

Nancy D. Baker, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist

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June 22, 1997

The Honorable Jolene Grubb Kopriva
Blair County Court of Common Pleas
Blair County Courthouse
Hollidaysburg, Pa 16648

RE: Frederick v. Kearns (No. 96 CP 2139)

Dear Judge Kopriva,

This report of therapy progress is being written as ordered on February 27, 1997. In both orders dated February 18, 1997 and February 27, 1997, I was appointed counselor to the minor child, Stephanie Kearns (DOB: 7-30-87). I have reviewed records on this family, including the evaluations of the parents by Steve Hand, the school psychological evaluation by Debra Springer, the Custody Evaluation report by Nancy Vaughn, and the child's most recent report card. I have spoken with Debra Springer to initiate an evaluation for emotional support for Stephanie in school. I have also spoken on a few occasions with Dr. Richard Hill, psychiatrist, about his progress with the minor child and his recommendations.

I have provided therapy to the child, Stephanie Kearns, with both the mother and father bringing her in to her therapy sessions. I met Jandora yesterday (6-21-97), Stephanie's 18 year old half-sister.

I have many concerns for this child. I will list them so that the courts and attorneys will be aware of my concerns and how I have begun to address them.

- 1) Immediately, upon review of the Custody Evaluation report and review with the parents their intakes, I was very concerned about the mental health status of the minor child and referred this child to Dr. Hill for evaluation. He has met with her, reported concern also for her mental health status, and reviewed with the parents recently his recommendation of medication for Stephanie (see attached medication sheet which he gave to both them and myself). I concur with the need for medication.
- 2) Stephanie has done well in her therapy and her trust needs to be protected. I reviewed some of the issues she brings up in her sessions with her parents as well as we discuss the parental issues with divorce and child care. Stephanie has had much difficulty coping with a very dysfunctional childhood. She has had limited ability to cope (nature v. nurture) and has utilized very bizarre means to deal with her family environment. At this time the main issues are Stephanie's need to take care of her father due to his sadness and loneliness, her alignment with him, behavior management of Stephanie, and helping her sort out the dysfunction that occurred when she was growing up.

3) Stephanie has done poorly in school. The testing shows that this is for emotional reasons. I have recommended that the IU8 begin assessing for emotional support in school. Report card is attached.

4) The Custody Evaluation report and the information I have gained in my sessions give me concerns about the father's relationship with his daughter. For example, his not seeing that she has emotional problems until recently, his need for his daughter to take care of him, and his unwillingness to try medication for Stephanie.

Overall, I have seen Stephanie improve. However, she remains a very impaired child and is in continued need of therapy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy D. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy D. Baker, Ph.D.
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