

Nancy D. [unclear]

Licensed Psychologist

2229 Broad Avenue, Altoona Pa. 16601

814-941-7188 FAX: 943-2022

July 20, 1997

Darlee Sill, Esquire
314 Wayne Street
Hollidaysburg, Pa 16648

RE: Stephanie Kearns

Dear Attorney Sill,

I am writing regarding the minor child, Stephanie Kearns, and contact between she and her father. I strongly recommend supervised visitation between Stephanie and her father at this time, and until such time as there is therapy provided to address the relationship issues between Stephanie and her father, with a goal towards improving them. I state this recommendation for the following reason.

First, Stephanie was just released from Meadows Psychiatric Hospital, with a diagnosis of Major Depression, Single Episode, with Psychotic Features. While hospitalized, she was placed on an antidepressant and an anti-psychotic. Medication was recommended prior by Dr. Hill, but was refused by the father, until my testimony, at which time a second opinion on the need for medication was requested via the father's attorney/court. Needless to say, this diagnosis is not a mild one. Prior to hospitalization, she had a suicide gesture, as well as making at least one suicide statement that I am aware of while at Meadows. Since release, when she was upset by her guardian ad-litem making statements about Stephanie not having a dog even though Stephanie wanted one, Stephanie was so distraught that she was sobbing and once again made statements about wanting to be dead. Thus, her coping is still quite limited and her stated coping methods are potentially dangerous.

Second, Hearing Officer Consiglio has set up two interviews after unsupervised visitation weekends--one with her guardian (Zimmerman) and one with Dave Wriston. Stephanie told me that she would not tell anyone if her father talked about things he was directed at court not to talk about.

Third, at this time there is an active Children and Youth investigation naming the father as perpetrator of emotional abuse, with the victim being Stephanie.

I am concerned about the amount of therapy needed for Stephanie and her father in order for their relationship to be more child-focused and healthy. I am concerned about Stephanie's fragility, her limited and potentially unsafe coping methods, her alignments and loyalties, and her family relationships. She looks improved with medication and with hospitalization, however, there is much more work to be done. I am concerned about undoing what has just been accomplished, as well as suicidal gestures, and increased psychosis. This child has to be at low

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stress to get well emotionally. I am concerned that unsupervised visits will throw her right back into the stress that was there before.

For these reasons, I still strongly recommend supervised visitation between Stephanie and her father, while long term therapy occurs for her and between them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy D. Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Nancy D. Baker, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist