

My name is Jenna Turcotte and I am the daughter of Gina Turcotte. I know I am by no means as articulate as my mother, but nevertheless she has requested I write this letter giving my view of the past few years, and, more importantly, of right now.

I am 18 years old and I was 14 when I was taken away by DHHS. Actually, I myself encouraged my guidance counselor to seek out help for me. That is the first indication of my mother's strength and good influence, even though quite obscure. She has raised me since I was born to know how to take care of myself, to know instinctively when my environment isn't the best for me. So it was through her teachings, and her guidance that I had the strength to ask for help in the first place.

I will admit that if she was still the person she was three years ago, then I would not recommend her for the field of work she is currently seeking, but my mother has overcome a great many obstacles to become the amazing person she is today. Quite honestly I don't think it would do any good to delve into what happened while my mother was sick and while I was still in DHHS custody because we would be talking about a different person altogether and it is now my mother who is the topic of this letter, not that other person. It has taken my mother a great deal of personal and spiritual growth to get where she is today and it is very unfortunate that she still has so many obstacles to overcome. I find it ridiculous that the DHHS case to be held against her, especially since she did in fact win back custody of me and that would not have happened without my full consent.

Take a moment to think about the job itself. In home support to prevent children from progressing to a state where they need to be sent to an institution such as NFI, where my mother was previously employed for 16 months. What is it exactly that these children need? Guidance. Is there any better person to guide a child through a strenuous period of personal, than a person who has been in a similar position and overcome it herself. A person who has seen what can happen if these children are not attended to. A person who helped many, many children, who have already been institutionalized, get their life back on track, and help them step by step to work their way back into society. I do not believe that any person who has not dealt with what my mother has dealt with will have the qualifications necessary to provide the care required.

As far as my mother as a person, words can't even begin to describe her. I currently live with my mother, actually, and, in spite of the past, we have no difficulties in sharing our space. She is kind and considerate to me and helps me with whatever it is I may need. My mother is a very good friend of mine. She is a person I can always talk to, even about things I am too anxious about to discuss with my close friends. I believe my mother would be able to help any child as much as she has helped me. If it weren't for my mother, I would not be the caring, compassionate, gentle, and considerate human being I am today. Barring my mother from working in this particular field is pure folly in my opinion. To me, that's just several more children being allowed to work their way out of healthy society. Please take into consideration, not my mothers past, but her future. Think of all the good she could do for the troubled children of Maine. Isn't that at least worth it? If not then think of all the things this incredible woman has done to better herself and the world around her. She deserves a chance to prove what an asset she is and I believe you would be remiss to deny her this opportunity.

I would like to thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter and I hope you will put a great deal of thought into your final decision.

Jenna Lyn Turcotte

Jenna Turcotte
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