



My son got stabbed in school

1 message

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To whom it may concern

Dearests with a lot of worry I feel compelled to inform you, that my son Ethan got stabbed in school on 28/10/2021.

I have already been to your services for pretty much the same issue. Where I was framed as a revenge action from the principal. And things have escalated to the point that I rather don't go again. Therefore, I decided to be the first one (hopefully) to tell you the story this time.

On that specific day 28/10 Ethan was kicked, pushed to the floor and stabbed with a pencil, that went through his shoe through his socks and end up around 1cm into his flesh! Imagine the power that was used. I am asking myself what if was in his ear, or his eyes or his chest....

What if he was killed...?!

Currently he isn't going to school, since the school has been indifferent at least to say.

Nevertheless, I have asked his theater if she will be willing to email to me school worksheets on what he would do in the class + homework. Although she doesn't have to she did agree and from the moment the kids were back to school, I have received from her weekly the necessary so Ethan isn't falling behind. Within a week I do send her the sheets complete and of course I receive others for the following week. In addition to this I have volunteer juf Ann from Auxilia that has been coming to my home for 2 years every Tuesday for an hour helping Ethan with school, more intensively with language. Since Ethan is in danger and afraid to go to school, juf Ann is staying minimum 2 hours instead of 1 hour.

I guess you could call it emergency home schooling.

I had to choose between:

- Education, which is mandated by Law, and I of course responsible to make sure he is attending it on a regular basis.
- Or keeping him well, safe and alive, which is also my responsibility according that same Law.

You see those two responsibilities I have imposed on me by Law are contradictory. Lucky as a parent, I have some rights too (which I intend to keep as it's the only thing allowing me to make extreme decisions if necessary to keep him out of harms ways). I have the right to choose what is more important his education or his safety.

The school and CLB main priorities are their own image and the privacy of fully grown individuals.

Mine aren't . I have chosen my child safety.

And have done the best I can with some kind of emergency home education. For the seek of clearly home schooling is also something I can as a parent freely choose for. Probably isn't fully in accordance with the Law but is all I got. To go even step further, he is able to learn more at home where he is safe and comfortable, then at school where he is in constant fear and unable to focus in class. Or because he just got beaten up or thinking what will happen next play time!

Furthermore, the last time I spoke with the principal of Damian school 29.10'21 (after I was at the police) I wasn't allowed to enter the school because she say I went to the police?! Because I didn't trust them as a school. I asked does this mean that Ethan isn't welcome to school as well. Her answer was: "Now we have vacation, after the vacation we will see". They had to discuss it...?!

I haven't heard from them if he is allowed to come to school or not!!! Until I received 2 emails,(will be forwarded to you) one from Renica Dehandschutter and one from the principal Begga Smets. One email asking me why Ethan isn't at school the other telling me that I as a parent am obligated to bring him to school because he is under compulsory education.

The fact that I was asked why Ethan isn't at school while knowing he was stabbed says enough. The school has decided to completely ignore what happened. And has no issues whatsoever to risk my son's life, so their fake image is unstained.

Mrs. Smets mentioned my responsibility to bring Ethan to school, but says nothing about none of their responsibilities, some of which are to keep my kid safe, or to investigate what happened. That means that she decided to stick to what she told me the day I wasn't allowed to enter the school

Which is:

"The school thinks that Ethan got bored and stabbed himself!"

That's the most immoral, unscrupulous and selfish expression I've heard in a while. It scares me the fact that my child's life is not relevant at all to them.

I don't think she realizes what a consequences such a statement may entail.

I was accused of saying to him what to say....

After all of this it is clear to me that the school does not plan to investigate what actually happened. Instead have decided to label Ethan as a lunatic with tendency to harm himself...

That means those 2 kids next time may stab him to death. And what the school will say would be:

" It is not surprising first stabbing himself, now he killed himself".

Ethan will go to school when I know he is safe.

I'll not send him to a place that he is being terrorized, and may be killed!!!

I have of course doctor notes(will be emailed to you) justifying his absence. Besides the fact that I am unwilling to risk his wellbeing, he is emotionally affected by it. And refuses to go to school, out of fear

I have also already filed a complaint with the police that is currently in the court at Public Prosecution Office.

CLB was informed by the school that Ethan isn't coming to school, so they have contacted me for a meeting with which I agreed although there is nothing they can do at this point. They were going to be 2 of them, which I find intimidating more than I find necessary. I have explained that in several emails. (will be forwarded to you). Regardless, they have decided to be stubborn instead of helpful. They don't respect the difficult situation we have found ourselves in, or my request, instead kept adding more people. By those actions from their part I felt attacked and blamed for not taking Ethan to school. I have told them that I have doctor papers justifying his absence from school. Forwarded the emails from the school about why Ethan is not going to school, they have decided to "punish" me instead of showing understanding and compassion. I absolutely don't see any reason to have a meeting with them also because they have been lying to me, haven't listened to me and also they have spoken with Lore (guidance from Bamboo I have) without asking me, although they need my consent to do so. On a separate meeting for other kid Leen and Liesbeth (CLB) asked Lore if it is ok to talk about Ethan as well. And of course they have. So nothing is important for them not how me and Ethan feel, what can we handle, or our rights, they have breached our privacy, and finally they have went beyond and above by absolutely disregarding the professional secrecy they are legally bound to. Even though I have every reason to refuse to meet with any of them I have chosen to give them a chance the only condition I had was on the meeting to be only one of them... But it appears I have no saying in anything at all. So or is their way or the highway.

I have received yesterday an email from them that they have no other choice but to inform your services more specifically OCJ. This isn't true, they could choose not to overwhelm me by insisting to meet with 2 of them. They could choose to understand and just one of them to be at this meeting. Regardless which one.

Not to mention Corona crisis, and the preventive measures. Which forbids any meetings if not absolutely necessary and with minimum number of people attending. In this case wasn't absolutely necessary to meet in person to begin with and even less necessary to be 3 (at first) but then they have also contacted and invited Ethan's father (his girlfriend Linda tested positive on Corona)

To be completely honest I am actually glad they did contact you. More than I would expect. I am not afraid, or angry. I can't believe it, but I am actually relieved.

I believe, that because of the history I have with juvenile services this time they think we are different. I believe Shana knows, that I wouldn't do anything, that may hurt my son, and there is nothing I wouldn't do to help him. Even if that means going against all odds. Everything I do is because I want the best for him. Regardless of the most used sentence by schools and different youth service **" best interests of the child/children."** I am the only one that put his best interests above and beyond everything and anything.

We are the victims in this story just as we were

In the previous one. As victims we have rights, the most basic one is to be helped. And specially Ethan. He doesn't go to school not because I wake up one day and decided I'll not take him any more to school.

What actually happens here in case isn't clear enough is, that my son's right to be educated is currently denied to us due to safety that is outside my reach. Regardless everything is blamed on me using my responsibility to make sure he is attending school.

For 2 months I have brought him to school every day, with the knowledge, that he is getting pushed, kicked, buried under sand, humiliated, beaten up with the hope the school will live up to their promises to keep him safe. Until he got stabbed! That shook me, I just can't bring him and leave him at school where he can be killed! If you want to blame me for something you can, blame me for hoping and trusting things will get better. But not for choosing his safety and keeping him home.

My complaint letter with civilian party to the juvenile judge is ready and tomorrow or the day after I should be able to submit it at the Public Prosecution Office.

Besides other things that I asked in my letter I did ask your help. Have requested that 3 of the 4 boys from Ethan's class that have bullied him almost every day to be put under the supervision of youth care support center (OCJ). Since only the parents of one kid did show interest and took it seriously. They told me that they know the parents from 2 other boys and they will inform them and give them my phone number and email. Unfortunately I haven't heard from them. Things were getting worse by the day and no one seemed to care.

And it goes without saying that for the other 2 bigger boys that have stabbed him supervision is absolutely crucial. I also asked that they are expelled disciplinarily as it is in the rules of Damian school.

As I would like to be as transparent as I possibly can be, having nothing to hide and everything I have written in this email is the truth.

Mrs. Leen Herrebout - CLB, Mrs. Lisebeth Verhaeghen - CLB, Mr. Pieter Goossens - CLB
And Ethan's father Nico Crombez read along us in copy

I wish you pleasant receiving of this email

Kind regards,