele, the person to whom she had sent the letter. He asked Ms Harris if she thought her daughter's adoption was illegal. She replied, 'I am not exactly sure, but could you please send me the form.' Mr Thiele then said, 'Don't you think you are going to open a big can of worms?'. He wanted to know what year her daughter was born and she told him 1963. He then advised her that she was probably the victim of circumstances and that she should be very glad legal adoptions do not occur now. He had the audacity to ask her what her daughter thought of the application.

Ms Harris simply repeated that she would like the forms to be sent to her.

Some time later, when the forms still had not arrived, she again rang the County Court. She received the application forms on 3 August and did not send them in, but on 1 October 1997 she received a letter from Mr Tim Mulvany, a solicitor representing her daughter. Honourable members should remember that the application forms had not been lodged with the County Court. Mr Mulvany's letter stated that Mr Thiele had sent her daughter a letter dated 23 September, informing the daughter that her birth mother proposed to make an application to the court for a discharge of the adoption order. Due to Mr Thiele's interference and assumptions, Ms Harris's daughter has now cut off all direct links that had been established with her mother.