

HOME ALONE AT 13

Amber left to fend for herself

By **LISA CARTY**
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A 13-YEAR-OLD girl has been left to live at home alone following the death of her father. Distressed neighbours believe this is another failure by the Department of Community Services to protect a vulnerable child.

Amber has been staying at the dingy unit in Sydney's west for the past three weeks, with no obvious plan for her care.

The teenager is still grieving the sudden death of her father, Gary, 46, from septicaemia and is adamant that she wants to stay in the unit she shared with him.

It is understood Amber's father had custody of his daughter. Amber did not get on with her stepfather and it is believed living with her mother was not an option.

Neighbours contacted DOCS about the case one or two weeks ago because they were worried Amber was living in the unit alone.

One neighbour, Peter, said: "I knew her dad and he was a good guy. He was good to Amber. But then he got sick and died. Me and a few others down the street have been pretty worried about her.

"I heard that her sister was looking after her but we know she's

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Photo: Danielle Smith

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