



~~George Miller~~ Maya Miller 6185 Franktown Rd. Carson City Nevada 89701

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George Miller, Director
Nevada State Welfare Department
251 Jeanel Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear George,

What dirty old man made up the Paternity Statement Form (#2402-EC12/76) with distribution to: "white-DA, canary-IV-D File, pink-signer"?

And what welfare workers are using it without a whimper to harass poor women trying to care for their children?

Do you believe that this is the way Congress intended you to use the Child Support IV-D money?

Is it not indignity enough that a poor woman has to come to your Welfare Department to ask for her child and herself some little support that our state gives so grudgingly?

As a taxpayer I need to ask you some questions?

How long does it take to administer and process this 87-question form? And what am I paying to allow your welfare workers to trip out on the pornographic pictures this form is designed to evoke? What do you do with the information you gather? Precisely how is the form administered? Does the intake officer go over the questions with the mother? alone? or is her child with her? Is it a tete-a-tete between the welfare worker and the mother in need? Who is caring for the child if the child is not with her? Is there child care in the intake office of the welfare department? How long does it take to answer and write down the 87 answers?

Where does the form go next? Does an eligibility worker review it next (thereby giving Bureaucrat #2 his/her kicks for the day imagining in the mind's eye the precise motel in which the particular sexual intercourse was performed, with or without some particular contraception).

Or does it go next to a welfare "investigator"? And is he a law officer? or a private eye? What does he do? Does he track down the present location of the motel owner, and the boy and girl on the double date? (that double-date question really dates your questionnaire deviser, by the way) Does he phone them, or does he interview them at school?

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Then, what does he do with his findings? Do they go into some marvellous master computer to be worked on some later date by a GS14 in the Baltimore computer bank?

Or do the form and his verification go now to an eligibility worker? And how are the answers used to make decisions about whether or not she gets her \$6 or whatever dollars a day?

I'm going to spare you, George, the rest of the proliferating 187 questions that spring to my mind to ask you in regard to this ridiculous - but seriously discriminating in humane - questionnaire. I'm going to spare you because I don't want to play funny games with an institutionalized device which my government is using against poor women. But it is clearly a gross expense to the taxpayers, besides the greater and far more serious expense it is in human dignity.

That is totally federal money you're spending on IV-D, isn't it?

I remember when you and Ruby Duncan and Gov. O'Callaghan and I were all on the same side objecting to the 31 new full-time bureaucratic jobs this IV-D program was imposing on the state. But now that you've got it, and you're in charge of administering it, I'm shocked by your questionnaire. Are you sure this is what Russell Long and the others in Congress intended?

That whole issue of Get-the-Father-to-make-him-pay is a mixed bag. I know a host of mothers who want as badly as you do to have that man who made her pregnant pay some of that support. (It takes two to make a child. By biology, one, the woman, is irrevocably left with the fetus. If she is allowed no option to choose an abortion, she is left with bearing and bringing up that future American the best she can. ADC has been her safety net. The father, by biology, is left free to choose to help support or not).

I know many women who stand ready and willing to help you and the law enforcement officers track down that man. (I've told you about the County Commission meeting I was at where the welfare mother reported that the DA wouldn't move on her husband in spite of having had her warrant for him for 8 months, "He says he can't find him. I don't know why. They drink at the same bar together, and my ex-husband's truck is out front reading B's Plumbing Service, Call Day or Night, with the phone number. But the DA thinks it's gotta be my fault, he sympathizes with my husband, I just don't make the coffee right or something.")

On the other hand, George, I know other women who have very good reason for worrying about the physical harm that will come to them if they tell the law on that man. The "Good Cause" proviso in the federal regs is not without good reason.

But I want you to explain this questionnaire to me, George. To me it is a sample of warped welfare bureaucracy mentality that works its worst out on poor mothers.

If you see it another way, please explain.

Signature *Moya*