

Darian Thomas

E: darianlathomas@gmail.com

June 19, 2026

Shashe Chaudhary
Executive Director of Service
Ministry of Children and Family Development – North Fraser

**Re: Payment Issues Affecting BI [REDACTED]; Impact of the Delayed Return Order;
Concerns Regarding an Anticipated Supervision Order**

Dear Shashe,

I am writing to raise two related concerns. The first is to correct the record regarding the ongoing invoicing and payment problems affecting [REDACTED], one of the main Behaviour Interventionists (BIs) supporting Rocky in my home. The second is to raise concerns about the supervision order anticipated at the September court date, in light of how long it has now been since Rocky came home to me.

For clarity, since entering care, Bennett has chosen to go by the name Rocky, and I will refer to him as such throughout this letter.

[REDACTED] Invoicing and Payment History

I want to make sure the timeline on this file is accurate. [REDACTED] began working with Rocky on April 9, 2026, and submitted her first invoice on April 20. She was then asked to reformat that invoice to match MCFD's required format, which took until May 6 to resolve. On May 22, she was told that the original, non-MCFD format had in fact been acceptable all along, meaning that delay was unnecessary. Her first payment did not arrive until May 13, more than three weeks after she submitted the invoice and over a month after she began working.

[REDACTED] submitted a second invoice on May 27. After repeated follow-up, including phone calls when emails went unanswered, a cheque finally arrived on June 17, but with her last name misspelled, making it impossible for her to deposit. She submitted a third invoice on June 18, and as of yesterday was told payment for the second invoice "should" arrive by the end of next week.

The result is that since starting work in early April, [REDACTED] has received exactly one payment. She has had to borrow money from family and friends to get by, and has at times barely had enough money for gas to get to her shifts. The social worker on this file has repeatedly acknowledged the errors and stated there is "no excuse" for the delays, so I don't believe these facts are in dispute. [REDACTED] is the biggest support Rocky and I have at home, and I am raising this with you now because I am genuinely afraid that continuing to ask her to work without reliable pay will cost us that support altogether.

Impact of the Delayed Return Order

This pattern of delay is not simply an administrative inconvenience; it exists because Rocky's return order was opposed by the father. Had the return proceeded as planned, a CYSN (Child and Youth with Special Needs) contract would already be in place to fund and pay BIs like [REDACTED] directly, and the invoicing problems described above would not be occurring at all. Because the father's opposition to the return order has delayed that contract, my support team and I are instead left navigating an ad hoc payment process that is failing the people Rocky and I depend on most.

I am concerned that if this continues, Rocky and I risk losing a BI who has been a stable and valuable part of Rocky's support team, through no fault of her own. I would ask that this be considered both on its own merits and as a direct consequence of the delay in finalizing Rocky's return.

Concerns Regarding an Anticipated Supervision Order

I would also like to raise a related concern about the supervision order anticipated for Rocky's return, given the timeline involved.

Rocky has been in my care on an extended visit since May 7, 2026, with no plan for him to return to [REDACTED]. The return order was opposed by the father, and as a result the matter will not be back before the court until September 23, 2026. I acknowledge that a mediation date has been set for July 8, 2026, and I remain open to that process; however, even if mediation does not resolve the matter, the court date would not occur until September 23, 2026. By the time of that hearing, close to five months will have passed since Rocky came into my care, months during which I have, in practice, been caring for him under the exact conditions the supervision order would impose, without the order's formal status, defined terms, or any end date attached to it.

If a supervision order is then imposed in September, its own term would extend well beyond that date. Taken together, I will have effectively lived under the practical terms of a supervision order for close to a year, despite the fact that I have never harmed my child, that there is no finding of harm or abuse anywhere in my file, and that from the very beginning I have done nothing but advocate for and love him more than anything in this world. I have cared for Rocky for the past six years, and that care has been affirmed in glowing letters of support from professionals across multiple disciplines. The weeks since May 7, 2026, lived without any formal order in place, have only reinforced what that record already shows: that Rocky is safe, settled, and well cared for in my home.

Given this history, I am respectfully requesting that no supervision order be imposed upon Rocky's return. At minimum, I would ask that the months I have already spent meeting these expectations informally be taken into account, and that this concern be reviewed before the upcoming mediation.

Sincerely,

Darian Thomas
Mother and Legal Guardian of Bennett ("Rocky") Thomas