

# Donald E. Speice

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July 7, 1997

The Honorable Jolene G. Kopriva  
Blair County Courthouse  
423 Allegheny Street  
Hollidaysburg, Pa. 16648

IN RE: Stephanie Kearns  
NO. 96 CP 2139

Dear Judge Kopriva:

I am in receipt of your Order of July 3, 1997 wherein you authorize placement of the minor child Stephanie Kearns in the Meadows Psychiatric Center apparently at the request/suggestion of Dr. Nancy Baker and authorize that Stephanie may be medicated upon an independent evaluation by a Psychiatrist other than Dr. Hill.

I wish to thank you for your consideration, under the circumstances of this case, of directing an independent evaluation relative to the need for medication.

I do wish to question, however, your indication that "... this is an emergency situation requiring immediate attention and note further Attorney Donald Speice/counsel and Guardian Ad Litem Ilissa Zimmerman were unavailable for participation in this crisis."

I am aware that Ilissa Zimmerman was on vacation (I believe) out of town. I am somewhat curious, however, on what basis you indicate that I was "unavailable for participation in this crisis". To the best of my knowledge, neither you nor Attorney Sill attempted to reach me. I have spoken with my secretary and I am aware that no message was left on the answering machine in my office; no phone calls were received at this office; and, there was no messages on my answering machine at home when I arrived that evening.

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Accordingly, it appears to me that, rather than my being "unavailable", no efforts whatsoever were made to contact me relative to this particular matter.

As a matter of fact, I was sitting in my office Wednesday evening when I received a message on my answering machine that Mr. Kearns had gone to the home to pick Stephanie up for his regularly scheduled visitation only to find a note which stated that there was an emergency "call your Attorney". My client came to my office the first thing Thursday morning and I was forced to advise him that I had no knowledge of anything relative to the matter or why Stephanie was not available.


Accordingly, I would appreciate knowing exactly what efforts were made to reach me for this "emergency".

Secondly, Mrs. Frederick has directed The Meadows to permit Mr. Kearns to visit "only on his scheduled days for visitation" (i.e. every other weekend.)

The Meadows staff has indicated to Mr. Kearns that they must abide by the Court Order if Mrs. Frederick insists on it.

I am requesting you enter an Order Authorizing The Meadows to arrange and schedule visitation as they deem appropriate.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Speice

cc: Mr. Robert Kearns, Jr.  
Ilissa Zimmerman, Guardian Ad Litem  
Lee Sill, Esquire