



Press Release

3rd Degree: Sophie's choice **TX: Tuesday 23 May @ 8pm**

Sophie Jardim lives on a farm just outside Barberton, Mpumalanga with 15 children she loves and cares for. They've lived together for the past ten years. The Mpumalanga Department of Social Welfare insists that Sophie does not have legal rights to the children; they say that she is not allowed to look after more than six children on her property.

The children are not her own, they are abandoned children; some have been sexually abused or infected with HIV. Sophie has made them her own, she fosters six under her name. But the future of the other children hangs in the balance. Already the department of social services has removed five kids, some of whom had known only Sophie as their mother for many years. Sophie is fighting a lone battle to stop the further removal of more children. She says the emotional trauma is damaging them all.

In **3rd Degree** this week we look at the plight of this courageous woman who has taken on the department of Social Welfare. We speak to a boy who was removed from Sophie who is ultimately caught in the middle.

We also confront the department and ask them, why now? And what about the welfare of the children?

3rd Degree, Tuesday, 23 May @ 8pm only on **e!**

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