



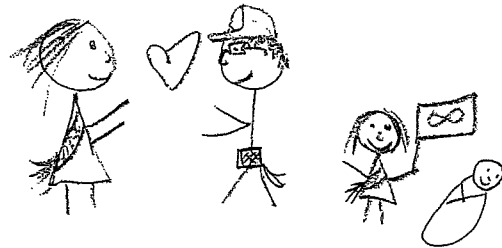
Lii Michif Otipemisiwak
Family and Community
Services

**This is the story about how [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
Came to Live with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]**

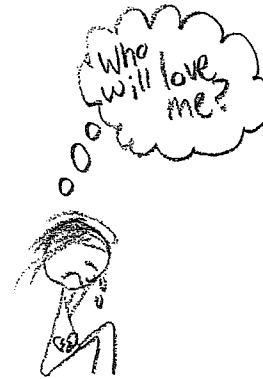
DATE:



When Mommy [redacted] was [redacted], she found out she was pregnant. She felt very happy and dreamed about being a loving mom. She felt very connected to this beautiful, special baby growing inside of her. This baby was [redacted] [redacted] was born on [redacted] Mommy always loved the name [redacted] and [redacted] meant "new beginnings", which Mommy thought was really special, as this baby felt like a new beginning for both of them!



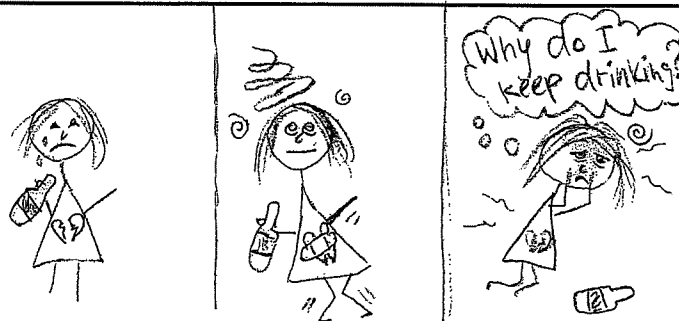
When [redacted] was just a baby, Mommy [redacted] met Daddy [redacted] and they fell in love. They wanted to be a family together. Mommy found out she was pregnant again! When she had her baby girl on [redacted] [redacted] they decided to name her [redacted] Both Mommy and Daddy loved the name "[redacted]" and [redacted] was Daddy's Mom's middle name! Mommy and Daddy were excited to raise 2 special Metis girls together and be a family of 4. They really loved taking their girls for walks to the [redacted] in [redacted]. They would all laugh and smile as they fed the animals!



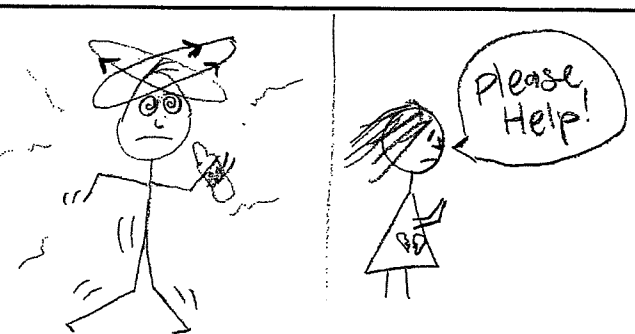
But when Mommy was a little girl, she didn't always have caring adults who kept her safe and she had some sad and scary things happen to her. None of those things were Mommy's fault, she was a very brave little girl, but those scary things created big hurts that stayed inside her heart and body.



Before [redacted] and [redacted] were born, when Mommy was [redacted], she had another daughter named [redacted] - you like to call her [redacted] your big sister! [redacted]'s Dad was [redacted]. At that time, there were worries because Mommy & [redacted] were struggling with adult problems and Mommy was using alcohol to try to quiet her big hurts. Because of those worries, the grown-ups and a judge decided [redacted] needed to go live somewhere safer, just like [redacted] & [redacted]. Mommy was sad but she didn't know what to do with her big hurts.



When Mommy was older, she began drinking more alcohol to try to make her big hurts feel quieter. The alcohol only helped for a little while and never made the hurts go away, but her brain and body kept telling her to drink and she didn't know what else to do. Over time, Mommy began to rely on alcohol. This is called addiction. Addiction is an adult problem and not something children can fix. [redacted] and [redacted] did not cause Mommy's addiction. Mommy has tried to work with helpers to stop drinking, but she hasn't been able to yet.



When grown ups drink alcohol, it changes how their body and brain work. Their head can feel fuzzy, their legs wobbly, and it can be hard for them to think clearly or take care of people. They may smell strongly of alcohol too. When someone has been drinking, they might not be able to keep kids safe or help the way they want to. That's why other grown ups help take care of you when Mommy has been drinking.



Even though Mommy ██████, Daddy ██████ and ██████ had lots of good times together as a family, Mommy and Daddy started having more and more problems and the fighting between them became very serious. There was lots of yelling and hurts. Sometimes Daddy wouldn't let Mommy leave the house when she needed to. Mommy drank alcohol to try to quiet her big hurts and Daddy just got angrier and more controlling and he didn't know how to manage his big feelings.



██████ shared there was one time, When ██████ was ██████ and ██████ was ██████ it was really bad fighting. She said Mommy hit Daddy and broke his glasses and Daddy punched and kicked Mommy, and Mommy's lip was bleeding. ██████ said she took ██████ and went to their room and cried until the police came. The police called LMO to help. Children should never have to hide or cry because grown-ups are fighting. It was never ok for Daddy or Mommy to use violence like hurting hands. It is never ok to punch and kick someone. This was not safe and it was not ██████ or ██████'s fault.



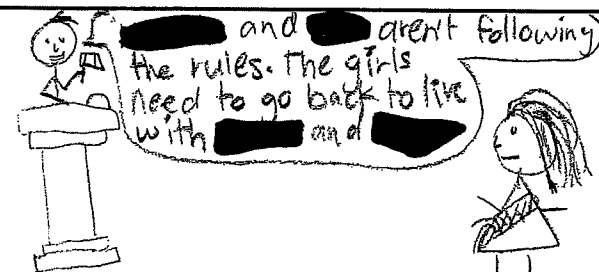
After several meetings with Mommy and Daddy, LMO workers and a judge decided that it would be best for ██████ and ██████ to live with ██████ and ██████ while they sort out the worries and fighting and come up with safety rules. Because of the big fights like this one, and all of the big hurts in Mommy's heart and body, Mommy and Daddy could not give you both the amount of attention and care you needed to grow and be healthy and happy, even though they love you both so much.



After a few months, Daddy got a new home by himself and said he would follow the safety rules, like Mommy and Daddy not being together when spending time with ██████ and ██████. This rule was to keep everyone safe: ██████, ██████, Mommy and Daddy. So, the judge and LMO workers said ██████ and ██████ could live with Daddy, as long as he could show he could keep the girls safe and follow the rules.

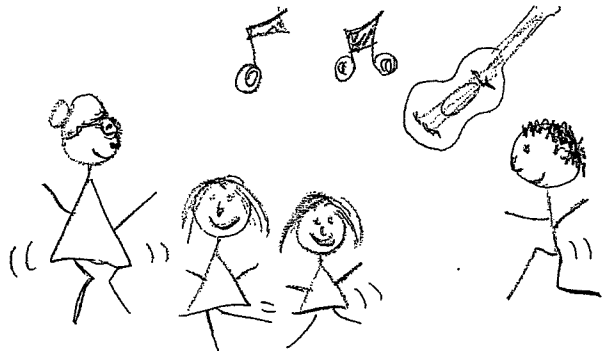


But this was a very hard rule to follow. Sometimes Daddy would ask Mommy to come over and sometimes Daddy would sit outside of the place Mommy was at with the girls in the car, wanting her to come out. Mommy also missed the girls so much and wanted to see them and would come over to the house. The social workers became worried because Mommy and Daddy were spending time together again, even though the judge said they weren't allowed to and they didn't have people around them to support them like la paraantii. Metis families have always had people around families that have big struggles to keep kiddos safe and well.



Right before Christmas, when ██████ and ██████ were 5 and 3, they were having a sleepover visit at ██████ and ██████'s. The police were called to Daddy's house because there was a big fight with Mommy, with yelling and hitting and hurting. The police also found drugs in the house.

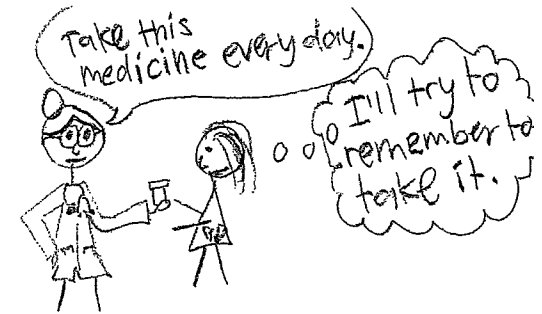
Because the safety rules were broken and because mommy and daddy could not keep the home safe, LMO social workers talked to the judge who said ██████ and ██████ needed to go back and stay at ██████ and ██████'s house.



Mommy, Daddy, [redacted] and [redacted], and the LMO helpers want [redacted] and [redacted] to know they are working hard to make sure you can always be safe, have friends to play with, go to school, and learn who you are as beautiful Metis girls. They want you girls to know how important it is to always have la paraantii around you to help when you are struggling and to celebrate the good times with you too!



[redacted] and [redacted] still have visits with Mommy and Daddy on different days, at LMO. Mommy likes to snuggle and play with the girls and Daddy still likes to bring toys and treats.



One of the things that has happened is that Mommy's brain now has a sickness. This sickness makes her body do strange movements that she cannot control. These are called seizures.

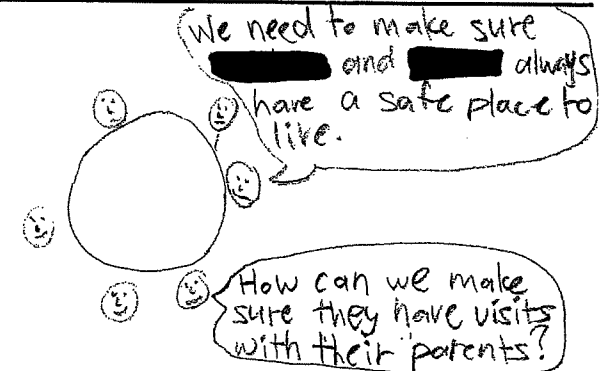
Seizures can be very scary. Sometimes a seizure can last five minutes or even longer. When Mommy has a seizure: Her body shakes uncontrollably, she does not know what is happening and she does not remember it afterward. She feels very upset after it ends



The grown ups were worried if Mommy has a seizure when she is visiting with [redacted] and [redacted], it might feel scary and the girls might not know what to do. So they've created a plan: If [redacted] or [redacted] ever feel worried or if a seizure happens they can come out of the family room, without asking, and tell a LMO worker they need help. [redacted] and [redacted] can use this rule during a Mommy OR a Daddy visit. If they do not feel safe, have a big worry, a seizure happens or something has made them upset, they can come out and tell a LMO worker they need help.



If [redacted] and [redacted] have questions or worries, everyone wants them to know they can ask [redacted], [redacted], a teacher, Elder or an LMO helper, so they can feel good in their mind and bodies. Everyone loves [redacted] and [redacted] to the moon and the stars and wants them to grow up feeling safe and loved no matter who they are with.



LMO helpers are working with Mommy and Daddy to see if they can find some la paraantii to help them. They are also working with a judge. The LMO Helpers will ask the judge to decide what needs to happen to make sure [redacted] and [redacted] always grow up safe, are taken good care of, feel loved and are connected to their Metis culture and community.