

A 15 years old boy who committed suicide – caused by the CPS

Erik Strand, September 10 2014

The following is a summary in English of the content in a discussion thread on a Norwegian forum for critics of the Child Protection Services (CPS). One can read the thread at <http://forum.r-b-v.net/viewtopic.php?f=148&t=1014>. In this thread, May-Britt Tysnes tells about how Norwegian authorities took her son, Sigbjørn, away from the family and how sundry persons involved acted. This tragic story ended in Sigbjørn's death at the age of 15.

When I give a summary of the thread, I will not use direct speech so often, even though the source of information is the witness report of one of the parties in this case. The reason for this is that it would be very tedious to read a lot of references and direct speech in this case. So therefore, instead, I inform at this point that My Britt Tysnes's postings in the thread is my source of information whenever I say something about what was said and done in this case.

It was a nice summer day in July 2 000 that Sigbjørn was told that he had to move out of his home. His mother told him about the decision that he had to move out of his family home. Her started crying and said, "Mom, this is worse than death."

At the time when the CPS moved Sigbjørn, Tysnes had five teenage daughters and six smaller children. She does not deny that the task to take care of eleven children became hard, and that the parents did not have as much time for the older children as would be preferable. The parents had never abused pills or any other drugs.

Being a teacher shearing many interests with his son, Sigbjørn's father was able to provide his son knowledge. As an example, Sigbjørn got the highest mark (6, which means the same as an A) on an oral presentation of the battle of Stalingrad. Father and son had worked much on the project.

Sigbjørn and his dad also used to take long walks in the mountains (5-6 hours), and dad knew about many viewpoints.

The CPS engaged a psychologist brought in from Sweden. She spent a few hour observing the five smallest children at school and in kindergarten. She did not observe them at home. She found that all five children were "much lonely and sad children who had lost the faith that adults could help them".

Sigbjørn told that this woman scared him. He felt uncomfortable, and she showed him pictures of some children and dogs who were beaten. Sigbjørn then had to respond to the

pictures. It seems that he had responded wrongly, and the psychologist interpreted his answers freely.

The psychologist, who was cited by fylkesnemnda (governmental body which makes decisions in CPS cases), never spoke with the parents.

The result was that the children were placed in foster homes. After three months in a foster home, a psychologist came to observe the children at home. According to Tysnes the children were all restless due to the shock from being moved. The psychologist found something wrong with all children. The psychologist observed that Tysnes read a book for the two smallest children. They descended from her knees when the story about Tommelise (a well-known Norwegian story for children) became too scary for them. From this, the psychologist concluded that the children suffered from reactive attachment disorder. One boy ran out on the lawn with only socks on his feet, and Tysnes tells that the psychologist found that the child running out in his socks showed that he was disturbed too. This psychologist is a child psychologist frequently used in CPS cases.

Another psychologist, Sine Diemar, was involved when the parents called the municipality's case handler and said that they wanted their daughters to be present in Sigbjørn's confirmation (religious ceremony taken part in by most Norwegian youths at the age 14 or 15). The psychologist never met the parents nor spoke with them over the phone. This is what Diemar wrote:

"I have also registered considerable reactions by the girls after contact with the parents, without the brothers present. There are hence reasons to be critical towards exposing the girls to further burdens. During observations, they show a small degree of sibling dialogue interaction, and there is no sibling dynamics. (The psychologist had not observed the girls together with the parents or their brothers or older sisters).

There is reason to believe that this also goes for relations to elder siblings, and that contact with siblings is not to the children's best now.

Regarding further contact, we ask that it be taken into consideration that these are two relation-damaged girls who are placed in a foster home, and that they are in a phase where they shall develop ties to a new family. They have great loyalty conflicts related to their two homes and need quiet and stability in order to get a good development. We also question that the girls shall have contact with their parents as often as every third week, as this apparently reactivates their traumas."

For some background on Sine Ditmar, one can read about one judicial murder in Denmark where she was heavily involved at http://www.ipt-forensics.com/journal/volume8/j8_3_2.htm.

Tyne's also tells about a meeting in fylkesnemnda, when fylkesnemnda spent almost two hours discussing a waffle episode. The question was whether it was maltreatment to give the children waffles on January 1st instead of dinner. The children did get dinner at seven pm, food warmed up from New Year's Eve, but at that time, the woman doing the supervision had gone home.

When the court was going to determine who should have the care for the children, two assigned psychological experts came home to the Tysnes family. These were Kirsten Westly and Wenche Førland. At this time, Sigbjørn had turned 14 years old. His smaller brothers sat crying around the corner when they told the psychological experts that they wanted to go home. In their report, Westly and Førland wrote that the parents were behind and had manipulated their children to say that they wanted to go home. One can contrast this allegation with what happened the last summer Sigbjørn lived. The CPS in Sokndal had to use the police to run after a boy who wanted to stay a little longer at home on summer holiday.

This supervisor also worked as an assistant. The chief of the social sector had said to the Tysnes family that they needed an assistant; otherwise, the municipality would present a case for fylkesnemnda. One day Tysnes was taking a walk in the rain while the assistant drove away with the children. Tysnes wore an old and leaky raincoat she once had gotten from her brother. When the assistant passed her, she turned towards the boys and said that they should also get themselves such a nice raincoat. Sigbjørn understood the irony and was sad when he later on told his mother what the assistant had said.

After a walk, both Tysnes and her husband were tired and fell asleep on a sofa while the girls were playing. Afterwards she made some waffles, and they ate waffles with ice cream. The boys came, and there were 4-5 waffles left. The boys got these waffles, but were still hungry. Tysnes offered to make more waffles, but she could not do that, as the boys had to go back to the assistant.

This assistant later told in fylkesnemnda that the boys were hungry, and that she had to give them some of her and her husband's dinner. Moreover, she said that the parents did not give their children love. Therefore, she could not stand working as an assistant and quit. According to Tysnes, she simultaneously asked the assistant to leave, as she slandered her when in company with her sons, and they told Tysnes about it afterwards.

Tysnes tells that they had another assistant for two periods on one year each. This assistant gave the parents useful advice on communication, making restraints on the children's

behaviour and interaction. At last case handler Kopperud terminated the assistant's assignment. This assistant wrote a report favourable to the parents. She wrote that Tysnes and her husband were cooperative and good at making use of her advice.

According to Tysnes, the assistant first mentioned here had no further education than public school and was fond of playing on automata around in the local community. She did not help the family with practical things in their home – she was only there to help them with three boys with much energy. She did not manage to activate the boys indoors during the autumn storms, so she took them to her own house where they sat in front of PCs and TV games while she was smoking and talking in her phone. Tysnes used to change clothes on her sons when they came home from the assistant, as the clothes were stinking of tobacco.

In September 2005, the family was going to celebrate the youngest girl's 9 years birthday. On this day, three sons had their weekend with contact with the parents at the same time as the smaller girls were on a four hours visit under surveillance by two women. The case handler had forgotten that the boys were going home, but she discovered it on the same day. She called Tysnes and told her to get the three boys out of the house for these four hours, as they were not supposed to meet the girls. Tysnes got angry and said that she would not do that. She told the boys what the case handler had said, and they became silent. Then the case handler had called one of the two women in charge of supervision and ordered that the boys had to get out of the house. The woman refused to follow orders, as it was the youngest girl's birthday, and Tysnes had prepared party food.

In a post in the discussion thread posted on February 25 2007, Tysnes writes about a contact meeting with her daughter on the day before. It had been moved from their home to a neutral place. The family was shocked to see that it was icy cold in the house, an old municipal building. It was so cold that they had to sit with their outerwear on them.

Tysnes observed that one of the two women in charge of supervision was following them with her glance all the time. When Tysnes gave her daughter a hug, one of the women doing the supervision showed clearly (most likely unconsciously) that she did not like that.

At one moment one of the brothers asked why their sister did not come. Then one of the supervisors intervened and said that they could not ask questions like that, and that they had to ask Berit Kopperud about matters like that. Then May-Britt's husband says that we have freedom of speech in Norway and celebrate May 17th (Constitution Day), and that May-Britt can say whatever she wants to her children. The supervisors did not reply to that.

The CPS had told one of the sons not to talk with their mother if he met her in the local community. In court, this son asked to come home. Contact between him and the parents had to happen in a kindergarten under supervision.

The son invited his sister to his confirmation, and it was clear that she was happy to be invited. She asked several times when the confirmation was going to be held.

Sigbjørn's stay in foster home and institution

One day Sigbjørn came home to his parents and told that he had found tickets to Mallorca in his foster home, but none in his name. He found that unjust, contacted the case handler who said that he off course should join the foster family on their holiday. In the end, he did go to Mallorca.

Sigbjørn wrote a couple of poems while living in foster home:

Ka er vitsen med å leva?

hvis ein ikkje kan sveva?

ka er vitsen med å bli født?

ein dag vil mitt legeme ligga stille og dødt

ka er vitsen med venna?

kvar kveld eg kutte meg så blodet får renna

ka er vitsen med meg på livets lange veg?

visst eg ikkje får slå følge med deg?

Translated into English:

What is the meaning of living?

if one cannot soar?

what is the meaning of being born?

one day my body will lie still and dead

what is the meaning of friends?

every night I cut myself so that the blood drains

what is the meaning of the long road of life

when I cannot walk together with you

En plass så lunefull og tørr

At det er som smørt

Å ligge der,

i piskende regn og uvær

Der har jeg gjemmt meg vekk

Fra en diktatorisk fosterfar og fostermor en heks

Ja, fra henne jeg stjal kjeks

De skulle jeg leve av,
aldrig tilbake dra.

Men det var som best,

at mine tanker ble sett,
av pappa, som så for å få rede på at jeg var forsvunnen,
så meg funnen

For hvem har bedre forståelse for et barns følelser og tanker
En dens foreldre, som for barnet hjerte banker.

Sigbjørn Andreas Kvelland sept 04 14 år gammel

A place so capricious and dry

That it is as if lubricated

To lie there,

In whipping rain and storm

There I have hid myself

From a dictatorial foster father and foster mother a which

Yes, from her I stole biscuits

I had to live from them,

never go back

But what was best,

that my thoughts were seen,

by dad, who watched to learn that I had disappeared,

saw me found

For who has got better understanding for a child's emotions and thoughts,

Than the parents, for whom the heart beats

Sigbjørn Andreas Kvelland September 04 14 years old

Tysnes read the letter with the latter poem in fylkesnemnda, but fylkesnemnda did not comment upon the letter.

The episode described in the poem, where Sigbjørn ran away and was found by his father, was described in court by the municipal lawyer (Bernt Thinn, Sokndal municipality) as an arranged disappearance in which the parents had participated. That would explain why it was Sigbjørn's father who found him. He found Sigbjørn wet, cold, thirsty and in bad shape. He had been lying in the mountain from midnight until five pm the next day.

The CPS placed Sigbjørn in an institution with youth 2-3 years older than he was and with very different problems. These youth had problems with drugs, their school situation and criminality, as Sigbjørn told his parents after getting to know these youth. After Sigbjørn's death, the principal on his school said that they had never had a pupil like Sigbjørn from that institution before.

On the Saturday before he died, Sigbjørn and other children living in the same institution had helped a girl to escape from the institution. She was not allowed to go out that weekend. As punishment for helping the girl to run away, the institution banned Sigbjørn from exercising for a week. He was alone in the institution with five adults on work. Tysnes asks where the other children were and why they were not to be punished. She remarks that it seems that the employees were out to take Sigbjørn.

A few days later, the Tysnes family received a phone call from the institution. Sigbjørn was missing, and they asked if he was at home. After half an hour, the institution called again and told that a boy from the institution had been found under the local train, and that the boy had to be Sigbjørn. The institution later apologized for informing the parents about their son's death in this way, over the phone. Shortly after, the CPS case handler came home to the parents together with a psychiatric nurse. Tysnes did not invite them in.

In 2006, one of Tysnes's sons told her that a person working in the CPS said to him, "One day you have to thank the case handler for all she has done for you in the CPS". The boy then stood up and said, "Shall I thank her for having killed my brother?"