

**Nancy D. Baker, Ph.D.**

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July 25, 1997

Richard Consiglio, Esquire

**FAXED**

**RE: Stephanie Kearns**

Dear Hearing Officer Consiglio,

As per court order dated July 24, 1997, I am faxing over a copy of the Psychological Testing completed at Meadows Psychiatric Center on Stephanie Kearns. I also wished to provide an update and clarification of my previous letter, dated July 20, 1997.

In the session dated July 19, 1997, I began to address the therapeutic relationship between Stephanie and myself. We were talking about the hearing before (June 23) and what her dad had talked to her about and what occurred in the sessions prior to that hearing. I would have said something like, "remember when we talked about me telling all your words and you were confused about what I said I said and what your dad said I said....; Boy that was sure a hard time, I'll bet you didn't know what to think...." This was all brief due to her age and emotional limitations (not a long "heart-to-heart"). At some point we were talking about the chance of whether this would happen again. I asked her if she could tolerate it again if it happened, by her father (her answer was "No") or by his family (she said "No"). We talked about whether or not she thought it would happen again and how we cannot control people, but when things happen, not be so affected. She did not think it would happen again. This is when she said that she would not tell if her father talked. I would have said something like, "how are you going to love your mom and dad, and if they say a bad thing about the other, still love your mom and dad, and not be so sad?" The whole conversation was in the same tone as my examples above. Stephanie manifested no discomfort nor any minimal signs of anxiety. This was the beginning of rebuilding the trust and help her be out of the middle and move on through the divorce process.

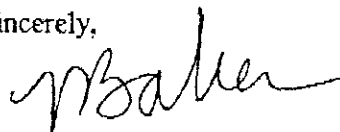
As I noted in my previous letter, Stephanie continues, when upset by minor situations, to have dangerous coping. For example, when she was mad at her attorney, Stephanie wanted to kill herself. Since then, she was angry when playing with a friend and felt like hurting herself. This resulted in her pulling out all her eyelashes again on the right eye and half on the left eye.

*"Building Blocks for a Healthier Future"*

*Plaintiff's  
No.*

What I have seen with this child is that she was improving gradually, although she very much needed at that time, not later, the anti-depressant as recommended by Dr. Hill, prior to my testimony. She then deteriorated dramatically needing hospitalization at Meadows. I saw this deterioration occur after the weekend visit, wherein my testimony was detailed to her, and then she "lost" her neutral party and trust....(as testified to Friday, July 18, 1997). She then needed not only an anti-depressant, but also an anti-psychotic. I see her as still not recovered from that dramatic decline, and at high risk of further decompensation and increased psychosis. Any stressors at this time will add to that risk. I am monitoring for need for further hospitalization, and will consider serious any suicidal gesture.

Sincerely,



Nancy D. Baker, Ph.D.  
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