

Jennie Ahkivgak, Elder
Vera Williams, Translator
Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Barrow
March 15, 2005

My name is Jennie Ahkivgak from Barrow. Excuse me I don't know how to speak English. She is going to interpret.

(Jennie speaking in Inupiat).

I'm Vera Williams. I'll be translating for Jennie. I'm also a Council person for the City of Barrow and I also am a worker for the Elders at the North Slope Borough for the Senior Center.

Jennie has in front of her a document that she receives from Child Support Services in front of her right here. And she states that she took care of her grandchildren before and she the document from Child Support and at this time she's 79 years old.

And someone else has the children right now. And she's asking the question, why is this coming to me – child support document. She has no job and she has no way of an income to pay for this child support and she keeps talking about this income tax. This is getting bigger and bigger in the amount. And she said she took care of her grandchildren; the parents tried getting the kids back.

And also she stated something about the Bible, that there's also these types of issues that she reads about and in years past she had operations on her legs and she had another operation again on the other leg and she doesn't work and she's got this bill.

The question is why does this come to her name because they're not her children. They're her grandchildren. And she said the parents were divorced and she's worried about this bill because she has no income to pay for it.

And it's a document from the Department of Revenue, Child Support Service Division out of Anchorage with a substantial amount, close to—I don't know if you want me to say it, but it's a pretty big amount.

BURGESS: Maybe we could get a copy of that and we could inquire of Child Support Services. Because I don't know the answer here today but it's something we can.....

WILLIAMS: She just wanted to bring up a concern she has.

BURGESS: I appreciate that. If we can get—maybe if we can get a copy of that today before we leave.

WILLIAMS: Yes. She will give you a copy of it.

BURGESS: That would be great and we can check with them and thank you very much for taking the time to talk with us. Thank you.

END OF STATEMENT