

Counselling for teen 'who attempted suicide'

Susan Mohammed
susan.mohammed@trinidadexpress.com

COUNSELLORS have visited with the Penal teenager who allegedly attempted suicide after her step father was shot dead and her mother committed suicide.

A relative said on Tuesday, counsellors visited the 17-year-old girl, who is being treated at the San Fernando General Hospital.

"She is coming along, doing well. She talked to me", said the relative.

Asked if she spoke of her alleged attempted suicide, the relative said: "No, I don't want to talk to her about that".

On Monday the teenager allegedly drank paint thinner. She was found unconscious in her bedroom, frothing from the mouth.

The teenager allegedly attempted suicide despite the intervention of the Children's Authority, which yesterday said it was providing help for the family.

The teenager and her mother, Sherry Ann Seecharan, had been detained in connection with the shooting death of her mother's husband, and prison officer, Robert Seecharan, on July 29.

The teen admitted she fired the shot that killed her step-father after he fought with them in Penal.

Sherry Ann Seecharan, a mother of four, who said she had suffered years of domestic abuse from her husband, drank a poisonous substance and died on August 12.

Respect her privacy

The Children's Authority advised that it was involved in the case and asked that the teenager's privacy be respected.

"Once the child was referred to the Children's Authority (CA) of Trinidad and Tobago as a child in

need of care and protection, we responded by providing consistent and strong support to this child," the Authority stated.

"We have also been providing support to the other six children in the family. The Authority is treating this matter with the sensitivity and confidentiality which it requires.

"Given the adverse impact of the publicity upon the child, we urge all members of the public to respect the child's right to privacy and confidentiality and afford her the opportunity to heal."

Fired corporation workers protest

SIPARIA
Sandhya Santoo
sandhya.santoo@trinidadexpress.com

ABOUT 100 Siparia Regional Corporation (SRC) workers protested outside the corporation building yesterday, after learning they had been terminated on the orders of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

They called on chairman of the corporation Leo Doodnath, to explain why they were fired. Doodnath, who met with the workers, said short term employment

of workers at the corporation had been stopped, after a letter from the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Local Government was circulated to various municipal corporations.

The letter dated September 13, stated: "All contracts are on hold until further notice so if you have not yet signed the contract then please hold until further information is forthcoming".

Doodnath said it was unusual, as never before has the corporation received a letter to stop contracts prior to a National Budget.