

# Moving A Child Out Of Your Home, Could This Be Any More Fun?

## A Message For Family Services Staff

This message translates into a Family Services agency pretty easy. It is basically the same except you are facing the decision of whether or not to suspend or expel a client from your program or your office. It is also for you to learn about how I understand troubled people's behavior. Some of your traditional education might vehemently disagree with my theory that some kids are destined to move out early. Oh well I can't help that, I know what I know because that is what I have witnessed so many times before.

### To summarize this:

1. Some things are meant to be.
2. By letting a client trespass all over the rules you are not helping them finish their education with you by tolerating it.
3. They are only learning total disrespect, lack of discipline, and very little life skills.
4. Then they leave your program anyways before they graduate.
5. Don't do this to clients, stick to your rules, and allow the students to make a choice.

Counsellors can do this for their [clients](#), and directors can do this for your whole [agency](#) or treatment center. However there is a catch in a school that parents might not have in their home. Parents have only [two people](#) basically to co-operate with on this. Family service workers have an [entire staff](#) and sometimes other agencies they must integrate with.

This can be a problem. If one staff member like yourself tries to take a stand, you can have an army of [marshmallows](#) resisting you on it.

Solution to a family services problem:

- [It is much better to find an administrator or several other workers involved with the same client to co-operate with first, plan your attack and stick together.](#)

## Really good example of this in a school, this is a true story:

- I had a high school principal with a grade 12 student still doing grade 11 courses. He didn't come to school much, was known as **a bully**, nowhere close to passing his classes and having **ultra extreme troubles** at home with his good parents and they were good parents, just a little too soft. This kid got angry easily and **punched many holes** in the wall in his bedroom, and his siblings wouldn't even come home. The principal firmly believed this kid needs to stay in school and gave him many breaks and forgiveness. His parents were at **a total loss**, and the child was super **critical** and **nasty** to everyone.
- Then I came and taught the adults a lesson, I have never met the kid once. Right away I told his school principal he is done, school was over a long time ago he just hasn't left yet, let it go, high school diploma is completely irrelevant and he is learning that rules don't matter by the school forgiving him so many times, so boot him out. Then I told the parents to get set up with rules for the household and make **anyone homeless** if they do not obey. I set them up with one of my famous residency agreements. The kid couldn't follow the rules, he freaked out, and out in the **snow bank** he went (according to the special way my agreements evict youth). He went to grandma's, she gave him the boot after 4 weeks, he came home and **earned his way back home** (according to my agreement's method of letting children come home)
- The whole time this was going on he cursed and swore at his parents and school staff in ways you couldn't imagine. He even tore off part of his mom's dashboard in her car.
- **What happened?** Well he came home a little shaken up by homelessness and rejection, and a lot **more humble** than he was before. He wasn't even allowed to enter the house until he gave a **15 minute explanation** of how his actions were affecting his parents. Then they said he needed to apply for a job 3 times a day until he gets one or it is the snow bank for him. He got a job at a local mechanical company, and found that he is not a bad labourer. Most importantly though "**the guys**" at work (who are older) accepted him and invited him for beers and steak sandwiches after work with "**the guys**". As soon as this happened the young troubled man's **self esteem** and **confidence** went through the roof. Apparently that was what he needed this whole time. He works every day, put new drywall in his entire bedroom, and bounces out of the house at night. With no problem hugging his mom, smiling at her, and clapping his dad on the back. He doesn't care about school and I don't blame him.

- School should have booted him out a long time ago. Now the boy **acknowledges** all the people who were tough with him because they earned his **respect**, even though he cursed them at the time.

**Moral of the story:** Always teach kids a lesson, accept “**what is**” and never avoid the inevitable. Consequences teach people, and giving them a chance to make amends causes them to learn from them.

Special clause for Family Services workers:

More than schools and parents your agency is most likely to encounter some severely messed up children. That being said if you have someone under your care that has been so traumatized you might want to consider not being too harsh with them, at least not in your tone of voice. Always hold them accountable, but if you find **they are moving forward** just at a slow pace it can be an idea not to rush them too much because you are at least making progress. Follow your instincts on that one.

### **Call to action:**

1. If you would like some counsel on how to approach a client similar to the one in the true story above, then you can talk to your administrator about it, show them this newsletter, and contact me I will walk you through it.
2. If you would like to address your entire staff and/or client body about some behavioural stuff like mental health, drugs, and alcohol then contact me for a **strategy session**.

Contact Tom [tom@streetsmartcounselling.com](mailto:tom@streetsmartcounselling.com)

or

403-391-4184

To learn about Tom’s program and strategy for agency staff, their clients, parents and young people.

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