

Health Impact News

Medical Kidnapping Children in the United States: Illinois

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Illinois



Fight Rages for Teenager Isaiah Rider's Freedom - His Mother Commits "Cardinal Sin" Of Questioning Doctors



Isaiah Rider with mom Michelle. Photo from [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

by **Terri LaPoint**
Health Impact News

Seeking Help for a Rare Condition from Specialists in Chicago

It's the nightmare that they just can't wake up from. 17-year-old Isaiah Rider is still in foster care and cannot go home to his mom, all because his mother committed what has been called the "cardinal sin" – she dared challenge the doctors when her son was in pain and not getting better. For that crime, Michelle Rider and her son are being punished by CPS and the hospital that couldn't find an answer for him.

Michelle trusted the doctors to help her son, who has neurofibromatosis, a rare condition which causes painful tumors on the nerves. However, when Isaiah was still suffering severe pain for weeks after the surgery that was supposed to fix things, she did what any good mother would do – she questioned them, and fought for her child. The term "Mama Bear" comes to mind – it's what moms do. However, some of the doctors at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago reportedly bristled at the audacity of one who would dare challenge their authority, and they pushed back.

Second Opinions Not Allowed: Isaiah Seized by Hospital and CPS



Isiah Rider in hospital. Photo from [Team Isiah Facebook Page](#).

When they told Michelle that they didn't know what was causing the pain and hours-long tremors in what was left of his amputated leg, she tried to transfer him to another hospital in hopes that, perhaps, they could figure it out.

That reportedly did not sit well with the doctors at Lurie.

Without warning, they called in CPS and seized custody of Isaiah on April 15, turning the tables and placing the blame on his mother, instead of acknowledging that someone else might have the answers they did not.

Left Alone in Chicago Away from Home

His mom wasn't even able to say good-bye, and it was 24 days before she was even permitted to see him again. He was left all alone in a strange hospital in a strange town, in the custody of a state he didn't even live in.

They allegedly told him that his excruciating pain was all in his head. They also reportedly told the terrified teenager that he was not allowed to see his mom again. His family, friends, school, and girlfriend were back home in Missouri.

Put into Inner-city Foster Home

When he was released from the hospital, he was placed in a foster home in one of the most dangerous communities in America, in a rough part of Chicago. Isaiah, who is not street smart, later told his family that he feared for his life, and had a gun pulled on him twice while there. He still reportedly has nightmares from it. The traumatized boy made a video from the foster home that he later uploaded to YouTube about his situation.

Isaiah was taken in March. And still the battle rages on.

Isaiah Returns to Missouri – Custody Still in Illinois



Isaiah interviewed by local media in Kansas City after returning from Chicago. Photo by [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

One skirmish was won, however, in that Isaiah was returned to foster care in Missouri instead of Illinois, on September 15. Though he is staying with his grandparents, his contact with his mom is greatly limited. The Illinois Department of Family Services still retains custody, and there have been threats that if his mother doesn't play the game their way, Isaiah will be sent back to Illinois.

One could take comfort in the fact that Isaiah is 17 and will soon be 18. One would be wrong. Isaiah just turned 17 in late August, but unlike his home state of Missouri, he won't gain his freedom at age 18. In Illinois, children with medical issues aren't released from the system until they turn 21.

Medical Abuse and Munchausen by Proxy Accusations



Image courtesy [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

The entire argument for seizing custody hinges on Michelle's actions as a mother. She stands accused of "medical child abuse," which refers to a parent causing real or imagined symptoms in a child. The charge is based on the fact that she advocated and argued for her kid.

Psychiatrist and Expert on Munchausen by Proxy Speaks Out

I spoke with Dr. Marc D. Feldman, who is considered one of [the world's leading authorities](#) on the subject of Munchausen by proxy and other kinds of medical child abuse, and he says that it simply “did not occur” in this case. Further, regarding Michelle Rider, he asserts, “There is no evidence for fabrication and no evidence of lying.”

It is a disturbing diagnosis, in that it can conveniently be used against any parent who makes waves, who questions a medication or procedure, who asks for a second opinion, or who disagrees with the hired consultant who is the doctor. Though the term was originally used for parents who are truly disturbed and who have bad intentions for their children, it is being used against parents, like Michelle Rider, and like [the Pelletiers](#), who have sick children that they are trying, to the best of their ability, to help. It appears to many that they are being criminalized for fulfilling their responsibility as a parent to seek the best possible resources for their children.

However, if the parent does what used to be considered the right thing, questioning and seeking out answers, that parent can be victimized by the system, and their child can be taken by the cooperative efforts of CPS and the hospital. According to Dr. Feldman, the very fact that a mother protests and defends herself and her child is perceived as a further indication of her guilt. It is a lose/lose scenario, he says.

Dr. Feldman notes that during all the proceedings to date:

“there appears to be literally no consideration of Isaiah’s desire to return home to his mother.”

He has felt scared and alone. Like other children who are loved and cared for at home, he is traumatized by a system that would take him away from everything familiar, in order to “protect” him. By Isaiah’s own words, he doesn’t feel very protected after what Lurie and CPS has done to him.

Lurie Children’s Hospital Intimidation over Social Services



A CPS investigator, who asked not to be named, told one of the advocates for bringing Isaiah home that the CPS workers are never allowed to question anything that anyone at Lurie hospital says. This results in an unconstitutional abuse of power, in which parents are presumed guilty until proven innocent. That generally takes an enormous amount of time to defend against, at a great deal of expense, all the while the child is languishing in someone else’s home, away from the family and the life they know and love.

It is seen by many as a dysfunctional system that demands that parents and patients submit to its every whim. In this current medical system, it is now apparently a crime to question what is being done, or to ask for a second opinion, much like [Justina Pellitier’s](#) and [Jaxon Adams’](#) parents did.

Attorney Speaks Out on “Odious Operation”

The whole system is an “odious operation,” according to one of Michelle’s attorneys, Randy Kretchmar. The doctors are “unbelievably arrogant,” and they “call CPS in whenever anybody fights against them.”

That is not what CPS was designed for. They are represented by very skilled lawyers.

Attorney Kretchmar says:

“CPS is a machine designed to eat families alive and spit out criminals.”



Michelle Rider, mother of Isaiah. Image from [Team Isaiah Facebook](#).

Attorney Kretchmar believes that Michelle Rider was targeted as “an easy mark for these people.” She is a single mom taking care of a chronically ill child. “If she doesn’t

agree [with the doctors], then they can take her kid away.” They have virtually unlimited resources. Michelle, like most parents in similar situations, does not. They use fear and intimidation as scare tactics to bully parents into submission.

Conclusion: How Have We as a Society Allowed this to Happen?

One of the Rider family supporters asked a representative in Washington, D.C., how this could happen; how can they just take somebody’s child away like this?

The response is chilling:

“Because of years and years of no one speaking up.”

Another advocate writes:

“Evil dwells in darkness ... that’s WHY they’re getting away with this. And it’s only going to get worse until people wake up, start standing up and demanding it changes.”

Despite Isaiah’s history of medical problems, no one has ever accused his mother of any kind of abuse, until they went to Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago. Their family and friends do not understand why this is happening to the woman whom they say is “a good mom.” Though Isaiah has requested to be present at the hearings, he has not been permitted to attend at all.



The [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#) is set up as an advocacy group, for people to plug in and get involved in helping to bring Isaiah home. There are tremendous costs involved in trying to get Isaiah back. Generally, child dependency court hearings are in the same state where the family lives. But in Michelle's case, she has to drive nine hours from Kansas City to Illinois for each hearing. Besides transportation costs, there are court costs, attorney fees, and hotel costs. The grueling schedule, sometimes a hearing a week, and the accusations have cost Michelle her job as a nurse.

The Riders' case is still "in trial," but unlike criminal court, the DCFS Family Court is dragging the case out for months. The latest hearing was last Friday, and there are three hearings scheduled for December.

[Dr. Feldman](#) was called Friday as an expert witness on medical child abuse, and he testified for hours that medical child abuse is not what is happening with Michelle Rider. His perception of the proceedings in court last week were:

"The assistant state's attorney is much more preoccupied with 'winning' than with establishing the truth."

There appears to be no end in sight for this family who has

been terrorized by the system.



Protest for Isaiah Rider in Chicago at Cook County Court House. Photo from [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

Medical kidnappings like the Riders are experiencing have to be exposed. There are too many stories similar to this one that are coming up, like the story of [Jaxon Adams](#), taken by Children's Mercy Hospital in the Rider's hometown of Kansas City, the [Diegel two sisters](#) taken away by Phoenix Children's Hospital, [baby Kathryn](#) taken away by UMC Children's Hospital in Lubbock, Texas, and the now-familiar story of [Justina Pelletier](#).

Many parents have been threatened that if they dare go public with their story, they will lose their children and possibly even go to jail for contempt of court. But when they remain silent, often they never get their children back, according to some activists who are fighting for Isaiah and other children who have been medically kidnapped.

Children are taken away by a tyrannical medical system that no one dares challenge. Up until now, they have operated

with impunity. Is it not time for that to stop? Should any parent have to go through what these parents are going through?

Is it not time to speak up and bring Isaiah Rider home now?

17 Year Old Boy Breaks Silence on Medical Kidnapping: Reports Hospital Drugged Him at Time of Custody Dispute



Isaiah interviewed by local media in Kansas City after returning from Chicago. Photo by [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

Health Impact News Editor Comments

Denied a voice and presence in current court proceedings regarding a custody battle between his mother and Illinois CPS and Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, 17 year old Isaiah Rider has decided not to remain silent any longer, and

recently told his story in an exclusive interview with Health Impact News reporter Terri LaPoint.

Isaiah and his mother Michelle traveled to Chicago from their home in Missouri earlier this year to visit specialists at Lurie Children's Hospital who were recommended by their doctors in Kansas City to treat his rare condition, neurofibromatosis, which causes painful tumors on the nerves. When his condition did not improve, and the pain became worse, his mother wanted to remove him from the hospital and seek a second opinion. The hospital refused, and ordered CPS to take custody of Isaiah away from his mother.

Isaiah Rider was not even allowed to say goodbye to his mother, and it would be 24 days before he would see her again. Terri LaPoint reports:

When his mother was told at the hospital that she couldn't see her son anymore, Isaiah had no idea. He said that the hospital had him so drugged up on medications that he didn't even realize what had happened at first. He was shocked when they told him that he wasn't allowed to see his mom. The doctors blamed his mother, he says, saying that she medically abused him.

When he was released from the hospital, he was placed in a foster home in one of the most dangerous communities in America, in a rough part of Chicago. Isaiah, who is not street smart, later told his family that he feared for his life, and had a gun pulled on him twice while there. He still reportedly has nightmares from it. The traumatized boy made a video from the foster home that he later uploaded to YouTube about his situation.

Terri LaPoint reports that Isaiah and his mom have “always been close,” and he loves her very much. When asked if he thought the doctors considered how this would affect him emotionally, he said, “I don’t think they cared.” He further states:

“This has totally affected our whole family. There was no need for this. We have all been deeply affected by this separation. It would have been better if this wouldn’t have happened.”

Read more about Terri LaPoint’s interview with Isaiah at [The Inquisitr](#).

Read more about [Michelle Rider’s battle over custody of her son Isaiah](#) in this Medical Kidnapping case.

Visit the [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#) for up-to-date news and to learn ways you can help.

Isaiah Rider Is Suffering Horrible Pain But Not Getting Help [Video]



by **Terri LaPoint**
Health Impact News

Teenager Isaiah Rider has been back in the hospital for more than two weeks. He spent Thanksgiving in the hospital in his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri. However, the state of Illinois still has custody of him, and the hospital behind his “medical kidnapping,” Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago, is still allegedly affecting his care, or lack thereof. They are reportedly blocking him from receiving help for his

suffering, according to the [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

Team Isaiah has posted a heart-rending video of the extreme pain and seizures that Isaiah is experiencing. This is what landed him back in the hospital. A doctor in Kansas City was allegedly going by the reports from Lurie Children's Hospital which have stated that Isaiah's pain and seizures are all in his head.

According to [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#):

“Isaiah needs help. 15 days of suffering and torture. Hours and hours and days and days and this is okay? IL is trying to block him from getting real help. IL is trying to send him back to Luries who caused all this or hospitals who haven't helped in the past. Isaiah has made it CLEAR he does not want to go back to your horrible hospital Lurie's or go back to Chicago where bad things happened or taken from his family again . Why is IL blocking Isaiah from getting real help??”

The video, which is similar to other videos posted in the past recording Isaiah's seizures in the stump where his leg was amputated, shows very real pain and involuntary movements. Yet he is not receiving effective medical treatment according to family and friends.

<https://youtu.be/5MnxuprhVck>

Many are asking, “how can this be tolerated?”

His family has expressed the desire to transfer him to a different hospital in another state which has experience in dealing with the rare medical condition he has. Isaiah has been diagnosed with neurofibromatosis, a rare condition

which causes painful tumors on the nerves. The hospital he is currently in does not have experience with this and is allowing him to suffer, according to family and friends.

Advocates have reported that nurses have watched his pain in tears, because he was in so much pain while the doctor in charge discontinued a treatment that was helping. That doctor has allegedly been removed from Isaiah's care by the hospital administration.

Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago does have experience with Isaiah's condition, and even has clinical trials going on. However, according to [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#):

"Isaiah Rider who has undisputed medical conditions was ripped from his mothers arms while in the ICU at Lurie Children's hospital in Chicago."

When Isaiah's mother, Michelle, did what any other mother would do and begged them to help his pain stop, they accused her of causing the problems, saying that they were all in his head.

"His mother wanted help for her son, she wanted a second opinion, a transfer to another medical facility which was recommended. Isaiah wasn't provided the parental protection he received from his mother when he was thrown into foster care, a stranger's home in a very bad area on the south side of Chicago. The terrible things that happen to Isaiah while he was there have forever changed his life. This was all done in the name of 'protection.'"

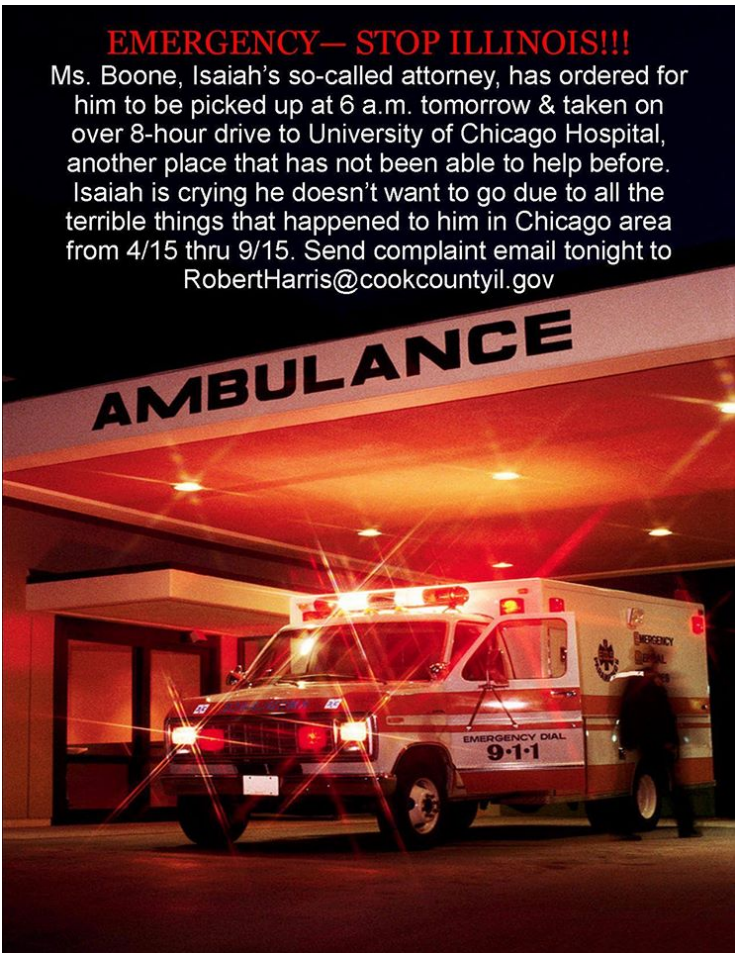
There are hospitals in other states that could help Isaiah, but his family says they are completely powerless to get him that help, because the state of Illinois retains custody of him and refuses to transfer him to one of those hospitals.

Here are phone numbers to contact people who have power to help Isaiah - Governor of Illinois Pat Quinn (217) 782-6830 or (312) 814-2121, Bobbie Gregg, Acting DCFS Director (217) 785-2509 or (312) 814-6800.

Isaiah Rider Being Forced to Leave Home Town and Return to Chicago Against His Will

EMERGENCY— STOP ILLINOIS!!!

Ms. Boone, Isaiah's so-called attorney, has ordered for him to be picked up at 6 a.m. tomorrow & taken on over 8-hour drive to University of Chicago Hospital, another place that has not been able to help before. Isaiah is crying he doesn't want to go due to all the terrible things that happened to him in Chicago area from 4/15 thru 9/15. Send complaint email tonight to RobertHarris@cookcountyl.gov



[Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#)

[Updated story here.](#)

URGENT

Health Impact News has just learned that Team Isaiah Facebook Page is reporting that the State of Illinois is transporting Isaiah Rider back to Chicago from Kansas City against his wish and the wish of his family. From the Team Isaiah Facebook Page last night (Thursday Dec. 4th):

Everyone call KC local media . Isaiah's rights are being violated.. He is being taken back to Chicago against his will to a hospital who already couldn't help him. He's done no crime but he's a victim and had crimes committed against him while in Chicago. He terrified and has stated "I don't want to go back there" He will be deported like a criminal by ambulance tomorrow am at 6am for an 8-9 hr drive while in pain. He's at St. Lukes North on Barry Rd in KC,MO. Isaiah told Kimberly Boone his counsel appointed by the state of IL his reasons and wishes. Cincinnati childrens hospital has the expertise and think they can help Isaiah . They are taking him to University of Chicago who has already said they didn't know how to help him. Call all media. Civil rights are being violated. Isaiah's not a criminal. In Mo he's considered an adult at age 17. Call local media tell them to go to the hospital, national media, people need to step in and help. This is traumatic for Isaiah and he's already in a medical crisis .

After 16 days in a hospital for intractable pain Isaiah is now on an 8-9 hour ambulance ride to Chicago against his will, to yet another hospital who has already said they didn't know how to help him.

Isaiah has text a message "I'm in pain can't sleep" this my friends, is all done "In the best interest of the child"

The "Medical Kidnapping" is reported to be scheduled for 6 a.m. CT December 5th. Get updates at [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

<https://youtu.be/Ff3qDpbOUSI>

[More info on Isaiah Rider](#) and his Medical Kidnapping.

Medical Kidnap: 17 Year Old Isaiah Rider Taken Captive Against His Will



Isaiah Rider explains in a video he made his last night in Kansas City that he feared going back to Chicago.

Health Impact News Editor

Isaiah Rider is 17 years old, and has been in custody of the State of Illinois for several months over a medical dispute. However, for the past several weeks Isaiah was allowed to return home from Lurie Children's hospital in Chicago to his grandparents' home in Kansas City, while his mother, a nurse, has fought the State of Illinois to regain custody of her son.

On December 6, 2014, the State of Illinois, allegedly via his guardian ad litem, Kim Boone, forced Isaiah Rider to get into an ambulance and return to Chicago, even though neither he nor his family wanted him to return to the place where he was separated from his family previously, and where he reportedly suffered emotional distress. Here is a video Isaiah made the night before he was forced to leave:

Video no longer available.

The [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#) is reporting that Isaiah is confined at Comer Children's Hospital, is not allowed visitors, and is wearing a "security sensor bracelet" on his wrist. They report that he has even been denied pastoral care by the hospital.

Even prisoners on death row are allowed pastoral care and visitors!

Other media sources are beginning to pick up this story.

Donald Bradley of the [Kansas City Star](#) has reported that Scott Miller, an attorney with the National Center for Life & Liberty, has filed a court motion to enter the case on behalf

of the family.

“He’s (Isaiah Rider) currently a ward of the state of Illinois,” Miller said Friday. “But his position is that he’s not a resident of Illinois. He’s a resident of Missouri where he is an adult.”

[Details here.](#)

Rhonda Robinson of [PJ Media](#) has also covered the story, noting the irony that on the same day Isaiah Rider was removed by force from his home state of Missouri, state legislators introduced a bill inspired by Isaiah’s case, which would make it illegal for parents to be charged with “medical abuse” for simply disagreeing with doctors.

[Story here.](#)

The Team Isaiah Facebook Page is calling on people to contact the two Senators from Missouri, Isaiah’s home state:



Search

Isaiah's current location of captivity is Comer's Children's Hospital part of University of Chicago Hospital 5721 S. Maryland Ave. Chicago IL 60637, Room # 508, 773-702-1000.

Call the two Missouri Senators' offices. Claire McCaskill's aide said that he would bring it to the attention of his staff. 202-224-6154. Roy Blunt, Senator. 202-224-6154. Also call your own senators and representatives.

This young man needs your help NOW. Thank you. Please share and please LIKE Team Isaiah.



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Health Impact News will continue to monitor this story and provide updates at MedicalKidnap.com. You can also get updates from the [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

Learn more about [Isaiah and Michelle Rider's story](#) of Medical Kidnapping.

17 Year Old Held Captive in Chicago Hospital: Denied Choice of Attorney - Protest & Rally Scheduled!



Isaiah Rider was interviewed by local Fox 4 in Kansas City when he returned from Chicago the first time. Now, he has been forced to return to Chicago against his will. Photo from [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

UPDATE: 12/15/2014

Michelle Rider's statement on today's ruling that keeps Isaiah in State Custody:

The ruling today without surprise has followed the course that it has for the past almost 9 months of complete hell my son and I have been forced to endure.

Despite it all, I continued to keep a glimmer of hope that justice would be served today even despite a broken system. As law abiding citizens, we would like to have faith in a fair and just judicial system, we would like to hope that when false accusations arise and children and lives are involved and at stake that it would be about justice and truth and that we have a system in place to protect children and families.

The truth and fact is, this system has evolved into something much different and quite the contrary. I have been shown in the court of law, if you advocate for your children and question doctors, you run the risk of losing your child. If you speak up and speak truth you run the risk of everyone working so hard to cover their own behinds that the child is the one who ultimately suffers.

The truth is I have a very sick child who has been in the hospital almost 30 days. Not only is Isaiah experiencing pain and undiagnosed complications and being very heavily “drugged” he is experiencing trauma from the terrible things that happened to him while he was forced to live in foster care in Chicago.

The court doesn’t want to talk about that though. Isaiah’s voice has been silenced and my voice for him has been silenced not a gag order, but my voice for him no longer has any merit.

Everyone at Lurie’s hospital, IL DCFS and Cook County courts are so concerned with trying to cover up what they have done, they forgot to consider the unnecessary suffering they

are causing an innocent young man who is and has already suffered from unfortunate bad health some from his own genetic condition and others caused by medical community.

Perhaps that statement is too fair, it is probably more like Isaiah has said” I don’t really think they even care.”

I will continue to speak truth because I realize that this problem is much bigger than just Isaiah. This is happening to many innocent children and families.

If it is wrong as a mother to advocate for her sick and chronically ill child, to request the best possible care for our children and that our children have an opportunity to have a second opinion then as a nation we are in big trouble. If we allow this to happen and accept it, then as a nation we are failing our children and allowing a failing and broken system to dictate “the best interest of our children. “

I knew that if I walked in there today and the judge ruled in anything but my favor than this decision was decided before the trial even began.

That’s exactly what took place today. In my heart I knew this was a mock trial. No justice was served today, only more harm.

I will leave you with a quote from a doctor who is currently treating Isaiah.

“Isaiah has been through more than most people could ever even imagine or will ever go through. It’s horrible the things that have happened to him, and unfortunately most of it is at the hands of doctors ”

I would like to add to that quote, also at the hands of the state of IL a state in which we don't even live in and never have- Michelle

Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook Page.](#)

[**NBC Chicago covered the ruling.**](#)

[**Kansas City Fox 4 Also Reported.**](#)

[**CBS Chicago Report.**](#)

Brian Shilhavy
Health Impact News Editor

As we reported earlier this week, 17-year-old Isaiah Rider was forcibly removed from a hospital in Kansas City and taken by ambulance to Comer Children's Hospital in Chicago. While Isaiah was residing in his home town in Missouri, he was still a ward of the State of Illinois who took custody away from his mother earlier this year, allegedly due to the fact that his mother wanted a second opinion on his medical treatment.

Isaiah and his family claim that he was put into foster care and housed in a rough neighborhood in Chicago where he went through emotional trauma, fearing for his life while walking the streets in an area of Chicago he was not familiar with, and having a gun pulled on him twice. Isaiah also alleges that while in state custody in Chicago, he was drugged against his will. The State of Illinois eventually allowed him to return to Kansas City and stay with his grandparents, while his mother had to continue to fight legal battles in court in Chicago to get custody back.

Understandably, Isaiah had no desire to return to Chicago, and neither did his family. So when his guardian ad litem, Kim Boone, allegedly told him he needed to return to Chicago for medical treatment, Isaiah resisted. He was in a hospital in Kansas City and continued to be in pain, allegedly because the doctors there could not treat his pain due to restrictions from a medical team in Chicago and his custody being retained in Illinois. The night before Isaiah was to be transported back to Chicago against his will, he recorded this video:

Video no longer available.

Forced to Return to Chicago, and Denied Civil Rights

On the morning of December 6th, armed security guards allegedly forced him to get into the ambulance and make the 8 hour trip back to Chicago. The security guards allegedly stood guard around his room all night, preventing him from leaving the hospital. Hospital personnel also allegedly forced him to take a large dose of Valium to make him more compliant. His grandparents were also allegedly threatened not to intervene, or they would lose custody of Isaiah. There was apparently no way to escape.

Once Isaiah reached Comer Children's Hospital in Chicago, reports from family members and advocates say he had a security bracelet attached to his body to prevent him from walking out of the hospital, and he was denied visitation rights from anyone except his grandmother (who has legal custody at this time). He was allegedly not even allowed to call a local pastor. Many people have been outraged at these actions, and pointed out that even prisoners on death row have more rights than Isaiah at this point.

As [local media](#) began to pick up the story, Attorney Scott Miller from the National Center for Life & Liberty offered to take on Isaiah's case. Isaiah agreed, and paperwork was reportedly filed with the juvenile court in Chicago to have Miller represent Isaiah. But the court reportedly denied Miller's petition to represent Isaiah, according to statements made by Attorney Miller to Health Impact News.

Michelle Rider, Isaiah's mother, continues to battle it out in court in Chicago to get custody of her son back, so they can return home. But as we have reported here on [MedicalKidnap.com](#) in the past, once the state takes custody of a minor, very seldom do parents win custody back. (See: [Medical Kidnapping Business: Judges Skirting the Law for Federal Funds.](#)) In addition, it is believed that the Lurie Children's Hospital and the University of Chicago have received funding for drug research related to Isaiah's rare medical condition.

Protest Rally Scheduled Monday December 15th in Chicago

Therefore, advocates and family members are urging the public and the media to a rally for Isaiah in front of the Chicago Juvenile Courthouse on Monday, December 15th, which is when Michelle has her next hearing. People are requested to make signs with text such as, "Let Isaiah Go Home!"



Advocates and family members are calling on the public and the media to expose what they see as a very clear violation of Isaiah's civil rights by attending this protest rally on December 15th. Michelle and Isaiah are also reportedly members of the [Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma](#), which is reportedly considering attending the protest rally and getting involved in the case.

Receive updates at the [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#). More on the background of [Isaiah Rider's story](#).

Another Medical Kidnap in Illinois: Infant Twins Seized from Parents over Medical Dispute



Baby twins: Arianna and Dominick

UPDATE 1/6/2015

From [Twins Medically Kidnapped by DCFS Facebook Page](#):

GOD ANSWERED MY PRAYER

Parents are very grateful that the [Family Defense Center](#) have joined our Lawyers and will be handling parents issues with DCFS starting today.

THANK YOU GOD AND ALL FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Continue to pray and support us we need more prayers answered.

Another Medical Kidnap in Illinois: Infant Twins Seized from Parents over Medical Dispute

Health Impact News

Cassandra Brown is heartbroken because she is missing her twins' first Christmas. Instead of watching 9 month old Arianna and Dominick delight in the Christmas lights and new toys and pretty bows, she and Warnell Ludington are caught in desperate fight for their babies with DCFS, the child protective services department in Illinois, over what they believe in their hearts is a misdiagnosis.

Cassandra says, "I can't even believe this is happening."

The crux of the twins' removal from their parents allegedly lies in an accusation of Shaken Baby Syndrome, a diagnosis which is surrounded by growing skepticism by medical experts, and which does not take into account Arianna's history of medical complications since her birth. Though the parents have reportedly not been charged with any crime, their children have been seized by the state; and they are only permitted to see them for two hours per week.



Separated from Infants During First Christmas

Their visit this week was canceled because the foster parents are out of town for the Christmas holidays.

This foster home is allegedly the twins' fourth foster home in five months.

Their parents are grieving because they are “missing out on

every first,” and just want their babies back.

Premature Twins born to Mother not Expected to Conceive due to Health Conditions

Their story began when Cassaundra and Army Reserve Sergeant Warnell Ludington, both mental health counselors, met at their job at Northern Illinois Academy, a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility, and fell in love.

Cassie “always wanted twins,” but her own health history had led her doctors to conclude that she would never bear children. She suffers from terminal Systemic Lupus E and anemia, among other illnesses, and has a family history of bone density issues. When she and Warnell found out that they were expecting twins, they were ecstatic. Cassaundra told us that it was a dream come true.



The twins were born five weeks prematurely on March 14, 2014. Cassandra later found out that they had been diagnosed with IUGR, Intrauterine Growth Retardation, prompting the doctors to call for a c-section. Dominick is the larger of twins, and was born without incident. He went right away to his mother's arms.

Arianna was born next and was pulled by her feet out from

under her mother's ribs. According to both her mother and father, she screamed right away, and then was silent. She was quickly given oxygen and taken to the NICU. It would be 12 hours before her mother would see her.

After their births, Dominick was fairly healthy, but his smaller twin sister has experienced a number of issues right from the start. According to their maternal grandmother, Jackie Heard, Dominick has always been "happy as a lark," while "all Arianna did was scream early on." Her parents say that she did not like lying on her back or stomach and would scream in pain. Early photographs show that she often cried when she was on her back, even when held in that position.

Vitamin D Deficiency and 7 Vaccines Given on One Day

Both babies were reportedly born with a Vitamin D deficiency and abnormal blood counts, which the parents report they only learned months later when they got the babies' records.

Records show that both babies received the recommended vaccinations. At birth, Dominick received the standard Vitamin K shot, but Arianna did not, even though they were preemies.

At 2 months of age, they received the DTaP (3-vaccine combo), Polio, Hepatitis B, Hib, and Pneumococcal vaccines all on the same day, May 15.

She also had feeding issues, beginning in her time in the NICU. Communication within the hospital was confusing.

The NICU staff said that Arianna could not be given her mother's milk, because of the medications that Cassandra took for her illnesses. At the same time, she breastfed Dominick in their room with full approval from the staff. Doctors changed Arianna's formula four times, and she was diagnosed with GERD, and had difficulty with bowel movements and gas, as well as lots of choking and throwing up.

Cassandra reports that Arianna often shook her head from side to side, and that she told the doctor that she believed something was wrong with her eyes. Numerous times during Arianna's first few months, Cassie and Warnell report that she brought concerns to her pediatrician, Dr. Kleinfeld, only to be assured that it was simply normal feeding problems and that it was all OK. The parents report to *Health Impact News* that they did not believe that everything was fine.

Emergency Room Visit



Father with twins.

The babies were sick in late June, but it was on July 7 that the family's world turned upside down.

Warnell cared for the babies while Cassandra was at work that afternoon. The twins were in the living room, alternating their fussy periods, while Warnell went to the kitchen to prepare a bottle. He reports hearing a “blood-curdling scream” from the living room, and he ran to Arianna. He says that she spit up, but it was different from usual.

She appeared to have a seizure and then went limp, with shallow breathing. He immediately began CPR but she was unresponsive. He loaded the babies into the car seats for the hurried three minute drive to the hospital. He placed Arianna's seat in the front so that he could maintain two-finger chest compressions during the drive. Twice on the way, he had to slam on the brakes.

In the emergency room at Rush Copley Hospital, she finally became responsive. The doctors ran tests and found that there was bleeding on the brain as well as healing fractures on ribs 6 and 7.

Cassandra arrived at the hospital to be told that Warnell was accused of Shaken Baby Syndrome, and that Arianna was to be flown by helicopter to Loyola Children's Hospital.

Child Protection Services Take Custody of Children

The family was devastated when both twins were taken into DCFS custody on July 10.

Cassandra believes that if the doctors had listened to her as

they expressed concerns about Arianna's health, they wouldn't be in this situation. She felt in her heart that something was wrong, but her concerns were dismissed.

There is a family history of osteopenia, or low bone density, on her side. According to researcher Waney Squire, in his study entitled [*Shaken Baby Syndrome*](#), prematurity itself predisposes to osteopenia. Though Cassie's medications were modified after she learned that she was pregnant, she was prescribed some before that time that are contraindicated in pregnancy. Despite Arianna's screams of pain when she was on her back, no x-rays were ever done until the July 7 admission to the hospital.

Shaken Baby Syndrome: A Controversial Diagnosis Under Fire

Shaken Baby Syndrome as a diagnosis has come under recent fire, even among medical experts. Emily Bazelon writes in the [*New York Times*](#), and [PubMed](#) confirms, that the experiments conducted that form the basis for the diagnosis were done on monkeys, not babies, who were not actually shaken, but subjected to such high velocity impacts that they cannot even occur with shaking. According to the study which challenges the diagnosis of Shaken Baby Syndrome, "These forces, if present, would invariably cause neck trauma, which is conspicuously absent in most babies allegedly injured by shaking."

Hospital records show no reports of any neck injury in Arianna.

According to law professor Deborah Tuerkheimer, a federal judge has condemned the diagnosis of Shaken Baby Syndrome as being "more an article of faith than a

proposition of science.” (See: [Finally, a Judge Calls Shaken Baby Diagnosis an “Article of Faith” And frees Jennifer Del Prete, who was sentenced for murder 10 years ago.](#))

Twins Now Have no Emotional Stability Since Being Placed in Foster Care

Since DCFS has seized custody of the twins, there has reportedly been no stability. They are currently in the fourth foster home since they were taken from their parents, and none of the homes have been with relatives, despite the federal law that relative placement should receive priority.

What kind of emotional damage is potentially happening to these babies?

Many childcare experts teach that bonding and attachment are crucial components of emotional health. Any time a child is separated from the biological parents, there is trauma caused to the child. How much greater is that trauma when children are shifted from pillar to post, with no continuity of care?

Carla Hartley, director of [Ancient Art Midwifery Institute](#), tells *Health Impact News* that such treatment inevitably leads to “confusion.” According to Hartley:

“babies are hard wired to their mothers biologically. They have no mechanism for dealing with strangers acting as mothers in terms of biology. It is mother’s smell and voice they crave. In the animal world no one questions the ill effects of being taken from mother. How will babies learn to trust? All biological bonds have been broken and must be restored.”

The babies' grandmother, Jackie, reports that the twins light up when they see their parents, even though it is only for a mere two hours per week. She said that Arianna screams hysterically when her mom and dad start putting their coats on them and putting them in their car seats to leave. Dominick doesn't react as passionately, but he is still sad. However, she says that the social worker told the family that the babies only cry because they are being taken away from their toys, an observation that doesn't coincide with reality or scientific research.

Jackie says that she doesn't get to see them as much as Cassandra and Warnell, but they still recognize her voice and know who she is. This is consistent with evidence from pre- and perinatal psychology which shows that babies later recognize the voices of those they heard frequently while they were still in the womb. They heard Jackie's voice often both before and after they were born.



Arianna with her mother.

Parents Lose Jobs and Potential Careers

Both she and Warnell lost their jobs as mental health counselors two months after their babies were taken, because of being in the midst of a DCFS case. Warnell, who served in Kuwait during his decade long military career, is

currently in a Master's program in clinical psychology, but the accusations by DCFS have not only taken his beloved children. They also jeopardize his future career.

Their lives have become a nightmare, all because of what they say is a misdiagnosis. They have repeatedly asked for tests to be done that would prove that this is a misdiagnosis, but have reportedly faced resistance and delays at every turn.

By all accounts, Arianna and Dominick are loved and wanted by their parents. Jackie grew passionate as she spoke of how much they all love her grandbabies, telling me, "She ain't hurt that baby, and that boy ain't hurt that baby!" She is completely convinced of their innocence. According to her, "our babies have been kidnapped by the state of Illinois." Cassandra says that she is "shocked – we don't understand any of this." She says that she cries every day for her children. She knows that she isn't promised forever, because of her health, but she pleads, "Give me today!"

Family Wants Public Awareness and Support

The adjudicatory hearing, or trial, is set for mid-March, and has already been rescheduled three times.

The family has a Facebook page set up for supporters to learn more: [Twins Medically Kidnapped By DCFS](#). They ask for people to pray.

The Governor of Illinois is Pat Quinn. [Contact him here](#).

The State Senator for the Family is Linda Holmes. [Contact her here](#).

The State Representative for the Family is Stephanie A

Kifowit. [Contact her here.](#)

Ask local media in Chicago to also cover this story.

Missouri Teen Medically Kidnapped Was Raped and Sodomized While in Illinois Foster Care



Isaiah Rider, video recorded just before being forced to return to Chicago against his will.

by **Terri LaPoint**
Health Impact News

Isaiah Rider is a 17-year-old Missouri resident who was taken away from his mother at the age of 16 by Illinois child protective services – DCFS – while in Lurie Children’s Hospital for medical treatment. Recently, he has come forward publicly with devastating information about the trauma that he experienced as a ward of the state of Illinois. While he was in a Chicago foster home, he was raped and sodomized. Though this has been reported to his social worker, his guardian ad litem and the authorities, nothing is being done about it according to the family.

According to Michelle Rider, Isaiah’s mother,

“they [Illinois DCFS] ended up doing the real abuse, and allowing abuse, and then covering it up. I can’t even believe this; that no one can stop this.”

Isaiah Seized from Mother Because She Asked for a Second Opinion on Medical Care

Michelle has been fighting to get her son back ever since Illinois DCFS seized custody of Isaiah on April 15, 2014, after she dared ask for a second opinion when the doctors had no answers. *Health Impact News* has been covering [their story](#) for some time.

Michelle spoke Tuesday evening about the injustices to her family on “[The Common Sense Show](#)” with David Hodges, and that is when she dropped the bombshell that she and Isaiah have been carrying on their shoulders. Toward the end

of the show, she began to recount the abuse that Isaiah experienced in the foster home, and the concerns for his safety that were minimized in court. Then, she revealed the extent of the basis for their fears.

“Isaiah just recently disclosed, while he was in the hospital in Kansas City, that – this is the first time that I’ve ever publicly talked about this – but he was sexually assaulted. He was raped and sodomized at gunpoint with a gun to his head while he was in foster care in Dolten, Illinois. He disclosed that to his guardian ad litem, his caseworker, and when he went back to Chicago, just recently on December 5, he actually was experiencing Post Traumatic Stress events, because he was brought back to the area of crime, where a crime was committed against him. This is all well-documented. To this date, there has been no report, no investigation. There was no medical work-up. All of the people involved are aware of what’s going on. This has not been brought up in court.”

Isaiah Decides to Come Forward on Sexual Abuse, as Authorities have Done Nothing

Isaiah told me that he originally didn’t say anything about what happened to him because he was scared. All he really wanted to do was to escape Illinois and never look back. When he was allowed to return to his home state of Missouri, though not to his home and his mom, he tried to forget about the horrors he had faced.

He had already told his family, and the guardian ad litem and social worker about the fact that guns had been held on him while he was in foster care, and that he had been exposed to

many ugly things he had never seen before in his relatively sheltered childhood in Missouri. Michelle reports that Isaiah was placed in a foster home in Dolton, one of the top 2% of the most dangerous neighborhoods in America. They believe that he was placed there, in a predominately African-American ghetto, because of the fact that Isaiah has dark skin – he is tri-racial, black, white, and native American.

Isaiah had hoped to never have to face any of the traumatic memories again. He wanted to forget that the things he never told anyone about ever happened.

Then he had another pain crisis which began just before Thanksgiving. After he was admitted to the hospital in Kansas City, Illinois DCFS became involved again and made the decision to transfer him back to Chicago. That is when all the memories that he had tried to forget about came flooding back, because they were making him go back to the place where it all began. That is when he first disclosed the rape.

While he was in foster care in the Chicago area, Isaiah reports that a man he had never seen before confronted him and held a gun to his head. He forced him to chew a white pill, and as Isaiah was becoming dizzy, the man forced himself on the boy, sodomized him, and did other things to him, calling him a “pretty boy.” He passed out. When he woke up, he was extremely sore. The man was gone, but he was surrounded by other people who were laughing. The terrified child found his way back to the foster home, but he didn’t tell anyone. He says that the foster mother didn’t really supervise much, but she yelled at him a lot. He just tried to block out the abuse.

Illinois Caused Post Traumatic Stress by Transferring Isaiah back to Chicago even Though They Knew About Rape

When he learned that Illinois planned to transfer him to Chicago, Isaiah pleaded not to be sent back, even recording a desperate video from his hospital room. The assault and rape was reported to his social worker and guardian ad litem. An investigator with DCFS reportedly came to the hospital to take his statement, but nothing was ever done about it. To date, there is allegedly still no report of the rape and sodomy. There was never a medical work-up done, and no investigation.

His guardian ad litem, Kim Boone, the person appointed to look after his best interests, reportedly ignored Isaiah's pleas. Without a court order, they forced him into an ambulance on the morning of December 6. DCFS reportedly threatened his grandparents, demanding that they not interfere. Michelle says that they gave him an extra dose of valium, so that Isaiah would be too drugged to fight back.

After he arrived in Chicago against his will, he reportedly experienced symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress, reliving the events while he was unconscious, saying "No, no, no!" and fighting off the unseen attacker.

Isaiah Still under Illinois State Custody

Isaiah is now safely back at his grandparents' home in Kansas City, for the moment, but is still under Illinois DCFS custody. He would love to forget everything that happened, but he told me that he believes that people need to know what happened to him in DCFS care. He said that it has changed him, and he went through a lot that he never should

have gone through. He assured me that he doesn't think this would ever have happened to him had "Child Protective Services" not stepped in to "protect" him. He doesn't feel very protected.

He is not alone. The Illinois DCFS has come under recent fire as reports [have surfaced in the media](#) about numerous sexual assaults of children in the foster care system. At the same time this scandal has hit the headlines, the current DCFS director, Bobbie Gregg, has stepped down from her post.

Isaiah Rider appears to be just one of thousands of children in foster care who has suffered far worse abuse in "protective custody" than he ever did in his own home with his own family. [Team Isaiah](#) supporters are fighting tirelessly to bring attention to the injustices that he and his mother have faced at the hands of the system.

There is another court hearing on Tuesday, as well as a support rally for the Riders at 1 pm on Tuesday, January 13, at the Cook County Juvenile Court at 1100 S. Hamilton, Chicago. The public is invited to attend and show support for the family.

The Team Isaiah Facebook page is calling for people to contact the new IL Governor Bruce Rauner's team regarding Isaiah.

[Post](#) by [Team Isaiah](#).

[**Previous Stories about Isaiah Rider.**](#)

EX-CPS Investigator Uses Illinois Gov Facebook to Attack Mom of Medically Kidnapped Teen Isaiah Rider



Michelle and Isaiah Rider - [Photo from Team Isaiah Facebook Page.](#)

by [Robert Scott Bell](#)
[EpicTimes](#)

Excerpts:

We opened yesterday's show with one of the most bizarre displays of online behavior we have ever seen. What you are about to see here is not only shocking, it has brought up a number of questions that we feel **must be answered** before this malicious Facebook **attack on a mother of a medically kidnapped child** can be dismissed.

Michelle Rider has been fighting an uphill battle for **almost 11 months** to regain custody of her son Isaiah, who was kidnapped from her by Child Protective Services after Luries Childrens Hospital accused her of "Medical Child Abuse".

What followed after that has been a long and twisted road of stonewalling, roadblocks and even what appears to be a betrayal by the Choctaw Nation, the Native American tribe to which both Isaiah and Michelle belong. The Choctaw who could have intervened and rescued Isaiah from a system where he had recently been sexually assaulted, instead sided with CPS and turned their backs on their own.

So...fast forward to yesterday. As we were preparing for our radio program, producer Super Don got a message that there was a confrontation taking place on Facebook involving Michelle Rider and another individual who was saying some nasty things about her. Super Don clicked the link and was directed to the Facebook page of [Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner](#). After scrolling down the page, he discovered a Facebook thread where a man by the name of Matthew T Grey had launched into an unprovoked attack on not only Michelle, but Team Isaiah, a group of supporters who have

rallied behind Michelle to support her as she fights to regain custody of her son.

As the exchange continued it became clear that Matthew T. Grey wasn't just some internet troll trying to cause an argument for his own amusement. It was in fact much more than that. Instead, we were shocked by who Matthew turned out to be – [a former Illinois DCFS Investigator](#).

We are left with some unanswered questions that were born out of this maniacal outburst. Some of those questions are:

1. **Why does Matthew T Grey harbor so much hatred towards Michelle Rider and her supporters called Team Isaiah?**
2. **Matthew T Grey made statements about details of Isaiah's case. Implied that he knew things about it [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Matthew [quit working as a DCSE Investigator](#) in 2012. He now works for the Illinois Dept of Public Health. That information would not be a part of his new job. How does he know these details? Who is giving this information to him? Is it somehow coming from his wife Pandora Grey, a child-welfare specialist at the Family Service Center?**
3. **Matthew is a [licensed Marriage and Family Counselor](#). We would hardly consider the vicious and unprovoked immature behavior he displayed on Facebook could come from a trained professional who counsels couples and families on things like processing and resolving issues, communication skills, managing differences of opinion, etc. As a licensed counselor, was his abhorrent behavior and lashing out at Michelle Rider a violation of the [Code of Ethics of the American Counseling Association](#)?**

4. Mr. Grey launched this attack on Michelle Rider on the [Illinois Governors Facebook Page](#). Does the Governor of Illinois approve or condone this type of behavior on his Facebook Page? Is he aware that Matthew used his page to commit this act of character assassination? That thread was eventually deleted overnight but then we have to ask by who and why?
5. Does DCFS condone this behavior of a former Investigator? Do they approve of Mr. Gray making comments and statements in a public forum?
6. Does the Illinois Department of Public Health condone one of their Project Managers displaying this kind of behavior online? Publicly attacking a woman in a vile and nasty way when she did nothing but defend herself?

Read the [Full Story here](#).

More articles about [Isaiah Rider](#).

Family Defense Center in Illinois Documents Medical Ethics Violations in Medical Kidnappings



Diane L. Redleaf

Founder & Executive Director Family Defense Center

Health Impact News

The Family Defense Center

[The Family Defense Center](#) is a non-profit family advocacy group in Illinois. From their website [About Us](#) page:

The Family Defense Center is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advocate justice for families in the child welfare system. We advocate for families who need our help the most: families threatened with losing their children to foster care. Nothing is more painful for a child than to be taken from the only parents he or she knows. Yet, child protection systems throughout America frequently remove children from parents

as a first resort, not a last resort. Many parents lose custody of their children to state foster care systems primarily because they are poor or because they are victims of abuse themselves. Far too many children in foster care bounce from home to home and are separated from siblings. Any family can be the victim of a false, harassing, or misguided Hotline call.

Medical Ethics Concerns in Child Abuse Investigations

In March of 2014, The Family Defense Center published a two-year research and writing project “[Medical Ethics Concerns in Child Abuse Investigations.](#)”

Here is the Executive Summary:

The Family Defense Center’s mission is to advocate justice for families in the child welfare system. In working on cases for wrongly-accused families who are targeted as a result of Hotline calls to child protective services, the Center handles many cases involving physical findings (typically bone fractures and/or bleeding on the brain or eyes) that are initially believed to give rise to suspicion of child abuse. In most of the Center’s cases, these medical findings eventually come to be seen as either the result of an accidental or medical condition or disease; in some cases, the findings that caused child protection investigations are determined not have to have been present at all.

While there may have been good reason to consider the possibility that the child was abused in these cases, careful consideration of alternative explanations yields the result that abuse is not a likely explanation, and certainly not a

contention that can be proven in a court of law by a preponderance of the available evidence. In the typical Family Defense Center medically complex case, parents are eventually exonerated and children are returned home but only after intervention by the child protection system that lasted weeks, months or even years.

Does this typical fact pattern in Center cases show the child protection and medical assessment system works when child abuse has been alleged based on a medical finding? Or is the system for child abuse investigation, with extensive involvement by the medical profession every step of the way, failing the children and families who are the subjects of Hotline calls?

We submit, in this Paper, that this system of child abuse investigation and medical assessment is failing the children and families. We also submit that the failings are due at least in part to practices that are ethically questionable at best, or plainly unethical at worst. The harm of these practices occurs because, while the child may quickly recover from a toddler fracture, nursemaid's elbow or subdural hematoma that is called in to child protection authorities as suspicious, the trauma families have experienced at the hands of the child protection system does not fade quickly or ever entirely disappear.

Moreover, the Center is able to represent only a tiny fraction of the wrongly accused family members in medically complex cases and resources like the Center provides are not available to the vast majority of family members who encounter the child protection and medical care establishment in these cases. Unfortunately, we see little sign that the child protection and medical care establishment are

addressing in a meaningful way the harmful impact of erroneous child abuse reports that have resulted from questionable ethical practices that this Paper documents.

Indeed, for reasons this Paper documents, we believe that the medical profession has turned a blind eye to the treatment of children and families who are the victims of misplaced child abuse allegations and we are concerned about developments in the handling of medically complex allegations that make these problems worse, not better.

In this Paper, we deal only with cases in which the wrongly-accused parent has been exonerated. As to the exonerated parent, we ask the questions:

“What role did doctors play in the allegation being made in the first place and what were the ethical considerations for these doctors during the cases that eventually ended in an exoneration? Were there ethically required steps that doctors skipped in a rush to reach an ultimately unsustainable conclusion that child abuse was the likeliest explanation for the child’s injury? Has the medical care establishment established policies and practices that impede reaching the correct conclusion? Are family members’ interests in receiving information and making choices in the best interests of their children compromised by the processes currently in place? And if doctors’ medical ethics duties were violated, what policies and practices should be adopted so that the medical care establishment’s involvement in child abuse cases truly does no harm to the children?”

Focusing on the medical ethics duties involved in child abuse

allegations that come to the attention of doctors, this Paper first presents five illustrative cases that document in detail how the medical profession interacted with the child protection system to disrupt the family life of children who were ultimately determined not to be victims of child abuse after all.

These cases all arose in Illinois and are representative cases in the Center's much larger experience in medically-involved child abuse cases. After the detailed presentation of these cases, the Paper reaches several important conclusions that, we submit, require attention by medical and child protection policy makers as well as individual practitioners in these fields.

To summarize these conclusions:

1. The duty of physicians not to become law enforcement officers or to engage in interrogations is violated by practices under which children are detained at hospitals while medical staff (child abuse pediatricians or social worker under their direction) interrogate parents using police-type tactics that have no place in a medical treatment context (Discussion Section I).
2. After a Hotline call has been made, parents' decision-making as to their children's medical care and their access to their child may be impaired by misplaced assumptions about parental responsibility for suspected child abuse. This impairment deprives children of their rights to have their parents make essential health care decisions on their behalves. (Discussion Sections II and VI). In addition, doctors have an ethical duty to protect the child's familial relationships. If physicians become advocates or willing partners in state child protection actions seeking restricted contact between parents and their children or the removal of

a child from her parents, they are acting contrary to medical ethical principles recognizing the importance of “family-centered care” to children. (Discussion Section VI).

3. The development of the child abuse pediatrics subspecialty, which was recognized by the American Board of Pediatrics in 2009, has led to the child abuse pediatrician becoming the lead voice with child protection agencies in their determination of whether they believe child abuse occurred and parental access to children should be restricted. The idea that the child abuse pediatrician’s has greater expertise than other subspecialists has been more broadly accepted than is justified, especially if the child abuse pediatrician fails to fully consult with subspecialists in forming her abuse conclusions. (Discussion Section III, VIII).

4. As a result of the development of the child abuse pediatrics specialty, treating physicians and other doctors increasingly are pressed are pressed to give deference to opinions of the child abuse pediatrician, and they appear to be succumbing to that pressure in large numbers. This deference leads to economic and other benefits for treating doctors, but reduces the reliance on physicians who have potentially important information that supports the child and family relationship. Deference, to the exclusion of other opinions, harms the interests of children and families and reduces the quality of information considered by the child protection system in reaching a fair determination of whether child abuse has occurred. (Discussion Section IV).

5. The rights to privacy and confidentiality of medical information are not supposed to be lost as a result of child abuse reporting, though current practices appear to assume a right to share a child’s confidential medical information may be shared with state and local authorities and with forensic evaluators without parental consent whenever a

child abuse report has been made. This overbroad sharing of information beyond the Hotline call itself is a potentially serious breach of medical ethics (Discussion Section V).

6. Physicians and medical institutions who hold contracts with child protection agencies have a duty to notify parents of children who are being evaluated for child abuse as to these third-party contractual relationships. When parents are not informed of the role of the child abuse pediatrician, or given the informed rights to participate or decline to participate in the child abuse pediatrician's assessment of the Hotline call, including the right to refuse consent to access to records, medical ethics requirements of disclosure and informed consent are violated. (Discussion Section VII).

7. In arriving at medical opinions in connection with legal proceedings, physicians have ethical duties to be honest, objective independent and guided by current scientific thought. These duties encompass recognition of the limits of the physician's expertise, the need to consult with other specialists, a duty to be objective rather than an advocate for a particular outcome, and a duty to maintain a reasonable caseload. The expertise of other disciplines such as orthopedics to the determination of child abuse is discussed at some length. If a child abuse pediatrician strays from his duties to be objective and sets himself up as the superior doctor whose opinion is the sole opinion the child protection system needs to consider, he violates this central canon of medical ethics (Discussion Section VIII).

8. Physicians also have an ethical responsibility to mitigate damage to families. Yet, in no case handled by the Center has this responsibility been met by the medical community; **after exoneration, no family has received any offer of assistance or healing by any of the physicians who have caused them injury.**

This default is the result of the medical profession's failure to acknowledge the harm that wrongful child abuse allegations cause to children and families and to take meaningful steps to remedy that harm. Reconsidering policies and practices that cause the harm to occur would be an important first step in mitigating this damage. (Discussion Section IX and Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations).

[Read the Full Report here.](#)

Chicago Lurie Children's Hospital Takes Baby Away From Family for Seeking a Second Opinion



Source: [For the love of Malik Facebook page](#).

UPDATE 9/13/2017

Chicago Boy Medically Kidnapped for 20 Months Back Home – Family Strives to Overcome Trauma

UPDATE 7/8/2015

Judge Rules that Baby Malik Taken at Chicago Hospital is to Go Home

UPDATE 7/5/2015

Medical Kidnapping in Chicago: DCFS Does Not Want You to Know What They are Doing to 3 Year Old Malik

UPDATE 5/16/2015

Illinois Gags Grandmother from Exposing Chicago's Lurie Children's Hospital in Medical Kidnapping

UPDATE: 4/30/2015

From [For the love of Malik Facebook Page](#):

Ms. Tanna goes back to Juvenile Court tomorrow at 1:30. This is supposed to be the one where the judge renders his decision about baby Malik as stated once before. Please keep this family in your prayers. The baby is currently stuck at Lurie Children's Hospital with daily episodes of vomiting and diarrhea that they can't seem to control. If you recall prior to this admission the hospital filed a report with DCFS against the foster mom, because she dared to take him to a different hospital when he got sick again. Against Lurie's advice she took him any way & Lurie's didn't like that so they then

retaliated against even the foster mom. But they don't seem to be helping him either. Its time that this baby be sent back home with his FAMILY.

UPDATE: 3/13/2015

The case has been continued. Supporters report that the Guardian ad Litem and the state's attorney brought up the fact that this case is now in the media and on Facebook. Allegedly, their claim is that this puts Malik at some type of safety risk, and indicates that this demonstrates that the grandmother, Lakisha Tanna, is only concerned for herself, not Malik. The GAL and state filed an emergency motion for the judge to intervene before making a decision. Their request to compel Mrs. Tanna to refrain from any other postings or media contact was neither approved nor denied. The judge allegedly stated that he had been ready to make a decision yesterday, but has now continued the case, based on the new evidence.

Note: from the beginning of Lakisha's contact with *Health Impact News*, she has communicated that coming to the media was a last resort, only because the family was afraid of losing their baby to the system forever. Note also that the Facebook page, For the love of Malik, is run by supporters, not Lakisha Tanna. She has no control over any of its content.

by Terri LaPoint
Health Impact News

When Lakisha Tanna's infant grandson was transferred to Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, she thought that he was in the best place he could be to receive the care

that he needed for his medical condition. She never dreamed that this choice would eventually result in her adorable grandchild being what she terms “medically kidnapped” more than a year later. On March 12, the family faces a hearing to determine whether Malik, now 2 1/2, will be able to return home to his grandparents who love him, or forever become a ward of the state of Illinois.

Readers may recall that Lurie Children’s Hospital is the same hospital that seized custody of teenager [Isaiah Rider](#), a Missouri resident who was being treated at Lurie for his rare medical condition. Like Isaiah’s mom Michelle, Lakisha trusted this hospital with her child’s life, believing that Lurie was “supposed to be a place that has children’s best interest at heart.”

Fight Rages for Teenager Isaiah Rider’s Freedom – His Mother Commits “Cardinal Sin” Of Questioning Doctors

Malik Mitchel was born on July 5, 2012, with a medical condition that resulted in his small intestine being surgically removed, known as short gut syndrome. At 6 days of age, his family transferred him to Lurie, where he would spend the next 8 months. Because of factors related to his serious medical needs, the family made the decision to transfer guardianship to his grandparents.

Lurie Proposes That Malik Become a Ward of the State; Grandma Says “No, Thanks”

Shortly after this transfer, a social worker from Lurie approached Lakisha with a proposal to make Malik a ward of the state, “putting inferences on the benefits of a financial gain” for his grandmother, a proposal which she promptly

declined.

According to federal guidelines, children who are wards of the state may be enrolled in medical research studies without their families' knowledge or consent. This disturbing fact came into the light during the Justina Pelletier case, where Boston Children's Hospital and Connecticut CPS seized the teenager over a disagreement about a diagnosis.

"Justina's Law" Seeks to End Experimental Medical Research on Children Seized by Child Protection Services

At the time, Lakisha was unaware of the ramifications of his becoming a ward of the state; she and her husband simply wanted to be there for her grandson, and provide him with the love and care that family can provide better than any stranger or institution. That is what families are for and have been since the beginning of human history.



Malik is very loved by his family. Source: [For the love of Malik Facebook page](#).

Malik was discharged from Lurie on March 18, 2013, and was sent home with an in-home nurse. Another nurse came by weekly to draw labs. During this time, Lakisha switched pediatricians to one who was closer to her home. He was receiving all of his nutrition via IV (TPN). He battled bouts of diarrhea, and his weight frequently fluctuated.

Lurie Calls Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline Over Appointment Missed Because of Car Trouble

In July, Lakisha missed a scheduled appointment with a GI doctor she says because her car broke down. A social worker

from the hospital, Joanne Singleton, phoned DCFS (child protective services), reporting her to the abuse and neglect hotline. Apparently there were some abnormal lab results that they had planned to address during the appointment.

Malik was later admitted to the hospital, where he was taken off the TPN due to increased risks with long-term use. A G-tube feeding tube was inserted. Later, Lakisha learned that the alleged abnormal labs were unfounded.

Despite the change in his feeding plan, he still suffered from diarrhea off and on. Lakisha reports that the formula they place him on was difficult for him to tolerate. However, when she tried to make suggestions about his nutritional issues and care, it seemed to her that the staff took offense rather than trying to work with them.

Warning about Lurie

Lakisha reports that a DCFS investigator told her at this time “to be careful,” because “they receive a lot of calls from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital on minority families.” Lakisha holds a Master’s degree in social work, and is a hospital social worker herself, but she had no idea what she was about to face in her battle to provide the best possible care for her little boy.

Mistaken Report Leads to Hospitalization

After the last hospital discharge the number of in-home nursing hours were reduced from 98 hours per week to 56, and a different agency provided the services. On October 24, 2013, Lakisha received a call to bring Malik in to Lurie Hospital immediately, due to weight loss reported by the nursing agency. Though it was late in the day, she took him

in. He was weighed and labs were drawn. He had a weight loss of almost a pound and a half. However, this was a far cry from the report which prompted the urgent call. The coordinator at the in-home nursing agency had allegedly reported a weight loss of 6 to 7 pounds!

Despite the obvious mistake, they insisted on admitting Malik to the hospital. Lakisha reports that this was quite confusing to her. She asked for an admitting diagnosis, but no one could ever tell her why he was being admitted. The next day, further tests were ordered “which didn’t make any sense,” but she agreed to them. Everything came back within normal limits. Still, Malik remained hospitalized.



Source: [Cals Angels](#).

Request for Second Opinion Denied; Custody Seized

By this point in Malik's short life, he had already been subjected to 4 surgeries, but he still had repeated issues with his weight fluctuating. Lakisha expressed her concerns about the care he was receiving and asked to get a second opinion. She began talking about transferring his care to another hospital. The right to seek a second opinion and better treatment options are concepts which have long been assumed by the American public to be both the right and the responsibility of parents. However, much like Michelle Rider and the Pelletiers, Lakisha learned that some hospitals do not see it the same way.

When Lakisha got to the hospital to visit her grandson on December 5, she was shocked to find that Lurie had restricted her from visitation. She says that a social worker walked her to Malik's room to kiss him good-bye, but she was not permitted to stay to visit. The next day, DCFS seized custody of Malik, citing medical neglect.

It was not until Christmas Eve that she was finally able to visit him again, under supervision. On December 26, Lakisha received a voicemail that DCFS had made the decision to "indicate" her, meaning that they would put her on an abuse and neglect registry. She reports that she was not able to make any kind of defense or participate in the telephone conference call where the decision was made.

Malik Ready to Be Discharged, then Has Surgery

Though a DCFS worker allegedly stated to the court on December 6 that Malik was medically ready for discharge

from the hospital, Lurie scheduled him for surgery on January 15, 2014. Lakisha was not told why he needed the surgery, nor did she give her consent. She was not even permitted to be present for her grandson's surgery. It was only later that Lakisha learned that the procedure was for a bowel blockage. Even so, Malik continued to experience problems with weight fluctuations after going into state custody.

Later, the judge in the case allegedly asked why the surgery was done, but the GAL (Guardian ad Litem) was unable to explain it. Lakisha reports that she testified that she had learned that it was for a bowel blockage. He allegedly said that it sounded like it had a biological cause, unrelated to anything that the grandmother had done.

Because Malik is a child with serious medical needs, the Tannas suspect that some of the “uninformed experimentation procedures” that Malik has been subjected to are part of the reason that he was taken from them in the first place. A number of activists studying the problem of medical kidnapping have repeatedly asserted that children like Malik, with medically complex issues, are cash cows to the system and to the hospitals involved.

Dealing with the System

Malik's time is alternated between Lurie Children's Hospital, Almost Home Kids – a transitional facility owned by Lurie, and a foster home with strangers.

At one point Malik's Guardian ad Litem filed a motion which would have isolated the baby from any contact with any family members or friends besides his grandparents, but the request was denied.

However, Lakisha has been prohibited from attending Malik's doctors appointments, despite a court order to the contrary. Joanne Singleton, a Lurie social worker has allegedly placed a restriction forbidding Malik's grandmother to come to Lurie or Almost Home Kids unless she is accompanied by a DCFS social worker. The restriction remains even though a copy of the court order has been provided to both facilities.

Even though Lakisha has limited visitation rights to see her baby, even those visits have been sporadic, sometimes cancelled due to lack of a worker to supervise, sickness of the worker, sickness of the baby, or unavailability of the foster family. This is very difficult emotionally for the family.



Lakisha and Malik at a recent visit. Source: [For the love of Malik Facebook page](#).

Lurie has allegedly not been happy with the foster parents either. When the foster mother questioned the formula that Lurie had prescribed, she took Malik to a GI specialist at another hospital for a second opinion. She actually did what

Lakisha has merely talked about doing. Someone at Lurie allegedly became very angry and called the child abuse hotline on the foster mother. She is now allegedly under investigation.

Court Ruling in October

According to Lakisha, a DCFS worker filed a parenting report stating that Malik would be better off with a stay-at-home mom than Lakisha, because she works. This, despite the fact that Malik has in-home nursing care when he is with the Tannas. She states that the report also says, “me wanting a second opinion was just a sign that I was in denial of Malik’s condition.” (Note: with Michelle Rider, her request for a second opinion for Isaiah was seen as a sign that she was guilty of Munchausen by Proxy.)

The adjudication hearings have ended and the judge ruled against Lakisha on October 15, 2014, allegedly stating that he would have to go with the opinion of the expert witness. There was no evidence of abuse presented. According to Lakisha, this expert witness was a Child Abuse Specialist from Lurie, Dr. Norell Rosado – a doctor that she had never even seen. He allegedly stated that Malik wasn’t behaving like a normal child; however, the timing that he saw Malik was when he was very sick with diarrhea. The judge allegedly cited neglect because Lakisha failed to take Malik for a follow-up visit with the pediatrician. She states that she was not permitted to give her simple explanation in court: that Malik had been readmitted to Lurie for a 3 week hospital stay at the time the follow-up was supposed to occur.



Source: Tanna family.

Final Hearing Scheduled for March 12

There is one final chance for Lakisha to get her grandson back, or lose him forever. A dispositional hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, at 1:30 pm at the Juvenile

Detention Center, 1100 S. Hamilton, Chicago. Supporters are invited to come and show support for the family.

A previous dispositional hearing was continued because no plan for going forward could be agreed upon. Malik's Guardian ad Litem and the State Attorney are "fighting to make Malik a Ward of the State of Illinois," while Lakisha's attorney and DCFS support Malik being returned to his home with his grandparents.

Regarding the hearing, Lakisha states:

"This is final for me and as a grandmother I was told that I have no legal rights to Malik. Therefore if the Judge doesn't rule in my favor, I would lose him to the system forever. So I don't know what to do besides continue to fight back and pray."

Lakisha was recently a guest on "The Captain," a blogtalk radio show. Her heartbreaking story may be heard [here](#).

A Facebook page has been set up to support the family – [For the love of Malik](#).



In a strange twist of connection, Michelle Rider's final hearing for her son Isaiah Rider, also in Chicago, also taken by DCFS and Lurie Children's Hospital, is the day before Lakisha and Malik's hearing. Lakisha's powerful words speak not only for her family, but also for the Riders, and for every other family whose child has been taken away from them for disagreeing with doctors and seeking a second opinion:

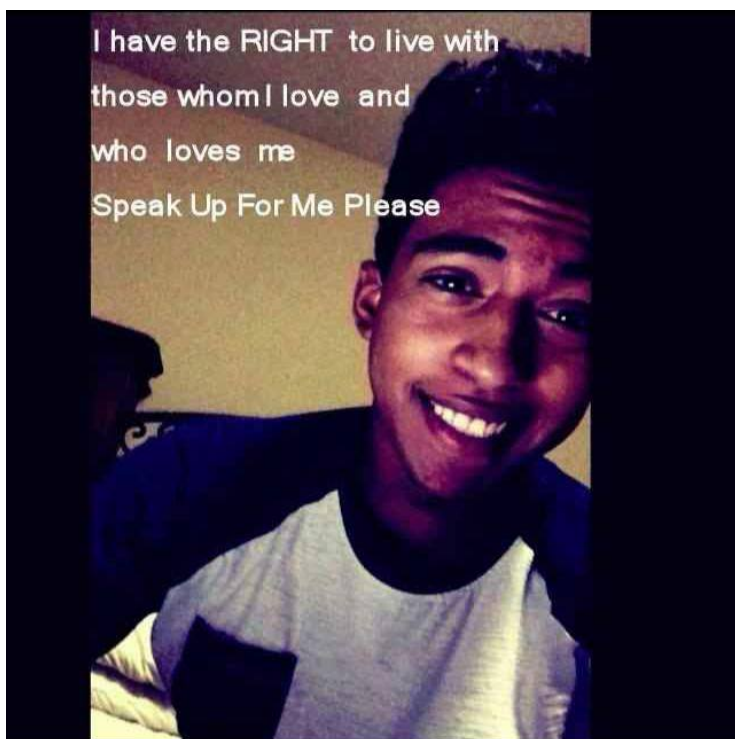
“Making a child a ward of the state that comes from a good, loving home that cares for him, to be lost in a system and separated from his family is not in the BEST INTEREST of the child. In the midst of trying to find a solution for my child's health problems, this institution [Lurie Children's Hospital] has caused me and my family nothing but great pain, grief, and stress.”

Bruce Rauner is the Governor of the State of Illinois, and may be reached at 217-782-0244 or 312-814-2121, and contacted [here](#).

The Tannas State Representative is Marcus C. Evans, Jr. He may be reached at 217-782-8272 , and contacted [here](#).

Donne E. Trotter is their Senator, and he may be reached at 217-782-3201, and contacted [here](#).

Verdict - Missouri Resident Isaiah Rider To Remain Ward of the State of Illinois



Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

by Terri LaPoint
Health Impact News

Michelle Rider is in shock. Her son is upset and angry. They cannot believe that the system can get away with making 17

year old Isaiah Rider a permanent ward of the state of Illinois. The Missouri residents only visited the state in order to have a surgery there that was supposed to help Isaiah, who suffers from a rare neurological condition that leaves painful tumors on nerves. Instead of helping him, the actions initiated by Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago have resulted in custody of Isaiah being seized by Child Protective Services of Illinois.

The final hearing for the Riders was on Wednesday, March 11, and the verdict was not at all what they had hoped to hear. Michelle writes:

“Isaiah was just made a ward of the court in the state of IL. A Missouri residing resident is a ward of another state. He can't even get proper medical care, we have been waiting on Illinois to be able to get him into see a neurologist to follow up on a brain lesion discovered in December ... This doesn't even make any sense at all. How is it any ones best interest for a state and agency 550 miles away to decide and dictate the best interest of a person? Anyone who can help, we need them.”

Isaiah spoke with *Health Impact News*, and expressed his great disappointment in the decision. He says he doesn't “understand how DCFS can get away with taking children away from their parents.” He is upset, not just for himself, but for all the other kids that he sees in the system that are going through the same kinds of things, and even worse.

He says that Illinois DCFS placed him in a “crappy foster home” where he ended up being exposed to all sorts of things that he never should have seen, things that he certainly was never around under his mother's care, like

drugs and gangs. He was traumatized by being told that he wouldn't get to see his mom again, and he was sexually assaulted while he was in foster care in Chicago.

Even though social workers in DCFS had been made aware of the crime committed against Isaiah, they did not report it for some months, and it has still not been investigated properly, reports Michelle. When Isaiah himself tried to report the rape in court (by telephone; he was never permitted to be present in court), his own counsel objected – the same counsel whom Isaiah repeatedly tried to fire, without success.

Missouri Teen Medically Kidnapped Was Raped and Sodomized While in Illinois Foster Care

Isaiah asks the question, “Why is a bad foster home better than a home with parents who love them?” He stresses that his mother has done nothing wrong.

“The only thing she’s trying to do is get me better, not hurt me. Mom is a better person than half of those people [at Lurie Children’s Hospital and DCFS].”

He says that he hopes someday to change the system for all the children of innocent parents who have been caught in the system. Isaiah suspects that money is behind the reason for all the pain that he has suffered at the hands of the state of Illinois. He has seen many innocent children caught in the crossfire, and he wants to make a difference for them.

His mother, Michelle, has worked as a nurse for her entire career, and has never once been reported or even accused of

any type of crime or abuse, until Lurie Hospital accused her of Munchausen by Proxy, a charge which a leading expert on the condition, Dr. Marc D. Feldman, says does not fit her case. Though her home was reportedly approved by their home state of Missouri as being suitable for her son, Illinois DCFS would not relent and allow Isaiah to go home.

In December, doctors discovered that Isaiah has a brain lesion. However, Michelle reports that they cannot even get a neurologist to look at it because a state 550 miles away has to authorize all medical care. They have allegedly shown no concern about the brain lesion.

The Riders are frustrated and angry about the injustice of the system that they are facing. Isaiah is almost an adult, but could potentially remain a ward of the state of Illinois until he is 21, according to Illinois state law. In his own state, he is considered an adult now, but he is under the control of an entity in another state. He says that he wants to talk, and will speak with anyone who will listen.

[Previous Stories about Isaiah Rider.](#)

Listen to Michelle Rider interviewed on the [Robert Scott Bell show](#):

Video no longer available.

Medically Kidnapped Isaiah Rider: "Don't Underestimate Me"



Isaiah Rider speaks out. Source: Screen shot from [YouTube video](#).

by **Terri LaPoint**
Health Impact News

Teenager Isaiah Rider is speaking out about being a victim of DCFS and Lurie Children's Hospital after they seized custody of him from his mother last year. As reported by *Health Impact News*, a verdict was reached Wednesday, March 11, that the 17 year old will remain a ward of the state of Illinois, a state he only visited in order to have surgery.

Verdict – Missouri Resident Isaiah Rider To Remain Ward of the State of Illinois

He has consistently maintained that his mother, Michelle Rider, has done nothing wrong. She has been accused of medical child abuse. Isaiah insists that all she was ever trying to do was to help him when he was in severe pain, pain which Lurie Children's Hospital was allegedly unable to manage. It is what any loving mother would do, according to Isaiah.

Isaiah wants his voice to be heard. He has repeatedly told *Health Impact News* and any one who will listen that he loves his mom very much, and is very hurt by the actions of Lurie Children's Hospital and Illinois DCFS. He doesn't understand how they can hurt children so much. He also says that he has seen the hurt suffered by other children in the foster care system, and he speaks out on their behalf as well.

“Every kid deserves to be with their mother.”

Listen to the heart-cry of a son who simply longs to be reunited with his mother.

Video no longer available.

His message to the world and to DCFS is this: “One thing you're not going to do – take me away from my family. Don't underestimate me. You're never taking me away from my family. I love my family more than anything.”

Previous Stories about Isaiah Rider.

Isaiah Rider Speaks out on Robert Scott Bell Show - Wants to go to Mayo Clinic for Pain but Held Hostage



Isaiah Rider with his mother Michelle Rider during happier days.

Health Impact News Editor Comments

Isaiah Rider, the 17 year old teenager who is still in the custody of Illinois against his will, appeared on The Robert Scott Bell Show last night (April 6th) along with his mother Michelle Rider to give an update on their current situation.

Isaiah Rider was medically kidnapped by the State of Illinois while visiting a Chicago hospital that supposedly specializes in his rare medical condition. He was not being helped, but in constant pain, and his mother tried to take him to a different doctor. But she was charged with “medical abuse” and lost custody of her son. Isaiah was put into foster care for a time, where he was allegedly abused sexually and traumatized. He is now back in Kansas City, but still not with his mother, and still suffering.

As reported on the [Epic Times](#), one of the more amazing moments in the interview was when Isaiah was asked by Robert Scott Bell “What do you need?”

Isaiah’s response was:

“The one thing that I need is I really need people to help me make a difference in the world. I want kids to have better lives than having DCFS take them away from their families.”

Listen to the [entire interview at Epic Times](#).

Today (April 7, 2015), Michelle Rider reported that Isaiah is experiencing another pain crisis. They are currently back in Missouri, although Isaiah remains in the custody of the State of Illinois, and is not allowed to live with his mother. The hospital and medical personnel in Missouri are unable to

properly care for Isaiah, but they are following directions issued by Illinois DCFS which manages all of his medical care. They would like to transfer him to the Mayo Clinic where he can receive better treatment.

Here is the urgent email Michelle sent out today:

Isaiah's going into another pain crisis and needs help. We have been waiting for 2 weeks now for an approval for him to go to the Mayo clinic as recommended by his primary doctor.

Why can't Isaiah get the healthcare that he needs and deserves? Why is he in Kansas City and needs approval from Illinois who are clearly dropping the ball? This is completely unacceptable. Why as his mother am I being kept away from my son?

I have nothing to do with his health problems and I think that is clear at that point, this is his now his second crisis he has gone into (while) OUT of my care and custody! Isaiah spoke out yesterday, and he wants his voice to be heard. I should be able to be there for my son who is in pain and wants me by his side! I have been there for him his entire life. What they are doing to my son and I is just cruel.

This was an email from his caregiver sent to Illinois DCFS today:

Hi, Isaiah's pain worsened and his tremors started this morning. He has had four as of this time. I spoke with Dr xxxx's (primary) nurse this morning and she spoke with Dr xxxxx. Their office contacted Mayo to see if we could expedite

an appointment there and they will get back within 48 hours. They said that if Isaiah's pain became unbearable that we should go to Mayo's ER. The hospitals here and in Chicago haven't been able to help him, as he really needs to see speciality doctors with experience in neurofibromatosis as well as leg movement disorders. Can this be approved by DCFS? Please let me know as soon as you can, thanks.

From Michelle:

– 2 weeks of pain and now he's going into another crisis. Isaiah needs help. Forward to anyone who has a voice and can help. This is completely out of control!

More about the [Isaiah Rider story](#).

Illinois Stops Teen from Going to Mayo Clinic - "Legalized Terrorism" Claims Distraught Mom



Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

by **Health Impact News and MedicalKidnap.com staff**

It looked like Isaiah Rider was all set to go to the Mayo Clinic, where he might find answers for the pain and seizures that he has been suffering. The teen was accepted last week, and he was hopeful that they would be able to help him where other hospitals have not. But Illinois DCFS has again stepped in and his acceptance at Mayo has been cancelled by someone pretending to be his guardian. Isaiah is still hurting. He and his family are very frustrated with the child protective agency in another state that is controlling their lives and keeping Isaiah from getting the medical help he needs.

Desperate Pleas

Supporters and family alike are now appealing to the big guns, asking for God and the President of the United States to intervene. According to *A Miracle for US* blog:

Need everyone in the country to PRAY for what the state of Illinois is doing to Isaiah Rider RIGHT NOW!

Details to come, but it is time to go to the White House with the atrocities being committed against this family: Please world – take note of what is happening to Isaiah for the past year, and ... what is being done to him NOW.

Medical Help at Mayo Clinic Sabotaged

Isaiah tells *Health Impact News* that he is “having a lot of pain,” and that this is a “very stressful situation.”

Last Thursday, after his primary care doctor referred him to Mayo Clinic, his grandmother received a phone call stating that he had been accepted and she could schedule an appointment. Shortly after the call, she received an email telling her that there was a misunderstanding, and Isaiah was not approved to go to Mayo.

Confused, Isaiah’s mother called the clinic and learned that Isaiah’s GAL (Guardian ad Litem) was behind the cancellation. Kim Boone is Isaiah’s GAL. He has repeatedly tried to fire her, because he believes she has not represented his best interests. But somehow she remains on his case and continues to speak for him. When he was raped while he was in Chicago foster care, Boone did not report the abuse. She

has also kept Isaiah from testifying on his own behalf. Now, she has allegedly sabotaged Isaiah's acceptance at the prestigious Mayo Clinic. According to Isaiah,

"It's a bunch of bull. They know I need medical care."



Source: Screen shot from YouTube video.

After Isaiah was accepted, Boone reportedly phoned Mayo pretending to be Isaiah's guardian, saying that she did not authorize him to go there. However, she is not his guardian. The state of Illinois is, and Debra Dyer is the person appointed for the position of guardian.

Isaiah Terrified of Being Forced to Chicago Again

Isaiah very much hopes that this decision is overturned, because he is terrified of the “solution” that is now being proposed – being sent back to Chicago, the place where he was medically kidnapped from his mother, and where he was raped. It is also the place where they couldn’t help him, where they told him repeatedly that the pain was “all in his head.”

“I’m scared. These people are scary. I am afraid that they will try to take me away from my family again. How can they say that this is in my best interest? They keep saying that, and telling me that this is all in my head, when there is actual evidence that this is real.”

Last Time He Was Drugged and Forced into Ambulance

The last time that the Kansas City, Missouri, resident experienced a pain crisis, doctors at the local hospital said that they didn’t know how to help him. While his family searched for, and found, other hospitals where doctors were experienced in helping patients with his rare condition, Illinois DCFS traveled to Kansas City, and literally seized Isaiah to force him back to Chicago. He was forcibly drugged with high doses in order to secure his compliance. His grandparents were threatened, and he was dragged to a clandestine ambulance which carried him over 500 miles to Chicago, Illinois. Allegedly, 5 different hospitals denied him access before he was finally admitted to a hospital, one which was unable to help him with his pain.



Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

After a huge public outcry, DCFS put him on a plane and sent him back to Missouri, without helping him with his medical condition. The pain eventually subsided, but it has returned. Doctors have also discovered a lesion on Isaiah's brain, but DCFS has yet to authorize any testing or treatment for that.

Michelle Rider Makes Desperate Plea for Help

Isaiah's mother wants answers for her son, which is the only thing that she ever wanted before a state not even their own stepped in and took custody. Those answers remain elusive. She sent this statement to *Health Impact News*:

Why is government abuse and tyranny being allowed in our country? They are setting precedents here with my son! Another state is allowed to now take control of residents of completely different states and do whatever they please? As much harm and abuse as they wish? For the life of me, I cannot understand this. They are showing us all our entire nation that they can and will continue to abuse their power and authority to destroy our lives. To destroy my son's life. They allowed him to be horrifically assaulted and then cover it up. Safety concerns were brought to their attention and to the judges attention prior, and they did nothing.

That same state took my son against his will back to their state in pain and in an ambulance for 9 hours trying to keep him there in Dec. We had to fight with everything we had and they finally agreed to release him back. Want to know why? They released him back to KC because people started using their voices and the media started shining light on what they were doing.

Those same horrible people have been denying my son proper medical care now for weeks. The people who are getting paid to protect my son are the same people who are aiding in the abuse. Even as far as lying, by pretending to have authority to make his medical decisions and saying they deny them.

Those same monsters are now threatening to take my boy back to Chicago. Claiming his pain is not real and it's psychological. They are retaliating against us for exposing their lies and reporting them for what they are doing. It was just yesterday they were called out and reported.

Now today, they are threatening to take Isaiah back to Chicago. Friends, this is legalized terrorism going on right here in our country. We have to stop this. They are violating

our civil and constitutional rights and no one is stopping them.

This has to become a concern to all. I'm afraid if it doesn't become a public issue of concern soon, we will all be stripped of our rights. This is a reality, it's happening right now. My son is terrified, my family is terrified, I am terrified. Please speak up for us. I know this may not concern you right now but it could. Anyone who truly knows me, knows how wrong this whole thing truly is.

My son cannot be taken back to Chicago, where he has been nothing but tortured. Please help stop this.

Why should anyone have to worry about these type of terroristic actions? Having to worry that they will follow through with what they have told us? They showed us they are capable in December; they have also shown us they don't care at all about Isaiah or my family by all the terrible things they have done. One blow after another is what the past year has been filled with."

Who to Call

[Team Isaiah](#) supporters ask that calls be made to Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner at 312 814 2121, asking him to step in for Isaiah's release from his state and for Illinois DCFS to facilitate the medical help that he needs. He may be contacted [here](#).

They also ask that calls be made to Missouri Governor Jay Nixon at 573 751 3222, asking him to intervene on behalf of this Missouri resident being held captive by Illinois. He may be contacted [here](#).

Supporters are also calling for calls to be made to the White House on Isaiah's behalf. The White House comment line is 202 456 1111.

Prayers to the Almighty for divine intervention are also being requested at this time.

[Previous Stories about Isaiah Rider.](#)



Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page.](#)

Illinois Gags Grandmother from Exposing Chicago's Lurie Children's Hospital in Medical Kidnapping



Source: Tanna family.

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

Another family has allegedly been gagged from speaking out about their experiences with Child Protective Services and a hospital they have said is hurting their child. Lakisha Tanna is the legal guardian and grandmother of Baby Malik, hereafter known as “Baby M.” She has been ordered by the Cook County, Illinois, Family Court to refrain from media contacts or postings about her grandson.

In response, Mrs. Tanna has posted this message in several places on Facebook:

Chicago Illinois; As of Wednesday 05.13.15 I have been given a court order that prohibits me from any further media interaction, interviews, photographers or any other postings regarding my child or the case none whatsoever, not even use of his name. I was told it was already effective as of 03.12.2015 I just wasn't made aware of this. I was told this violates DCFS policy considering they have temporary custody of him. States they are his guardian & I do not have a right to do this.

Read the original story here: [Chicago Lurie Children's Hospital Takes Baby Away From Family for Seeking a Second Opinion](#)



Lakisha Tanna and “Baby M” – Source: [For the love of Malik Facebook page](#).

Is the State of Illinois trying to silence her? Is his how Child Protective Services has gotten away with taking children away from parents for so long, in so many places, without bringing criminal charges against the parents? Where is the

transparency when gag orders are issued against the parents, and news reporters are forbidden to obtain or print any records on this cases? The secrecy that shrouds the Family Court System potentially endangers families everywhere, because any alleged corruption is allowed to continue unchecked.

Where there is such secrecy, corruption is free to breed. Where parents are silenced, injustice can be allowed to continue. If the deeds of any government agency are exposed to the light, then they have to actually follow the Constitution and the law. This is the whole premise behind Freedom of the Press – that basic American liberty was intentionally placed into the Bill of Rights to ensure that the government is kept accountable to the people.

Colonial writers penned this [powerful editorial](#) in Philadelphia's *Freeman's Journal* back in 1787:

As long as the liberty of the press continues unviolated, and the people have the right of expressing and publishing their sentiments upon every public measure, it is next to impossible to enslave a free nation. Men of an aspiring and tyrannical disposition, sensible of this truth, have ever been inimical to the press, and have considered the shackling of it, as the first step towards the accomplishment of their hateful domination, and the entire suppression of all liberty of public discussion, as necessary to its support.

For even a standing army, that grand engine of oppression, if it were as numerous as the abilities of any nation could maintain, would not be equal to the purposes of despotism over an enlightened people. An abolition of that grand palladium of freedom, the liberty of the press, in the

proposed plan of government, and the conduct of its authors, and patrons, is a striking exemplification of these observations. The reason assigned for the omission of a bill of rights, securing the liberty of the press, and other invaluable personal rights, is an insult on the understanding of the people. ([Source.](#))

In an earlier article published on MedicalKidnap.com, [Family Court Judges' Unconstitutional Gag Orders On Parents](#), we reported that the national group [Liberty Counsel](#) issued the following statement when Lou Pellitier broke the gag order that the Massachusetts family court placed on him regarding the medical kidnapping of his daughter Justina:

Gag Order: The Juvenile Court imposed an unconstitutional gag order upon the parents to prevent them from speaking to the media about this case. After the father spoke to the media, DCF sought to hold him in contempt. Liberty Counsel began representing the Pelletiers and submitted a brief in opposition to the enforcement of the gag order. DCF then agreed to drop the contempt motion, the judge dissolved the gag order, and the judge ordered the return of Justina's medical care back to Tufts Medical Center and Dr. Korson, where she had been treated before the ER visit.

As legal experts across the U.S. have stated, “These gag orders are obviously nothing less than intimidation tactics trying to scare parents into giving up their constitutional rights to free speech.”

There is great concern for Baby M's safety at present. He is currently being held in Lurie Children's Hospital. His latest return there was not for any medical reason; it was an

emergency placement because he was removed from the foster parents' custody. Allegedly, Lurie Children's Hospital is planning to repeat surgery on him soon, one which has been performed twice already, involving resectioning of his intestines. From the [Facebook page](#) that is run by supporters of the family:

“This lil baby has been through so much in this short time of his life. He needs his family. I personally think he should be removed from that hospital. I’ve read several families complaints about Luries. Now they trying to do another surgery on this poor baby. Sounds like their experimenting on him especially now that he’s in state care.”

When parents are gagged and the process is hidden behind a cloak of secrecy, how is the public to know whether or not the state officials are following the law? Does the lack of transparency in the family court system shield those who are corrupt from accountability to the public?

A Facebook page has been set up to support the family – [For the love of Malik](#).



Bruce Rauner is the Governor of the State of Illinois, and may

be reached at 217-782-0244 or 312-814-2121, and contacted [here](#).

The Tannas State Representative is Marcus C. Evans, Jr. He may be reached at 217-782-8272 , and contacted [here](#).

Donne E. Trotter is their Senator, and he may be reached at 217-782-3201, and contacted [here](#).

Medical Kidnapping in Chicago: DCFS Does Not Want You to Know What They are Doing to 3 Year Old Malik



Malik and his grandmother Lakisha. Source: [For the love of Malik Facebook page](#).

UPDATE 7/8/2015

Judge Rules that Baby Malik Taken at Chicago Hospital is to Go Home

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

Malik Mitchell turns 3 years old today (July 5, 2015), but he will not be celebrating his birthday at home with his family. Instead, he is still stuck in the Illinois Child Protective System, where he has been for more than a year and a half, away from his family. DCFS seized custody of Malik on December 6, 2013, after his grandmother, who had legal custody, asked for a second opinion about his medical care. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago had already performed numerous surgeries on his tiny body, and Lakisha Tanna wanted to know if there were other options for her grandson.

See original story:

Chicago Lurie Children's Hospital Takes Baby Away From Family for Seeking a Second Opinion

Gag Order Issued to Prevent Family from Talking About Malik

On May 13, Lakisha learned that she had been given a gag order by the court, and she was forbidden to speak her own grandchild's name to the media or to discuss his case. Health Impact News included her Facebook comment in an update article on Malik's case:

Illinois Gags Grandmother from Exposing Chicago's Lurie Children's Hospital in Medical Kidnapping.

Lakisha's words to the public were as follows:

Chicago Illinois; As of Wednesday 05.13.15 I have been given a court order that prohibits me from any further media interaction, interviews, photographers or any other postings regarding my child or the case none whatsoever, not even use of his name. I was told it was already effective as of 03.12.2015 I just wasn't made aware of this. I was told this violates DCFS policy considering they have temporary custody of him. States they are his guardian & I do not have a right to do this.

Health Impact News Told to Remove References to Malik

Recently, Lakisha was allegedly compelled by the Cook County Juvenile Court to write to Health Impact News to request that we remove all references to Malik Mitchell from our website, including photos, his full name, address, and birthdate.



Law Office of the
COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
2245 W. Ogden 7TH FLOOR § CHICAGO IL 60612 (312) 433-7046 TEL (312) 433-5282 FAX


Amy P. Campanelli Public Defender


May 27, 2015

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to request that you immediately remove from your website "medicalkidnap.com" any and all information concerning Malik Mitchell. This includes but is not limited to photographs of Malik, use of his first and last name, date of birth, and address.

Sincerely,


Lakisha Tanna
Legal Guardian for Malik


Sara Dixon Spivey
Attorney Supervisor for the
Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

Bill of Rights Violated in Medical Kidnapping



We have addressed such requests from other families in the past, and our position is clear. Though it appears that our cherished American freedoms are eroding at an ever-increasing pace, at this point the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are supposedly still in effect. The Constitutional principles of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press still apply, despite orders by different local judges.

As we have stated [before](#), the Illinois Family Court system in Cook County is obviously putting pressure on the family in this case. We have seen this tactic with other families. They do not like the media exposure. But instead of contacting us directly, they apparently threaten the parents, since they hold their children in State custody.

Health Impact News, of course, will not comply with this request. We will not take down our coverage of this case, or other cases. Several Constitutional attorneys across the nation have spoken out against these gag orders issued by judges in Family or Juvenile courts in various states, calling them unconstitutional, and we have been encouraged to continue publishing these stories.

It should be noted that in this case concerning 3 year old Malik, that neither the birth parents nor the grandparents who had legal custody, have been arrested or convicted of any crimes. Therefore, in this case, like many others we publish, we consider this State-sponsored kidnapping. Medical authorities decided to take the child away from his family, and they used the power of the State to do so. This is “medical kidnapping.” No due process of law was followed, and the State is attempting to hide their actions by gagging the family, and using intimidation to try and get us to take down our stories about this case.

[Family Court Judges' Unconstitutional Gag Orders On Parents](#)

[Arizona Judges Continue to Threaten Parents and Restrict Free Speech](#)

[Canadian Solicitor General Wants to Restrict Freedom of the Press in the U.S. Regarding Medical Kidnapping](#)

Who Gets to Decide What Are the “Best Interests” of Malik?



Source: [For the love of Malik Facebook page.](#)

The public needs to be aware of what is happening to innocent children and families in the name of “the best interests of the child.” Far too many families are reporting violations of their Constitutional Rights, due process rights, and the basic human right to parent our own children, after the family court system and the child protective system becomes involved. The public has a right to know what the taxpayer-funded, elected and appointed government officials are doing.

In Malik Mitchell’s case, the government officials do not appear to be working for his best interests. He is described as a sweet, adorable little boy with chubby cheeks and a smile that can melt hearts. He has a family that adores him.

He also has medical conditions that have required care, care which his family was getting for him. However, after numerous surgeries and treatments that were seemingly not getting him better, his custodial grandmother began asking questions and seeking answers – something any responsible parent would do. Those questions seem to have made someone at Lurie Children’s Hospital uncomfortable.

History of Medical Kidnapping at Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago



Source: [Cals Angels](#).

Lakisha, Malik's grandmother who had custody of Malik before he was taken away, reports that a DCFS investigator told her at the time "to be careful," because "they receive a lot of calls from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital on minority families." Lakisha holds a Master's degree in social work, and is a hospital social worker herself, but she had no idea what she was about to face in her battle to provide the best possible care for her little boy.

Missouri mom Michelle Rider also had questions about the care of her son [Isaiah Rider](#) at Lurie Children's Hospital, and her questions were also met with resistance. As with Malik, Lurie officials called DCFS and reported the parents, and DCFS obliged by medically kidnapping Isaiah. Read more about the tragic story of Isaiah Rider, how the State seized custody of him when his mother (a registered nurse) wanted to seek a second medical opinion, and how they put Isaiah

(who is from Missouri and was only visiting Chicago to get specialized medical treatment) into foster care and placed into a rough neighborhood where he was sodomized.

Articles about Isaiah Rider

Both Malik and Isaiah have rare medical conditions, and wards of the state may be legally used as human guinea pigs in medical experiments. Health Impact News has previously reported how children all across the United States are being legally kidnapped by medical authorities for drug trials:

Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials

Many of Malik and Isaiah’s supporters question if the reason for their seizure by the state of Illinois has to do with the children being used for medical experimentation.

In May, Malik had yet another surgery. This one was a repeat of a surgery that has been performed twice before, in which parts of his intestines were resected. One of his supporters wrote on the Facebook page that was set up to support the family – [For the love of Malik](#) –

“This lil baby has been through so much in this short time of his life. He needs his family. I personally think he should be removed from that hospital. I’ve read several families complaints about Luries. Now they trying to do another surgery on this poor baby. Sounds like their experimenting on him especially now that he’s in state care.”

He has only very recently allegedly been released from the

hospital. It is unclear where he is being held, after allegations from Lurie against the foster parents resulted in Malik being taken from their care.

Call to Action!

The final court date is **Tuesday, July 7, at 1:30 pm at the Juvenile Detention Center, 1100 S. Hamilton, Chicago.** Supporters would love to see concerned citizens come to the courthouse and show support for the family. They report that, though Lakisha Tanna cannot talk to the media, she is praying fervently for the judge to rule in her favor, and allow her little grandson to come home, to be surrounded by the family who loves him.

He is now 3 years old today, and has been separated from his family for more than half his life, yet he still lights up when he sees them.



Malik at a visit in February. Source: video on [For the Love of Malik Facebook page](#).

Bruce Rauner is the Governor of the State of Illinois, and may be reached at 217-782-0244 or 312-814-2121, and contacted [here](#). He also has a [Twitter](#) page.

The Tannas State Representative is Marcus C. Evans, Jr. He may be reached at 217-782-8272 , and contacted [here](#). He is on [Twitter](#) as well.

Donne E. Trotter is their Senator, and he may be reached at 217-782-3201, and contacted [here](#).

Please support the Facebook page [For the love of Malik](#)

which has been set up to support the family.



In addition to contacting Illinois officials, those who want to see change in the Child Protective System for Malik Mitchell, and many other children unjustly seized from innocent parents, are encouraged to call and write to the presidential candidates and make their stories part of the discussion. Many of the candidates may be unaware that children are being medically kidnapped by state agencies, but this is an issue that they need to know about and address. It is public action that is making a difference for many families. When our voices become loud enough, we can make a difference. [Here](#) is a website where all of the presidential candidates may be found, with links to their campaign websites, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

Comment Health Impact News received by email 7/6/2015:

They filed against me when I was Malik's foster mom because I brought him to another GI doc. Luries wasn't happy that Malik was doing so well.

Odd isn't it? I spoke up! I voiced my concerns on their objectives with Malik not a week later DCFS was at my door because the social worker called saying it was medical

neglect. Since when is the social worker also a MD?

They did the same thing to me they did to Lakisha. Everything was hush hush and secretive why?????? They wanted Malik for a reason, Jesus himself would not have been good enough. The doctor and her staff are incompetent. They are NOT team players and lie to cover their oh so obvious ignorance. Who suffers for this? MALIK! Does he look neglected to you?

Judge Rules that Baby Malik Taken at Chicago Hospital is to Go Home



Lakisha celebrated Malik's 3rd birthday Sunday. Now she is celebrating victory – he is coming home! Source: [For the love of Malik Facebook page](#)

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

Lakisha Tanna is ecstatic. She has been fighting Illinois DCFS for her now 3 year old grandson Malik Mitchell for more than a year and a half. The family has been desperately concerned for his well-being and his very life, because they believe that Lurie Children's Hospital has been conducting human experiments on the little boy.

In a court hearing on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, the judge reportedly said that,

"This case has been going on too long. It is past time for Malik to go home."

Malik is going home.



Malik on his birthday Sunday with his family. Source: [For the love of Malik Facebook page](#)

Lurie Children's Hospital Reported Lakisha When She Asked For a Second Opinion

Their horrific ordeal began during Lakisha's efforts to provide the best possible health care for her sick grandson, for whom she has been the legal guardian since infancy. He was born with a medical condition that resulted in his small intestine being surgically removed, known as short gut syndrome. When he was just 6 days old, he was transferred

to Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

At the time, Lakisha believed that Lurie was the best hospital for Malik to receive the care he needed. He spent his first 8 months in the hospital, and had 4 surgeries. Lakisha began to question the quality of care that he was receiving and sought to get a second medical opinion, something that she believed was not only the right, but also the responsibility, of any good parent.



Baby Malik in the hospital. Source: Tanna family.

Lurie Children's Hospital apparently didn't see it that way. Similar to what the same hospital did to Michelle and Isaiah Rider, someone at Lurie reported her to DCFS (Illinois Child Protective Services), who lost no time in seizing custody of baby Malik.

Fight Rages for Teenager Isaiah Rider's Freedom – His Mother Commits “Cardinal Sin” Of Questioning Doctors

Lakisha has been battling the system for him ever since. During that time period, Malik has had 4 additional surgeries, including a recent one that was the same as one that they performed twice before without improving his condition. Family and friends feared that the baby was being subjected to unnecessary medical experimentation by Lurie Children's Hospital. Legally, children who are wards of the state can be entered into drug trials and medical experiments without the knowledge or consent of their parents.

Surprise Testimony from DCFS Supervisor

Tuesday was to be the final court hearing over custody of Malik. Since their story was originally published on MedicalKidnap.com, supporters have made phone calls and written letters asking for him to be sent home. Many readers have stated that they are praying for the family.

Lakisha reports that she had peace going into the courtroom. She knew that people all over the country were praying for justice. She says,

“Everything worked out great.”

A DCFS supervisor reportedly took the stand. This was the same supervisor who previously testified in the first hearing that Malik should become a ward of the state. Her testimony was apparently not what either Lakisha or the GAL (guardian

ad litem) expected. Based on her interactions with Lakisha over the past year and a half, which she said were always respectful, even though they disagreed, she reportedly testified Tuesday that it was “in Malik’s best interest” to go home to his family.

DCFS Focused on Lakisha Taking Her Story to the Public

DCFS allegedly tried to discredit Lakisha by saying that she has demonstrated instability, irresponsibility, and psychological problems by taking Malik’s story to the media. MedicalKidnap.com has reported that the court issued a gag order against Lakisha Tanna, and that they have demanded that we remove his story from our website.

Illinois Gags Grandmother from Exposing Chicago’s Lurie Children’s Hospital in Medical Kidnapping

Medical Kidnapping in Chicago: DCFS Does Not Want You to Know What They are Doing to 3 Year Old Malik

In Tuesday’s hearing, the state’s attorney again allegedly made the fact that Lakisha talked to the media a focal point of their allegations, but the judge made it clear that his main concern was Lakisha’s ability to care for this child.

Foster Mother Speaks Out to MedicalKidnap.com

A foster mother who has cared for Malik has spoken up on his behalf. She says that she was punished by Lurie

Children's Hospital when she took him to a different doctor. Lurie reported her to DCFS as well, when she crossed them. She wrote to MedicalKidnap.com:

They filed against me when I was Malik's foster mom because I brought him to another GI doc. Lurie wasn't happy that Malik was doing so well.

Odd isn't it? I spoke up! I voiced my concerns on their objectives with Malik not a week later DCFS was at my door because the social worker called saying it was medical neglect. Since when is the social worker also a MD?

They did the same thing to me they did to Lakisha. Everything was hush hush and secretive why????? They wanted Malik for a reason, Jesus himself would not have been good enough. The doctor and her staff are incompetent. They are NOT team players and lie to cover their oh so obvious ignorance. Who suffers for this? MALIK! Does he look neglected to you?

MedicalKidnap.com Reader Shows Up in Support

Lakisha told us that a MedicalKidnap.com reader came to court to support them, but she was made to wait outside the courtroom. Amena Brock wrote on [For the love of Malik](#) Facebook page:

"I may have been the only supporter that showed at today's last trial, but spiritually I was not alone. I share the same concern that many people have about seeing a health

professional in the first place. Will best health practices be made in all of my concerns, and will I be well informed of them properly? Will I be treated fairly? Should I fully trust someone that is making monetary gain off of my healthcare/other... whereas I or my child pays the repercussions of their paid decisions for possibly life? No man should fear that they need a legal advocate when speaking to a healthcare professional, or asking for another opinion... or worst-case ending up a ward of the state to be open to such medical experimentation. I can say this whole heartedly: no system or person that is being paid for someone else's care is going to do so unconditionally like an unpaid loving family member. They would not allow me pass the court room doors, but I can say this – they did side in the case of Malik Mitchell for the grandparents. May this never happen to anyone again!”



Source: [For the Love of Malik Facebook page](#)

Judge Rules: Malik Is Going Home

After hearing all the testimony, the judge has ruled that there is no reason why Malik Tanna should not be going home, and that this is to happen.

Malik is currently in what Lakisha describes as a “shelter-like facility,” where he was discharged to after his latest surgery by Lurie Children’s Hospital. He is in a room with many other children. The other children have trachs and cannot talk. She says that Malik is the only one who can talk. He will be staying there for a few more days while paperwork and arrangements are made to bring him home.

Finally, Lakisha and her husband’s visits do not have to be supervised. There is a meeting scheduled for Monday to transition, and Malik Mitchell should be home by Wednesday, July 15, which is 1 year, 7 months, 1 week, and a day since the state of Illinois seized custody of him on December 6, 2013.

Interestingly, DCFS petitioned the judge to allow 6 to 8 weeks for this transition to occur. Lakisha is thankful that the judge denied that request. She says she has to wonder if that is all about the money that would have been made by Malik if he had remained in that facility.

They have also asked that Lakisha continue to be monitored and receive the counseling services and psychological evaluation that have been approved, allowing for DCFS to get all their reports completed. Lakisha reports that her counselor said a year ago that she didn’t need the service, but DCFS insists that she continue to receive that service. The judge has allowed a continuance until October for the completion of these items.



They will be reunited soon! Source: [For the love of Malik Facebook page](#)

According to Lakisha's paperwork, Malik Mitchell is no longer a ward of the state, and no longer in DCFS custody.

The family gives glory to God, and thanks everyone who wrote letters and emails, made phone calls, prayed, and got involved on their behalf. Without public support and prayer, Lakisha has no idea if things would have turned out the way they did.

Medical Terrorism: KC Teen Isaiah Rider Will Remain in Illinois Custody After He Turns 18



Source: [Fox 4](#) Screenshot

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

On August 27, Missouri teenager Isaiah Rider will reach that magical age when he is supposed to be free to make his own decisions and be in control of his own life. But a recent phone call from a social worker threatens to devastate those dreams. The Missouri social worker told his foster mother to let Isaiah and his mother Michelle Rider know that the Illinois caseworker said that Illinois DCFS was “most likely” not going to release him on his 18th birthday.

Isaiah is not happy. He doesn't understand how they can do this to him.

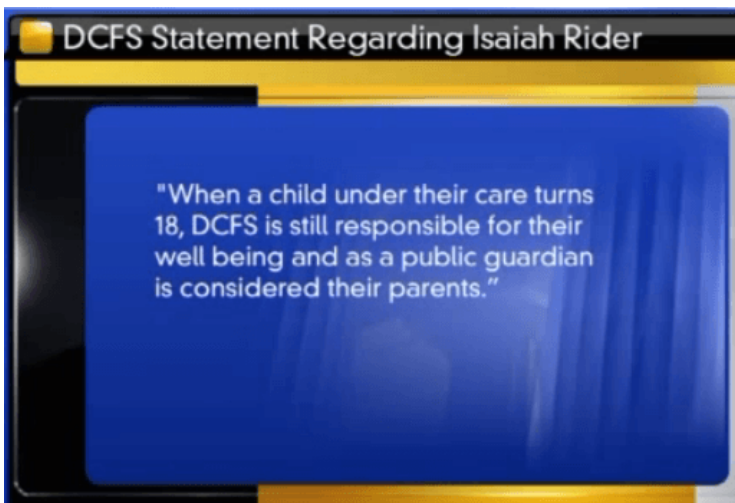
"I don't think there IS a reason. I'm not incompetent. I just don't have a car!"

There is no question about Isaiah's mental competency, nor has there ever been. He ended up in the custody of a state he only visited once, because Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago called DCFS to seize custody of him, accusing his mother of somehow causing his medical problems. He and his mother have been fighting for his freedom ever since that horrible day 16 months ago.

They have been hoping that his 18th birthday would be the day that he would be set free. Now, it looks like those hopes may be dashed.

Michelle Rider reports that the reason that they were given for DCFS extending their case is the fact that the family has a pending appeal of the case, filed in April. The state supposedly has 3 weeks to reply to a brief filed in early July, but the state of Illinois has filed for yet another extension. This makes more than 25 extensions that Illinois has filed for over the course of this case. This makes no sense to Michelle, and sounds like more excuses to her.

A spokesperson for DCFS told [Fox 4 News](#) in Kansas City that they are considered a foster child's "parents" even after they turn 18. Isaiah already has a mom that he loves very much, and he has made it clear that he doesn't want or need "parenting" by a state that he only visited once for surgery.



There is one more court date on August 20, a week before Isaiah's 18th birthday. Michelle reports that a social worker told her that, if she wanted to have more than the current 4 hours of visitation that she is permitted with her son, she would need to file for more visitation time at the August 20 hearing, making it clear that Isaiah will not be free to spend time with his mother at will, even after he turns 18. His mother was never charged with any crime.

Isaiah – This Isn't Cuba!

In a recent conversation with Medical Kidnap, Isaiah expressed his frustration at what he sees as tyranny by Illinois DCFS.

They can't control me. THIS IS AMERICA! I'm not in Cuba!

Motivation – Money?

The Riders believe the ultimate motivation is money – when a child becomes a ward of the state, federal money flows to the state. Children with rare medical conditions, such as Isaiah’s neurofibromatosis, may be worth huge sums of money to pharmaceutical companies and research doctors, because wards of the state may legally be entered into drug trials and medical research without their parents’ knowledge or consent.

Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials

The Medical Kidnapping Business: Bilking Medicaid

DCFS Tries to Bribe Isaiah to Voluntarily Remain a Prisoner for “Free Money”

Michelle reports an incident that seems pretty bizarre to her. Last month, Illinois DCF flew a representative to meet with Isaiah in Missouri. Isaiah says that he immediately felt a bond with the young man, because he spent 20 years inside the DCFS system as a foster child. Apparently, that bond was a calculated move by DCFS. The representative allegedly told Isaiah that he could get “free money” if he would voluntarily stay in the system and “continue services,” to the tune of about \$500 per month.

Medically Kidnapped teen Elissa Maple reported similar offers made to her before she turned 18.

Vermont Teen Forcibly Drugged and Incarcerated By DCF Wants to Come Home for 18th Birthday

Like Elissa, the lure of taxpayer money at the expense of his freedom does not appeal to Isaiah. He believes that the cost is too high. When Isaiah refused the offer to voluntarily commit himself to the DCFS system, the representative reportedly said that he was disappointed. He said that he was a personal friend of the director of DCFS, and the director would be “disappointed” that Isaiah didn’t want to “take advantage of the free money.”

DCFS Director Said He Listens to the Kids

According to the [Chicago Tribune](#), the new DCFS acting director George Sheldon, formerly of Florida, says that his strength in heading the department is “listening.” Christina Spudeas, executive director of Florida’s Children First, says this about director Sheldon:

“He listens to the kids. He knows the value of their voices.”

Isaiah Wants DCFS to Listen to Him Now

Isaiah is speaking now, to director Sheldon, and anyone else who will listen. He doesn’t want their “free money.” The cost of his freedom is not worth it. Listen to his voice:

What I want to do, what I want when I turn 18, is to live my life. Go to school. Get good grades. Being 18 is about speaking your voice and being free. That is when it is time.

My mom has done nothing wrong. There are so many other people out there who need help. Why are they picking on us?



Isaiah and his mom are still very close, despite DCFS. Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#)

Isaiah has long expressed a desire to change the world. All the injustice that happens to him only solidifies his desire to make a difference. He says that what has happened to him has changed him, and he doesn't think like a typical 17 year old. He says that he wants to go into the medical field and make a difference.

It's funny how the people who have been hurt the most are the ones who want to help people. I HAVE to make a difference.

I want to let people know that I'm not afraid. I'm going to speak up. I'm not a kid. I'm a young adult. They can't tell me what to do.

Isaiah has released new videos, to speak out about the injustice that is happening to his family.

<https://youtu.be/2hwIOlpww2E>

<https://youtu.be/B-aHR8thIVI>

Breaking: The Newest Video

<https://youtu.be/FbjYIh09wIQ>

Isaiah Writes From His Heart

After spending time talking with a friend in a similar situation, a young lady suffering from a painful medical condition who was also in foster care, Isaiah wrote this heartfelt letter:

Why do young people have to go through so much pain? Children are supposed to be safe, have a good lives, and have everything they deserve, but for some reason there's some kids who just go through unimaginable pain. It's just horrible how some hospitals don't know how to help the kids in pain. It's so hard to be young and wake up every morning in pain. That's what these doctors have to understand. They wake up and get in their nice cars and just be doctor for a day.

I'm not saying all doctors are evil or bad, but there are doctors who will do anything, and I mean anything, to protect their job, even if that means letting other parents' kids suffer, screaming, crying and even shaking in pain. Doctors need to be in the parents' eyes and watch these children scream in pain, so they can feel what every loving

parents feels when their child is suffering. Waking up every day in pain is miserable. It's just like, "what did I do to deserve this?" "I'm just a kid."

Someday I will make a change for all the children. Nobody deserves to grow up going through pain and getting literally thousands of mess pumped into them. Then, when the medicine doesn't work or even relieve pain, they blame the family because they want to protect themselves and don't have have mistakes recorded. Everyone is human – we all make mistakes. But that doesn't mean you have to hide your mistakes and let families suffer.

There's needs to be a change in this world.

Isaiah Says His Guardian Ad Litem Does Not Represent His Best Interests

Isaiah has reported several times that he has attempted to fire his Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), but she just won't leave. She allegedly told Isaiah in a recent phone call that she was going to oppose Isaiah's mother in the appeal. Isaiah told her, "No." Boone reportedly began yelling at Isaiah's grandparents over the phone, saying that she represents Isaiah. Isaiah's grandmother told her:

"You don't represent anyone in my family!"

This case has been going on for 16 months. Michelle wants to know:

“Is this EVER going to end? I just don’t know!”

Numerous Violations of the Foster Children’s Bill of Rights

On Wednesday, State Senator [Steve Stadelman’s bill](#) – the [Foster Children’s Bill of Rights](#) – was signed into law, which outlines rights of those held within the DCFS system. However, the Riders would argue that many of the rights, while good, have been repeatedly violated in Isaiah’s case.

- To be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment – It was while Isaiah was in a Chicago foster home that he was raped, and had guns and knives drawn on him. He has stated repeatedly that, though his mother has never abused him, he has suffered a great deal of emotional abuse and trauma at the hands of DCFS and Lurie Children’s Hospital. It was very traumatic for him to be forbidden to see his mom while he was in a great deal of pain and sickness in a hospital 10 hours drive away from home.

Missouri Teen Medically Kidnapped Was Raped and Sodomized While in Illinois Foster Care

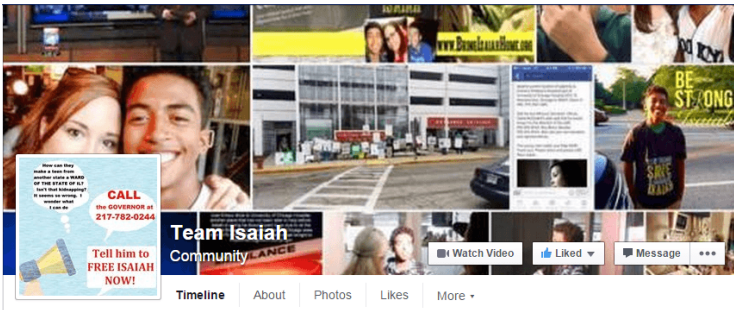
- To receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services – DCFS has allegedly repeatedly denied permission for medical treatment for Isaiah. Part of the reason for DCFS involvement in the first place was the Riders’ frustration that Lurie Children’s Hospital wasn’t actually helping Isaiah with his pain. After they told Michelle that there was nothing else they could do, Michelle sought a second opinion, trying to

find real medical help for him. DCFS has repeatedly stood in the Riders' way when they have sought medical services that would help him.

- To attend court hearings and speak with the judge – Isaiah was repeatedly prevented by DCFS from attending court hearings and speaking with the judge, despite his numerous requests to do so.

Isaiah Needs YOUR Help

Isaiah is not free to live his life as he wants, and if the Illinois DCFS has their way, he will still not be free when he turns 18. In his own state of Missouri, he was legally an adult at age 17, but Illinois retained custody of him. He needs your help. The Facebook page [Team Isaiah](#) is a place to get involved with supporters to fight for Isaiah's freedom.



Supporters are asking for everyone to share his story, with the media, with politicians, and even with Presidential candidates.

According to Michelle Rider, “the elected officials in Illinois have refused to do anything.” Michelle says that she recently posted on Presidential candidate [Donald Trump's Facebook page](#), linking to an article about Isaiah:

“Straight from Obama’s State, He was made aware and did nothing. Will you please help stop this nightmare, that is taking place right here in the United States of America?”

Isaiah **Can't**

choose where or who he lives with
choose his educational future
choose his medical care
choose to exercise

**HIS rights granted to
all 18 year olds**

choose to be FREE

he **CAN'T STOP** this alone

Tweet support today!

#saveisaiah #bringisaiahhome

From the [Team Isaiah](#) Facebook page

BREAKING - Illinois Social Worker Threatens to Arrest Teen Isaiah Rider When He Turns 18



Isaiah Rider – “Please stop controlling me!” Screenshot from [YouTube video](#)

UPDATE 12/5/2015

From the [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#):

Well friends we have some good news to share as well as some rather disturbing news to report. The Good news is that the state of Missouri notified the Rider family this week that

they have closed their case or involvement in this situation. I guess they figured since the interstate compact under which they were operating EXPIRED on Isaiah's 18th (8/27/15) birthday and at this point they are on the verge of harassment that it is probably best to no longer entertain Illinois continued craziness.

We can't even really say Illinois at this point because EVERYONE in Illinois is in agreement that the case In Fact should be closed. Except for one individual, the one who is suppose to be neutral and uphold the law, consider Isaiahs "best interest" which is the trial court judge in the lower court Judge Nicholas Geanopolous. How he can justify almost two years of this continued torture to Isaiah and his family is beyond ALL understanding at this point.

Ironically, the Rider family was made aware, after the fact of course that he held "an off the record meeting" today at the cook county court house. A meeting in which none of the Rider family was made aware of or invited to attend. All parties were present except of course Isaiah, his mom, and her counsel. The people who's lives this whole meeting was about. They did manage to call mom's legal counsel at some point, but no one knows how long this "off the record" meeting was taking place prior to reaching her legal counsel.

During this meeting Judge Geanopoulos made multiple disturbing statements that we consider threats the most disturbing of all " THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS BRING ISAAH BACK TO CHICAGO, BUT I WILL IF I HAVE TO" This is the same city where Isaiah was assaulted and NO justice has been brought forth for the crimes committed against him. The same city Isaiah has announced publicly and to this judge and his counsel over and over he wants absolutely nothing to do with. The same city that is 9 hours away from his home and residing state of Missouri in a completely

different state that he has absolutely ZERO ties to other than the fact that he was kidnapped while in the hospital 4/15/2014. The same city he was only visiting and as the appellate court stated for "Needed Medical Care". Which resulted in him suddenly being ripped from his family and mother, and thrown into a terrible area of Chicago.

Isaiah is now an adult, he turned 18 years old as of 8/27/15. Isaiah has made very clear what his wishes are over and over and this judge continues to dismiss everything he has said. This judge failed to look out for Isaiah's safety when he was forced into state custody (wrong state BTW) after his mother requested a second opinion when he was in the hospital. His mother and her counsel repeatedly notified this judge that they were concerned for Isaiah's safety due to things he was reporting to family and this man did NOTHING.

Now, he is completely obsessed and clearly irrational and continues to Abuse his unlimited power he believes he has over this Missouri Family. We believe the public needs to be aware of what is taking place behind closed doors and during "off the record meetings" involving Isaiah and his wellbeing. The continued harassment and overreach of power and abuse that continues to take place against the Rider's and at this point is directly coming from Judge Geanopoulos in Cook County Chicago, Illinois.

This is the second court date he has held in the last couple weeks re a case that shouldn't even be open. This judge also stated today that he is not closing this case! Despite the fact that the higher court made very very clear there is NO NEED FOR Continued PLACEMENT. Missouri has completely closed their involvement, Isaiah is a legal adult recognized in both Missouri and Illinois. Isaiah has made it clear he does not want their help anymore, or "help".

Please continue to share their story and this situation to help stop this insanity and madness. Enough is truly enough!!

UPDATE 8/21/2015

From the [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#):

*****Update*****

The hearing in Cook County today [8/20] was nothing more than to schedule yet ANOTHER hearing for November (meanwhile Isaiah who lives in Missouri turns 18 next Thursday) this court now claims they have lost jurisdiction since this case is now in appeals. We have a few questions for the Chicago Juvenile Mafia. Why are they still having hearings and wasting tax payer dollars if they claim to have “lost” jurisdiction? Most importantly... Why are they still holding on to Isaiah and trying to control his life??? Perhaps the Governor or SOMEONE could explain this to everyone ??!! Inquiring minds would sure like to know!!! – Team Isaiah

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

In a stunning new development on the Isaiah Rider case, a social worker from Illinois told Isaiah Wednesday that if he were to decide to move out on his own when he turns 18 next week, he would be arrested.

Missouri resident Isaiah Rider is not a criminal, nor is he in any way incompetent. Far from it. He is a good student with ambitions of becoming a doctor in the future.

But another state is controlling his life, and a caseworker from the state of Illinois DCFS (Child Protective Services) is making it clear that there will be serious repercussions for Isaiah when he becomes a legal adult if he tries to escape the control of DCFS.

The Rider family is reeling from this new revelation.

Like most normal teenagers, both in their familial homes and in foster care, Isaiah has eagerly been anticipating that magical day of freedom – his 18th birthday. That will happen on August 27. But after a visit today from a Missouri social worker, those hopes have been dashed.

Allegedly, Illinois DCFS is paying for a Missouri social worker to drop by the home on occasion where Isaiah is living in Missouri. He currently resides with his grandparents, who are acting as foster parents, because DCFS seized Isaiah from his mother's custody 16 months ago while he was having a surgical procedure done at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago.



Though he has a painful neurological condition, neurofibromitosis, Luries and DCFS accused Michelle Rider of Munchausen by Proxy, in what many Rider supporters believe was an attempt to get her out of the way so that they could enter him into a medical research study. Children who are wards of the state may legally be entered into drug trials and medical research studies without their parents' knowledge or consent. See: [Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials](#)

Some supporters have theorized that Isaiah is the control subject, which is why he has frequently been denied pain medications on the occasions when he has a pain crisis. The theory is that, if they lose Isaiah in the study, a great deal of money stands to be lost by the pharmaceutical company conducting the drug research trial with Isaiah.

Others suspect that this has more to do with attempting to prevent a lawsuit, for alleged malpractice in Isaiah's care at

Lurie Children's Hospital. If he remains a ward of the state, he may not be able to file a lawsuit.

Regardless of the motivation, it is clear that DCFS of Illinois is going to great lengths to keep Isaiah in their custody.

During Wednesday's visit by Missouri social worker Gaylene, Isaiah asked what would happen if he decided to move out on his own when he turns 18. Gaylene allegedly phoned the Illinois caseworker on Isaiah's case, Joe Madden. That is when things got ugly, according to Isaiah:

He said if I were to move out on my own, when I'm 18 ... that there will be a juvenile arrest warrant out for me, and child protective services would be looking for me, AND if I were to be picked up, which is if I were to be found, that I would be sent to Illinois.

That's CRAZY!

You know what that is? He was threatening me. That's what was going on. That's how I took it. It sounded like a big threat.

Isaiah continues to speak in a video released late Wednesday evening, begging for his freedom. He is begging for Illinois DCFS to stop controlling him.

<https://youtu.be/IAvtYwDexBo>

A court hearing is scheduled for today, August 20, but oddly enough, another one, a "status hearing" is scheduled for November. Isaiah turns 18 on August 27, which lends

credence to the assertion made last week by Illinois DCFS caseworker Joe Madden that Illinois intends to keep Isaiah in their custody after he turns 18. Isaiah and his family are asking, “Why?”

He has done nothing wrong, and Isaiah continues to assert that his mother, who was never charged with a crime, is innocent of any wrongdoing. Nonetheless, he believes he should be free upon his 18th birthday.

FACTS

- Isaiah isn't a criminal
- Isaiah is a perfectly capable young adult
- Isaiah is capable of taking care of himself
- Isaiah is considered an adult at 18 year olds
- Isaiah can support himself while pursuing his education
- Isaiah has his OWN plans for his OWN life
- Isaiah lives in Missouri
- Isaiah pays taxes in Missouri
- Isaiah's family lives in Missouri
- His mother was cleared by DFS of Missouri
- His mother was cleared of Munchausen by Proxy by an international expert, in a court of law

Isaiah

#saveisaiah #bringisaiahhome

Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#)

One claim made by DCFS is that they want to keep him in their grasp so that they can continue to “provide” him with

medical “services.” Yet, requests for needed medical care has often been denied. A recent appointment with the Mayo Clinic had to be cancelled because Illinois DCFS refused to pay for it.

Though they profess to have Isaiah in “protective” custody, he and his family are angry that they placed Isaiah in harm’s way and failed to protect him when they placed him in a foster home in a Chicago ghetto, where he was raped, and had guns and knives pulled on him. These things had never happened while he was under the loving protection of his mother. As of this date, nothing has been done about the crimes committed against Isaiah when DCFS not only failed to protect him, but were the very ones who forced him into the harmful situation.

Isaiah is not free. Though some readers have taken comfort that he is currently residing with his grandparents in Missouri, Illinois DCFS is the one who is pulling all the strings, and has all the control.

- He cannot travel anywhere without his grandparents.
- He is still forbidden to see his own mother for more than 4 short hours per week.
- He is not free to obtain medical care when he needs it, because everything must be pre-approved by an agency over 500 miles away. He isn’t allowed to choose his own care.
- There is no freedom even in the home, because social workers from Illinois have been known to pop in unannounced, while taxpayers pick up the tab for their flights.
- They live in fear every minute of every day that DCFS will come in and take him back to Illinois, to the place

where so much trauma occurred.

- And now, he is forbidden to move out on his own or travel out of state, because he could be arrested, although he has never committed any crime.

Supporters are asking that people melt the phone lines of Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner: 312-814-2121 and call for Isaiah Rider's immediate release from DCFS custody. He may also be contacted [here](#), and he is on [Facebook](#).

Also, here is the number for the Illinois DCFS - 217-524-2029.

Previous articles about Isaiah Rider:

[Chicago Children's Hospital Takes Custody of 16-Year-Old Away from Parent Who Sought Second Opinion](#)

[Fight Rages for Teenager Isaiah Rider's Freedom - His Mother Commits "Cardinal Sin" Of Questioning Doctors](#)

[Isaiah Rider Is Suffering Horrible Pain But Not Getting Help \[Video\]](#)

[Medical Kidnap: 17 Year Old Isaiah Rider Taken Captive Against His Will](#)

[Isaiah Rider Being Forced to Leave Home Town and Return to Chicago Against His Will](#)

[Missouri Teen Medically Kidnapped Was Raped and Sodomized While in Illinois Foster Care](#)

[Isaiah Rider Speaks out on Robert Scott Bell Show – Wants to go to Mayo Clinic for Pain but Held Hostage](#)

[Medical Terrorism: KC Teen Isaiah Rider Will Remain in Illinois Custody After He Turns 18](#)

Homebirthed Newborn Medically Kidnapped at Illinois Children's Hospital



Asaliah feeling mom's heartbeat after her water birth and home delivery. Image supplied by family.

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

The date was May 23, 2012. It was a beautiful midwife-assisted homebirth: a planned water birth and lotus birth. Mother Dontia, father Armondo, big brother Deon, and new baby sister Asaliah, were all happy and doing great after the birth. However, concerns regarding redness around the umbilical cord at Asaliah's navel caused mom to seek medical treatment on June 8, 2012, at the OSF St. Francis Children's Hospital in Peoria, Illinois.

Little did Dontia know that this seemingly unassuming trip to the E.R., seeking help for her baby's infection, would reportedly end up completely destroying her life by removing both her 11 year-old son and her newborn baby from her custody, violating what she claims is her constitutional right to religious freedom, and later, while still in the midst of fighting CPS for her medically kidnapped children, sending her into a life of hiding and secrecy to protect the life of her third unborn child.

Deon is now 14, Asaliah is now 3, and her third child (unnamed to conceal her identity and protect her from being seized), is now 2. Dontia has not seen or spoken to Deon in three years, nor has she had visitations with Asaliah since she fled Illinois, unable to bear the loss of another child.

Dontia and her third child remain in hiding today. This is her story.

This is injustice at its height and it has to stop!!! I see what's been done to me as an assault on my life and my children's. This type of trauma could literally kill a woman, to snatch away a newborn baby for her to never see again. No mother or father deserves this type of abuse for simply going to the

*hospital for medical treatment and having a voice about what type of treatment is rendered to our own children! –
Dontia*

Choosing to Home-birth According to Religious Beliefs

Dontia chose to have a midwife-assisted home-birth, water-birth and [lotus birth](#), in keeping with her religious and spiritual beliefs of having a safe, non-medically intrusive birth to welcome her daughter.

In a lotus birth (or whole birth), the umbilical cord is not clamped and cut, but rather, the placenta is left intact until it naturally falls off at the navel, leaving a perfectly formed belly button without the need for medical procedure of any kind. Many families believe there are great benefits to this non-invasive birthing practice, including complete cord blood transfer, stem cell transfer, and reducing the risk of infection by *not* creating a wound where the umbilical cord is typically cut.

Dontia became concerned when Asaliah's navel area became red and infected-looking, and was not responding to the herbal remedies suggested by the midwife. Dontia, a Moorish American Moslem, prayed over her child and asked for wisdom.

When the dried umbilical cord fell off on June 6th 2012 and a small amount of puss oozed out, Dontia again prayed. Since they had just moved to Peoria, Illinois from St. Louis, MO, shortly after Asaliah's birth, they did not know of any holistic doctors in the area. On June 8th, 2012 she decided to take Asaliah to the Emergency Room at OSF St. Francis

Children's Hospital, to have the baby examined by a doctor at a conventional hospital.

When questioned by nurses and doctors I explained to them that for about the past 5 days that the area around her navel had been red, and I consulted with my midwife and did some research on natural remedies that could heal the infection.

I explained to the staff that it is my religious, spiritual and cultural beliefs to use natural herbal forms of medication that prior to that day appeared to be working.

I constantly prayed over my baby and applied herbal medications to her belly daily while I myself took Echinacea, an herbal immune system enhancer. The redness was going down, my baby was up and alert, eating and being herself.

So the day I saw the pus I was shocked, and after praying it was revealed to me to go to the doctor for immediate care, being that I am not from Peoria I knew of no homeopathic or natural holistic doctors in the area so due to the urgency that I felt in the matter I settled on taking her into the emergency room of a traditional hospital.

Instead of helping this concerned mother, and respecting her religious beliefs, the hospital staff became increasingly more controlling as Dontia questioned them regarding the medical treatments being given to her newborn daughter.

Mother Wanted Right to Refuse some Medical Procedures such as Vaccines

The hospital staff continually pressured Dontia regarding

vaccinations for her newborn, but Dontia refused each time, emphasizing that her birthing decisions and practices were based on her spiritual and cultural beliefs.

Dontia wanted to seek the safest, most natural treatment for her child, something she would soon learn would bring down the wrath of the medical system upon her, accusing her and Armondo of being “part of a religious group that does not believe in medical care,” and using this as a grounds to medically kidnap her children. Of course the mere fact that they brought the baby to the hospital proved that they were not opposed to all medical care.

Initially, she was told that Asaliah would only need 3 days of antibiotics and then could go home, but when the prognosis changed on the 4th day, and they wanted to keep Asaliah longer, Dontia became concerned for the health and safety of her newborn daughter.

On June 11, 2012, Dontia was told that she couldn't take her daughter home yet, and that she would need to remain on IV medications now for 10 days.

On June 12, 2012, Dontia says that she “got into altercation with a nurse and doctors about what kind of treatment to give my newborn baby.”

In the hospital I thoroughly questioned the physicians as to what they were giving my daughter and why. Initially they told me that she would only be in there for 3 days and then I should be able to take her home and give her the medicine orally.

On the 3rd day when her results came back they said that they would need to put her on a very strong antibiotic named

Clindamycin for 10 days and that she could not take it orally.

I told the doctors that I needed to think about it and if they can give me some info on the antibiotic – turns out that it would break down her natural immune system. So I showed my contempt at them experimenting and practicing on my baby and said I would like to leave as soon as possible.

When I said I wanted to take her for a second opinion, one of the resident doctors told me I couldn't leave. I told them that this is my child and if I decide to leave it is my right to do so.

The next day they told me they just got some more test results in and that they didn't need to use such a strong antibiotic because her infection was not as bad as they assumed. If I had not questioned them, they would have given her the very strong antibiotic that wasn't necessary!

On this same day, June 12, 2012, a Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigator, Raelyn Galassi, questioned Donita's 11 year old son Deon about the birth of his sister, Asaliah, without the knowledge or consent of his mother. DCFS waited to question Deon, a minor, while his mother was in a sonogram with Asaliah, which Donita believes is a violation of the 5th Amendment.

Family Kicked out of Hospital and Prevented from Seeing their Newborn Baby During the Rest of Her 2-Week Stay



Asaliah at 2 days old. Image supplied by family.

On June 14, 2012, Dontia was approached in Asaliah's room by Lisa Roscamp, a social worker for OSF Children's Hospital and Raelyn Galassi, the DCFS investigator. Raelyn Galassi began to interrogate Dontia, and Dontia asked Galassi why she was there and why she was being questioned.

According to Dontia, Galassi stated that a nurse reported her to DCFS. When Dontia stated that she needed to seek legal counsel before answering her questions; Galassi then stated that if Dontia did not answer her questions that she would take Asaliah into protective custody immediately.

Again, Dontia insisted on seeking legal counsel, and Galassi then stormed out of the room, threatening that she was “going to go call her supervisor” as she exited the room. Galassi later returned with two security guards and two police officers and stated that she was taking Asaliah into protective custody and that Dontia would have a court date within two days.

Galassi asked Dontia for a phone number so that she could call Dontia and inform her of the date and time of the court hearing. Dontia gave Galassi her phone number, and then Galassi had the police officers escort Dontia, Armando, and her son Deon out of the hospital.

After being in the hospital for six days straight, I decided that my baby needed some fresh air and sunlight for her vitamin D so I asked one of the nurses to take the security device off of her ankle so that I could take her outside; about 20 min. later the hospital social worker and a DCFS social worker entered my room and began aggressively questioning me.

I felt very threatened and uncomfortable at the tone and the questioning of the social worker so I began to ask her why was she there and why was I being questioned. She just told me that the hospital reported me and that if I didn't answer her questions that my child would be taken into protective custody.

I asked her what were my rights in the matter and she

handed me a piece of paper describing the rights DCFS had over me. I told her to give me a minute to seek council before I would speak to her and she stormed out the room saying that she was going to call her supervisor.

She later came back with two police officers and two security officers and said that they would escort me and my family out and that the state was taking protective custody over my then 3 week daughter.

Dontia relates the heartache of that day,

They literally grabbed her off my breast as she was nursing. There is total disregard for the biological parent. They should be charged with assault. This is an assault on your life. A mother wants to die when her newborn baby is taken away, snatched out of her arms.

Weekend CPS Seizures Leaves Family with No Time to Prepare for Hearing on Monday

On June 15, 2012, Galassi called and spoke to Armando. She stated to him that the court date would be on Monday, June 18, 2012 and asked him if he could take a drug test the following day. Dontia Edwards El says she never even spoke to Raelyn prior to the court date.

Since this took place over a weekend Dontia had no time to seek any counsel and no means of providing a defense for herself at the hearing. Dontia was unaware that the hearing would determine whether or not her children would be taken into foster care.

According to Dontia, at the Shelter Care hearing, Judge Chris L. Frederickson ruled that Dontia's children were in imminent danger and ordered that the state take temporary custody of them. Dontia was instructed that she had to turn her son Deon over to DCFS as well, which she did the following day on June 19, 2012.



Deon holding his baby sister for the first time. Image supplied by family.

Since this day DCFS has had custody and possession of both of Dontia's children, Asaliah and Deon.

Dontia Allegedly a Danger to Her Children, Yet Foster Family Allegedly Evicted for Not Paying Rent or Utilities

Dontia recalls that when the children were first taken into

State custody, they were placed with Armando's sister, a family she barely knew and that did not share her and Armando's religious or cultural beliefs. Dontia was granted visitations of one day a week for 4 hours each time, which did not adequately allow her to care for a newborn breastfeeding baby.

Dontia explained that on July 31, 2012, after her second visit with her children, she informed the caseworker, Audry Turner, that the foster family would be getting evicted soon due to failure to pay rent for two months, and that the electricity would be getting cut off soon due to failure to pay her electric bill.

On August 3, 2012, the foster parent received a 5 day eviction notice, and on August 6, 2012, Dontia again notified the caseworker that lights would be getting cut off in the next few days and gave a reference for another relative who could better care for the children.

On August 9, 2012, the foster parents' electricity was cut off at 7 am. The foster parent informed Audry that the electricity got cut off and left a message with Faye Law, Audry's supervisor. The children allegedly spent a whole day and night with no electricity in foster care.

According to Dontia, the foster parents even called and spoke to Faye Law to complain and get an explanation why the children were not picked up the day before. According to Dontia, Faye responded that, "they could not predict the outcome of what was going to happen," and "that they couldn't get the children because she [the foster parent] hadn't written a letter explaining why she couldn't care for them [the children]."

And yet, Dontia was the one who would allegedly be found “unfit” to care for her children. As Dontia declares,

There is clearly a different standard for foster families than for birth families. If I had not paid my rent or had my electricity cut off, they would have used that against me as a reason to take my children, yet they allowed the children to remain in this home, even when they were warned that this was about to happen!

State Violates Mother’s Religious Beliefs Regarding Vaccines for Her Children

Dontia voiced many times in the hospital that vaccinations were against her religious beliefs, and yet Asaliah was vaccinated without her permission, and Deon was scheduled for vaccinations. Dontia alleged that the state used a fraudulent consent form dated a month before Asaliah’s birth in order to obtain these vaccinations for Asaliah.

On July 12, 2012 Asaliah was immunized by OSF Children’s Hospital without the knowledge or consent of her parents though OSF medical records clearly show that Dontia Edwards refused vaccinations several times during her stay at the hospital. A court order for Asaliah Edwards’ medical records was not filed until September 6, 2012. Pl. Ex.3

On June 26, 2012 Healthworks of Illinois Peoria / Marshall County Lead Agency TASC, Inc. “requested all previous medical records from birth to present on: Asaliah Edwards.” A fraudulent consent for the “Release of Information” and “Consent for Ordinary and Routine Medical and Dental Care” forms were signed by D. Jean Ortega-Piron, as custodian or

authorized agent were dated April 14 and April 15, 2012 more than a month before the child, Asaliah Edwards El was born. Pl. Ex.1-2.

On July 23, 2012, Deon was taken to the doctor for vaccinations, but wasn't given them because I submitted Vaccination Exemption form.

Dontia Judged Unfit and Children put Into Foster Care

On June 19, 2012, the day after the Shelter Care Hearing, Dontia was ordered to turn over her 11 year-old son, Deon, to foster care.



Deon and Asaliah after being taken into CPS custody. Image supplied by family.

Dontia alleges that prejudice about her religious beliefs were used by DCFS to remove custody of her children.

In the records, you will see conversations where Levon and Galassi are discussing Dontia's religion based on assumptions and bias. Pl. Ex.4, p. 72-73. Not for the health and safety of these children.

July 3, 2012 Galassi sent a message to Kathleen L. Wilson at OSF Children's Hospital stating that Dontia Edwards and partner Armondo Aguirre "are a part of a religious group that does not believe in medical care... it is actually a cult and called the Hebrew Israelites." Galassi's final statement was that, "It appears that Deon may have been brainwashed by this 'religion.' He is in need of counseling right away." Pl. Ex.6, p. 116.

Dontia says that she was found "unfit" based on these religious prejudices against her.

DCFS "Services" Biased, Compelling Dontia to Flee & Hide to Prevent CPS from Snatching Unborn Child

Dontia shares how she was forced to attend biased therapy for 'Spiritual Problems' with a DCFS Lutheran therapist.

On July 12, 2012, I was assigned a caseworker with Lutheran Social Services, Audrey Turner.

On July 16, 2012, I was interviewed in a DCFS Integrated Assessment by Julia Gray and Audrey Turner. I then informed

both workers of my nationality as a Moorish-American and of my religion of Islamism, and clearly identified myself as not being black, African American, or colored. I also voiced that my constitutional and religious rights were being violated by my children being taken from me for following my religious customs.

They also tried to allude to me being “crazy” for practicing my religious beliefs by making me go thru counseling and therapy, to acknowledge that my religious beliefs are wrong and a threat to the well-being of my children.

I also have evidence of conversations from Levon, the DCFS investigator, Raelyn Galassi and hospital employees discriminating against my religion and saying that my son has been “brainwashed” by his religion, alluding that he needed to be removed from my care and custody because my religious beliefs are brainwashing my children!

I absolutely refused to agree with that in therapy and refused to answer questions as they wanted me to do in psychoanalysis, which is to answer stereotypical questions in ONLY “yes” or “no” form, which could be read any number of ways by a psychologist to further incriminate me, so I answered my questions clearly with explanations and skipped questions that were biased and stereotypical.



Dontia embracing baby (Asaliah) at 6 months pregnant. Image supplied by family.

Unable to bear the heartache of losing another child, Dontia fled town when she found out she would be having another child.

On May 2013 I left town and was last time I saw Asaliah and when I stopped participating with DCFS's program. This is also when a warrant was placed on me and newborn daughter.

In the midst of Asaliah's case I became pregnant again and Social Worker, Audrey Turner, informed me that as soon as I gave birth DCFS would take my baby.

I could not allow this to happen a second time so I fled town.

DCFS put a warrant on me and my baby and have since been trying to obtain custody and possession of her. My newest daughter is currently safe with people I trust. They never found me or my youngest daughter, she is now 2 years old.

I have had no more dealings with DCFS since I had my new baby. I have no trust in the CPS system or the judicial system after such a horrendous violations of my families' liberties and rights, as well as how they have and continue to violate others in the same manner.

I feel my only recourse is to get the public and media involved, so these corporate culprits cannot continue to violate me and my children in the privacy of court rooms.

And now based on these things they are attempting to terminate my parental rights, when one allegation is void and the other is medical kidnapping.

Alienated from her Children, Dontia Files Lawsuit

On June 8, 2014, Dontia filed a Filed Lawsuit in District Court

for the Central District of Illinois, Peoria Division, against all parties involved in the kidnapping of her children: Case No.14-cv-01325-JES-JEH, Chief Judge James E. Shadid and Magistrate Judge, Jonathan E. Hawley.

Dontia does not have an attorney and is representing herself. The lawsuit is still pending.

I sued State of IL, DCFS, OSF Children's Hospital, Levon, judges, everyone involved for RICO, constitutional violations, kidnapping, fraud, slander libel, religious discrimination etc. Total of 24 counts.

Note: **RICO**, or the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, is a U.S. law enacted in 1970, which allows victims of organized crime to sue those responsible for punitive damages.

DCFS Threatens to Terminate Parental Rights but Dontia Continues to Fight and Hide

Dontia contacted MedicalKidnap.com because she wanted to share her story, and like so many families in her situation, needs concerned citizens to listen and share her story, in hopes that someone will listen and stop this egregious violation of constitutional rights and the utter destruction of innocent families!

At this time the state of Illinois and DCFS are attempting to petition the court to Terminate my Parental Rights. I really need help and to get this story out to protect myself and others who may be going through a similar trauma.



Deon and his mom before he was kidnapped. Image supplied by family.

Dontia says she was so happy to find the MedicalKidnap website, and hopes that her story will help expose the evil and corrupt system of DCFS, and Child Protective Services nationwide.

I have contacted news stations, talk shows, and media who might listen to me to try to help others understand what's going on and to make people aware. I never understood what CPS could do until it happened to me. I never knew they could come in and destroy innocent families. They can take your children – no court orders, no verification of facts! Who gives them this type of power? It's too much power! They are not there for the parent. You think they would be for the natural parent, but you soon realize that they are completely against you!

*I was happy to find MedicalKidnap. It was like a ray of light!
Like there is some hope! I want to do whatever I can to help
other families in this type of situation.*

Isaiah Rider is 18 Now, but Illinois Maintains Custody of Medically Kidnapped Missouri Teen



Isaiah and his mom Michelle Rider. Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

Illinois continues to “terrorize” Missouri resident Isaiah Rider and his family, even after he turned 18 last August. The family had hoped that they would leave them alone, but that has not happened. Their story has not been in the news lately, but their medical kidnapping story is anything but over.

Isaiah’s mother, Michelle Rider, thought that things would settle down after an appellate court said that Illinois DCFS

should not be involved after Isaiah's 18th birthday. They thought their nightmare with the Child Protective System was finally over.

See their story:

Fight Rages for Teenager Isaiah Rider's Freedom - His Mother Commits "Cardinal Sin" Of Questioning Doctors

However, they have learned that the Cook County Juvenile Court, with the same judge and same players, continues to hold hearings about Isaiah. Usually he and his mother are not informed or invited to these hearings, some of which are off the record, even though it is their lives that are being decided by this entity in the state they only visited for a needed surgery for Isaiah 2 years ago, for his neurofibromatosis, a painful condition in which tumors grow on his nerves.

Illinois courts and DCFS to date has not done anything to address Isaiah's sexual assault that happened under their care while he was in a foster home in a [violent Chicago neighborhood](#) for 6 months. The crime was reported to them more than a year ago. No investigation has reportedly been done, and no arrests made, even though Isaiah was able to describe his attacker with identifying details.

Missouri Teen Medically Kidnapped Was Raped and Sodomized While in Illinois Foster Care

Nor has Illinois DCFS reportedly dealt with any of Isaiah's very real medical issues. They continue to hinder his medical care, instead accusing his mother of Munchausen by proxy, and saying that Isaiah's medical problems are in his head.

Since Isaiah turned 18 the family thought the appellate court was getting Illinois DCFS out of their lives, but the Riders were unable to find any hospital or doctor locally that would help him. They were forced to go out of state for care.

Once they found out of state care, doctors found that his medical issues have a very real physical basis. Isaiah truly has a rare, complicated medical condition involving neurofibromatosis, numerous tumors up and down his spine, and polycystic kidney disease. He has had several incorrect diagnoses in the past, besides the DCFS involvement, which have hindered him from getting the help he truly needs.



Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

Doctors examined his leg that had been partially amputated several years prior, and they removed 7 nerves in the leg. Some of these were completely filled with tumors. One specialist later reportedly examined the records and said that

his was the largest tibial nerve he had ever seen. Because of all the tumors, it looked to him more like a bone, not a nerve.

Without knowing their story, another doctor reportedly quipped:

“We know that your pain is real, Isaiah, and that you’re not making this up. Your mother is not making this happen.”

Then, Michelle told him their story, that this is exactly what DCFS and Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago accused them of. It is apparent to the doctors attending him now that his pain and his condition is very real.

Isaiah still has tumors and he still has pain, but he is now receiving ongoing medical care from a highly regarded institution. However, as recently as 2 months ago, they have learned that the Cook County, Illinois, judge has threatened to bring him back to Illinois.

Their own state of Missouri has washed their hands of the case and are no longer involved. The interstate compact expired on Isaiah’s 18th birthday, and the family doesn’t understand how Illinois even has any jurisdiction.

Isaiah signed a document stating that, as an adult, he no longer wants to be in DCFS care. Even so, the family reports that Illinois DCFS has continued to send social workers to their homes in Missouri to check on them. Their harassment continues.

Michelle has learned that the state of Illinois continues to receive federal Title IV-E money for her son. Could this be

the reason why Illinois won't let go of their case?

Team Isaiah is the Facebook page set up for supporters to get involved and stay updated on their story. Recently, they posted this:

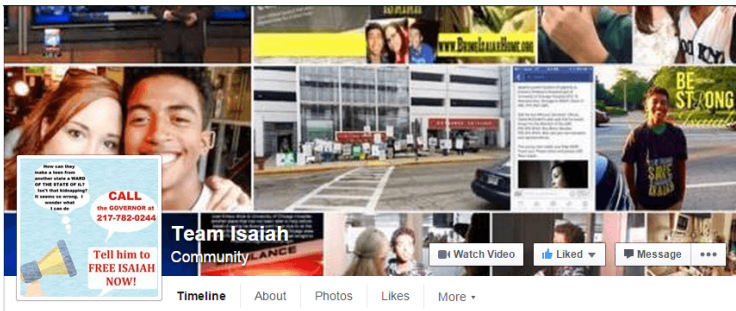
Team Isaiah wants to thank all of you for your continued support! We want everyone to know that this miscarriage of justice is NOT over. Many ask "How?" "Why?" "But Isaiah is 18, he's an Adult now?" "How can a juvenile court in a different state and the department and family CHILDREN services in a completely different state continue to harass this family and this ADULT man?" "How can they try to continue to intrude in their lives?"

Friends, we have those same questions. Isaiah and his mom and family have those same questions. We would like answers, we would like those in authority to answer these for us. It is so "Over the top", most people are not able to wrap their heads around this situation. It's truly almost unbelievable. We believe that is part of their strategy.

What seems like a nightmare or unreal to many continues to be a reality for this family. In addition to Isaiahs REAL, Ongoing health needs! This family has enough on their plate. All those involved in this made an already very complex and difficult situation and burdens this family had to deal with nearly impossible.

We want to continue to bring awareness and share their story far and wide. We want to share this injustice that continues to haunt this family almost two years now! This should not be happening in the year 2016, not here in this country or anywhere. Thank you to those who continue to advocate and support the Rider's! Please continue to share

this Fb page as well as Teamisaiah.com which contains many news articles and information! We appreciate you all! – With Gratitude, Team Isaiah



[Previous stories on the Rider family's ongoing struggle with Illinois DCFS.](#)

Isaiah Rider Chicago Court Hearing Monday - Supporters Pray They Will Let the 18 Year Old Go Free



Free Isaiah Rider! Facebook Event page.

UPDATE 3/21/2016

From the Team Isaiah Facebook page:

We regret to inform you that Isaiah was NOT granted his freedom today from the State of Illinois as we had all very much hoped for. Isaiah's wishes and constitutional rights continued to be ignored and violated. Today Isaiah remains as an adult, of sound mind and of the age of majority part of the JUVENILE System in Illinois Against His Will. Isaiah

remains a residing citizen of the State of Missouri without any ties to Illinois except that he went there in 2014 for a surgery and medical care. Judge Nicholas Geanopoulos of the Juvenile Court in Cook County in Chicago Illinois refused again today to close his case and terminate wardship from Illinois. Another court hearing has been scheduled in late May 2016.

by **Health Impact News/Medical Kidnap**

There will be a court hearing in Chicago regarding the case of an 18 year old Missouri resident. Even though he is now an adult, Cook County DCFS, their child protective system, still retains control of his life. Supporters are calling for Illinois to “[Free Isaiah Rider!](#)” They invite the press and supporters to attend the hearing, which takes place on Monday, March 21, 2016, at 1:30pm, at 1100 S Hamilton, Chicago, Illinois, at the Juvenile Court in the courtroom of Judge Nicholas Geanopoulos.

According to the [Free Isaiah Rider!](#) event page on Facebook:

They won't let the public in, but they can't keep the media out!!!

Supporters have been very frustrated with the fact that Isaiah Rider is now an adult, but the Illinois DCFS will not free him to live his life. Isaiah himself has pleaded, to no avail, for the system to let him go. He wants to be able to live his life without their interference.

Isaiah Rider is 18 Now, but Illinois Maintains Custody of Medically Kidnapped Missouri Teen



Michelle and Isaiah Rider. Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

Health Impact News spoke with the family recently and learned that Isaiah is currently experiencing nightmares about his time spent in a Chicago foster home. He was held at gunpoint and raped while in Illinois custody, yet to date, nothing has been done about the crimes committed against him under the guise of “protecting” him. Those events continue to haunt his dreams.

Missouri Teen Medically Kidnapped Was Raped and Sodomized While in Illinois Foster Care

According to an update post on the Team Isaiah Facebook page:

Twenty-three months and two days ago a nightmare started for Isaiah and his family that most people cannot even imagine or fathom. It shouldn't have even happened for a single day. Their journey started way before that even. Their nightmare started 4/15/2014 while they were in Chicago seeking medical help for Isaiah.

We are sharing this due to the upcoming court date that is to take place in Chicago this Monday 3/21/16 at 1:30pm at the Cook County Juvenile court.

Isaiah is an adult and a citizen of a completely different state, the state of Missouri. The State of Illinois has tortured this Missouri family for almost TWO years now and has caused significant harm and grief that was not warranted or needed. Justice needs to be brought forth for Isaiah and his family.

This has to end.

We now have an adult man whose constitutional rights have been and continue to be violated.



Isaiah – “Please stop controlling me.” Source – [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

The Riders will not be in attendance at the hearing; they were advised that it would not be “in their best interest to do so.”

They do not feel safe given the circumstances, as well as threats that have been made in the recent past to bring Isaiah back to Chicago against his will. As some may remember Isaiah was brought back to Chicago once already against his will while he was ill which caused him further trauma. This is the same city where he was horrifically assaulted while he was placed in foster care in a crime ridden area.... against his will. No justice has been brought to that situation or the perpetrator who harmed Isaiah. Isaiah and his mom will have counsel there representing them and welcome anyone who is able to attend.

Michelle Rider, Isaiah's mother, has been fighting for him since this ordeal began, and she has made it clear that she has no intention of backing down. She desperately wants DCFS out of their lives, once and for all. She writes:

Our journey didn't start two years ago, it started in 2003 when Isaiah broke his leg. We spent nine years trying to get it healed. Nine years of trusting his doctors. Nine years of surgery after surgery basically his whole childhood from age 6-15 at least a surgery a year to his leg trying to get it healed. He spent most of his childhood in casts to his leg. I remember for over a year I could not bathe him in a tub normally, no submersing in water. We had to do sponge baths. Walkers, baby tiny walkers with spongebob squarepants stickers plastered all over, wheelchairs, casts, full leg braces... those were all a norm in our home. Isaiah always had a cast on his leg. Many pictures from the holidays, get togethers, he always had a different color cast to his leg. He had every color they made I'm quite sure. We trusted the doctors who told us this was necessary and it would help him. It never did.



Isaiah as a little boy. Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

They told us in 2011 they couldn't do anymore and he would need to have his leg amputated. BUT they promised this would SOLVE all! This would be the answer! We trusted them again! No more surgeries, no more hospital stays, life would be normal... We trusted them!

It was the exact opposite. Isaiah immediately developed complications after part of his leg was taken, complications the doctors had never seen before. Complications they didn't know how to stop. The doctors didn't know what to do. This was NOT what we were told or expected.

On top of all that, they never ceased. Isaiah still has those complications today. My son has suffered horribly. As if all of this wasn't enough, in the process of trying to get him HELP by something that was caused by doctors whom we trusted and told us that it would HELP him, they take my son when I asked for different HELP.

They take my son away who was in the ICU suffering in horrible pain. In Chicago Illinois, a city and state we don't even reside in or have any ties there. They threw him into harms way into foster care in a crime ridden area where he was horrifically assaulted.

We were only there for a surgery to remove tumors! We were there so he could get medical care and HELP. They said they could help him.



Isaiah in the hospital. Source: [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

Three days before they took my son, my brother was taken from this earth. Within 3 days I lost two very important people in my life.

The ultimate betrayal, I was persecuted horribly, shamed, blamed, shunned by some, accused of wrong doing. Then grouped together with the child abusers, those who cause harm to their children... For trying to help my son and being a mother, suddenly I was being persecuted?

I have spent the last two years fighting for my son, fighting a system and people all of whom we trusted. I thought we had a justice system that would help... It has been one disappointment, one disaster and one nightmare after another.

Our journey didn't start two years ago; it started 13 years ago. Our nightmare started two years ago. It is unbelievable

that on top of the heavy burdens we already carried with Isaiah's health alone that any medical professionals, any court, any judge or any human being knowing full well the truth could do this to any child, now adult, any mother fighting for her son and advocating for his life and care, any family unit or any other human being who is innocent. They know full well the truth. They KNOW the hell we have already been through.

People ask me how I continue on and the only answer I have is by the grace of God. Knowing his promises and believing them. I don't understand this, my brain cannot process this. It was not meant to. God understands though and his purpose is greater than the harm that has been intended and inflicted upon us. He will use the pain and harm that was intended and turn it around for HIS glory, purpose and honor. That is how I get through this, that is how I continue on.

See more coverage of the Isaiah Rider story:

[Fight Rages for Teenager Isaiah Rider's Freedom - His Mother Commits "Cardinal Sin" Of Questioning Doctors](#)

[Is 16-Year-Old Boy Seized from Mother Being Used in Medical Research?](#)

[EX-CPS Investigator Uses Illinois Gov Facebook to Attack Mom of Medically Kidnapped Teen Isaiah Rider](#)

**Illinois Stops Teen from Going to Mayo Clinic –
“Legalized Terrorism” Claims Distraught Mom**

**BREAKING – Illinois Social Worker Threatens to
Arrest Teen Isaiah Rider When He Turns 18**

**Medically Kidnapped Isaiah Rider: “Don’t
Underestimate Me”**

**Medical Terrorism: KC Teen Isaiah Rider Will
Remain in Illinois Custody After He Turns 18**

Medically Kidnapped Teen Isaiah Rider Finally Free from Child Protective Services but Ruined Lives Remain



Isaiah and Michelle Rider – finally free! Source: Team Isaiah [Facebook](#) page.

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

Isaiah Rider is finally free. The Missouri teen was taken captive by Illinois DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services) more than 2 years ago when his mother challenged the doctors at Lurie Children's Hospital when her son was in pain and not being helped by the doctors there.

Isaiah and his mother Michelle Rider have been living in a nightmare ever since that horrible day on April 15, 2014, the day when DCFS kicked Michelle out of the hospital and seized custody of Isaiah.

Now, that chapter is over, and they are beginning the difficult task of putting their lives back together.

Team Isaiah, the group that has been fighting for Isaiah's freedom from DCFS, recently posted this on their [Facebook](#) page:

Dear Team Isaiah,

First we would like to apologize for the delay of sharing this important news. We are happy to report that after a very long and painful 766 days Isaiah is finally free from Illinois. The case in Illinois is closed.

While we are happy, we are also reminded that this never should have happened. Not even for a single day. This is great news. However it is bitter-sweet, we must not forget there has been a lot of suffering for this family, tremendous pain, torture, and lives significantly altered. Without real cause during the last two years for this family. This is all in addition to Isaiah's real and unfortunate complicated medical problems.

Many of us have been following this heartbreaking situation

very closely and the truth has clearly been brought to light. This has truly been a miscarriage of justice. The Rider's are still trying to pick up all the pieces. They are left dealing with the aftermath this horrific situation has caused this innocent family. While we all can celebrate this as a victory, we are reminded that true justice has not been served in this situation or for this family, the Riders. We would like to thank everyone for all your support and continued support. We invite everyone to stay posted to Team Isaiah for future updates. We will have future updates coming in the near future.

Thank you from Team Isaiah Admins, The Riders want to thank you also and please know we appreciate you all very much. Love, Team Isaiah



Health Impact News has been following the Riders' story since before the formation of the MedicalKidnap.com website. Advocates have been supporting the family and fighting for Isaiah's freedom throughout the past 2 years. We have chronicled his traumatic time in a foster home in a Chicago ghetto, the revelation of his being raped while in Chicago DCFS custody, his return to live in Missouri, but not at home, his forceful abduction to be sent back to the hospital in Chicago, and the gestapo-type declarations that

he would not be free on his 18th birthday, but would live under the threat of arrest if he were to try to flee DCFS custody.

Some of our coverage:

[Fight Rages for Teenager Isaiah Rider's Freedom - His Mother Commits "Cardinal Sin" Of Questioning Doctors](#)

[Missouri Teen Medically Kidnapped Was Raped and Sodomized While in Illinois Foster Care](#)

[Verdict - Missouri Resident Isaiah Rider To Remain Ward of the State of Illinois](#)

[Medically Kidnapped Isaiah Rider: "Don't Underestimate Me"](#)

[Illinois Stops Teen from Going to Mayo Clinic - "Legalized Terrorism" Claims Distraught Mom](#)

[Medical Terrorism: KC Teen Isaiah Rider Will Remain in Illinois Custody After He Turns 18](#)

[BREAKING - Illinois Social Worker Threatens to Arrest Teen Isaiah Rider When He Turns 18](#)

Never did anyone in the family think that this nightmare saga would continue as long as it has, but it did. Isaiah will turn 19 in August. In his home state, he was considered an adult at age 17, but he remained at the mercy of social workers and Judge Nicholas Geanopoulos in a state 9 hours drive away, until he is now just a couple months shy of being 19 years old.

During the course of their ordeal, Michelle Rider made the arduous journey from her home in Missouri to family court in Chicago at least 23 times, usually driving the 18 hours round-trip. Other times she paid the expense of plane tickets to attend court, and each trip necessitated that she pay for a hotel.

Numerous times after it became clear that Isaiah would not be free upon turning 18, Michelle asked me:

*Are they going to continue to torture us as long as they can?
When will it end?*

It's over. But at what cost? What is there, truly, to celebrate, when so much has been stolen from this family? Much crucial time in Isaiah's teenage life has been lost. Like other innocent families where Child Protective Services acts overzealously and violates the family, important milestones in the child's life are missed, only to be replaced by trauma.



Isaiah has suffered much at the hands of DCFS. Source: Team Isaiah [Facebook](#) page.

When an innocent family wins against Child Protective

Services, it can feel like a hollow victory. It is, as Team Isaiah states, “bitter-sweet.” It cannot be compared to winning a victory in a ballgame, or a race, or an election. It is a victory after fighting the hardest battle in a family’s life, a battle that never should have happened in the first place. So much has been lost. As one mother told Health Impact News after winning such a victory:

How do we celebrate after our lives have been ruined?

We spoke with Michelle Rider, who wants everyone to know that they very much appreciate “the faithful people” who have advocated for them and have prayed and supported them for the past 2 years.

Now, she and her son face the daunting task of rebuilding their lives and healing. Michelle said that it feels like “after the war.” She sounded shell-shocked. How do we tell a mother we are happy for her when so much has been lost that they can never get back?

How do we sit back and allow this to continue to happen to innocent families?

There was a time when we didn’t know what Child Protective Services was doing to families. There was a time when we believed that they were there to help truly abused children with terrible parents.

Now, we know better. Now we know that children like Isaiah with a rare medical condition can be worth a great deal of money in medical research, and we know that the foster care system is more about money than about helping children. We now know that families are being ripped apart without

good reason.

Isaiah Rider's story is a story that captured the attention of thousands, and it showed us that Medical Kidnapping is real. We are thankful that the Riders' case is closed, and our prayers are with them as they work to heal and rebuild their lives.

The question remains: What are we going to do about it? Are we going to work to make sure that what happened to Michelle and Isaiah Rider stops happening to other families? Medical Kidnapping is wrong, and it needs to end.

Chicago Boy Medically Kidnapped for 20 Months Back Home - Family Strives to Overcome Trauma



Malik with his aunt and his grandmother Lakisha. Photo provided by Tanna family.

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

It has been two years since “Baby Malik” was returned to his family. It has been a long journey of helping him to overcome the harm from being taken by Child Protective Services and Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago, but his grandmother Lakisha Tanna says that they can finally “function like a normal family again.”

Malik just started K-5 kindergarten. He is doing well now, but that didn’t happen overnight.

He was out of his family’s custody for 1 year, 8 months, and a day. All that time in the custody of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) had a lasting impact on him, and it wasn’t good. He came home with a great deal of insecurity, afraid to let Lakisha out of his sight.

There were times that Lakisha was afraid that he would never come home, and times that she feared for Malik’s very life.

She thanks God that he is safe now.

The public attention brought to [their story](#) by *Health Impact News* made a big difference, she believes. As long as DCFS and Lurie Children’s Hospital were able to operate in secrecy, there was no accountability and they were able to do whatever they wanted with Malik, including perform multiple experimental surgeries on him without his family’s consent.

To this day, Malik’s story remains one of the most horrific stories we have ever covered of medical abuse under Child Protective Services custody. Because our readers became

involved in making phone calls and writing letters, holding the hospital and DCFS accountable, Malik was finally returned home.

See our original story here:

[Chicago Lurie Children's Hospital Takes Baby Away From Family for Seeking a Second Opinion](#)

Incredibly, and perhaps not surprisingly, Malik has not required a single surgery or hospitalization in the entire two years since he has been home.

Rough Beginnings for Baby Malik

Malik was born on July 5, 2012, with a medical condition that resulted in his small intestine being surgically removed, known as short gut syndrome. When he was just 6 days old, the family decided to transfer him to Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, because they wanted the best possible care for Malik. Lakisha told us:

This is supposed to be a place that has the best interest of children at heart.

His condition was serious. Early in his life his parents made the decision to transfer guardianship of Malik to his grandparents. It was a family decision, made with Malik's care in mind.



Baby Malik with his grandparents. Photo source – [For the Love of Malik](#) Facebook page.

The first 8 months of Malik’s life were spent in the hospital. When he came home, it was with an in-home nurse. He continued to have feeding and weight issues, and remained under the care of doctors from Lurie Hospital.

When Lakisha missed an appointment due to the car breaking down, the hospital made the first hotline call to DCFS on her for abuse and neglect.

After an investigation, the charge was determined to be unfounded. However, she was warned to be careful because DCFS receives many calls from Lurie Children’s Hospital on minority families.

Request for Second Opinion Results in Medical Kidnapping

By December of 2013, Malik had already had 4 surgeries. He wasn't even a year and a half old, and Lakisha began questioning and expressing her concerns over his care from Lurie. His weight was still fluctuating despite all their interventions.

She asked to get a second opinion and began talking about transferring his care to another hospital.



Malik at Lurie Children's Hospital. Photo source - For the [Love of Malik Facebook page](#).

While the majority of normal parents would see this as a reasonable response by any responsible caregiver, the pattern that we have seen at *Health Impact News* is that the very act of asking for a second opinion or using the t-word (“transfer”) often triggers prompt calls to Child Protective Services, dizzying in its speed, with subsequent seizure of custody of the child by the state. Parents come to the hospital for their next visit and find that they are no longer welcome to see their own child.

That is exactly what happened to Lakisha Tanna. When she arrived to visit baby Malik, the hospital social worker told her that she could escort her to his room to kiss him good-bye. Some parents don’t even get that much.

What followed was more than a year and a half of surgeries and procedures by Lurie Hospital, some without his family’s consent. Due to the laws surrounding foster care and dependency, children who are wards of the state can legally be used for medical experimentation, and their families are powerless to stop it.

See:

[Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials](#)

So, Lakisha asked *Health Impact News* for help. Their [original story](#) was published on March 7, 2015.

State Attempts Damage Control – Issues Gag Order and Demands We Remove Our Story

Those within the DCFS system and Lurie Hospital did not like the exposure. By mid-May, they retaliated by attempting to

silence Lakisha with an unconstitutional gag order, in violation of the First Amendment Right to Free Speech.

We learned at that time from sources close to the family that the hospital was planning to repeat a surgical procedure on Malik to resection his intestines. This was a surgery they had already done twice before, apparently unsuccessfully since he was not getting better. The family was afraid for him, leading one of the family's supporters to post on the Facebook page, [For the Love of Malik](#):

This lil baby has been through so much in this short time of his life. He needs his family. I personally think he should be removed from that hospital. I've read several families complaints about Luries. Now they trying to do another surgery on this poor baby. Sounds like their experimenting on him especially now that he's in state care.

See a similar story, happening in Georgia:

[Young Girl with Rare Trisomy 9 Condition Medically Kidnapped in Georgia - Life in Danger](#)

At the end of May, the state bullied Lakisha Tanna against her will into sending a letter to request that *Health Impact News* take down Malik's story. We refused, standing on the legal principles of the First Amendment of Freedom of the Press.



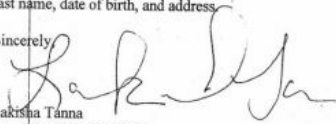
Law Office of the
COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
2245 W. Ogden 7TH FLOOR § CHICAGO IL 60612 (312) 433-7046 TEL (312) 433-5282 FAX
Amy P. Campanelli Public Defender


May 27, 2015

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to request that you immediately remove from your website "medicalkidnap.com" any and all information concerning Malik Mitchell. This includes but is not limited to photographs of Malik, use of his first and last name, date of birth, and address.

Sincerely,


Lakisha Tanna
Legal Guardian for Malik


Sara Dixon Spivey
Attorney Supervisor for the
Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

Instead of taking the story down, we published another story explaining that the family was being bullied, and that the State of Illinois was trying to suppress the information regarding this family and their experience with medical kidnapping.

See:

[Medical Kidnapping in Chicago: DCFS Does Not Want You to Know What They are Doing to 3 Year Old Malik](#)

[Freedom of the Press is What Exposes Government Abuse](#)

The more those in power tried to hide what they were doing, the more the public got involved. Supporters made phone

calls and wrote letters and emails on Malik's behalf. Social media warriors took to their keyboards. People came to the courthouse.

The family and their supporters believed that what the state of Illinois and Lurie Children's Hospital were doing to this little boy and his family was abusive, and the public demanded action.

Lakisha compares their actions to a perpetrator of abuse who bullies his victims into silence. As long as the victim keeps quiet, the abuse continues. "But the moment you start talking," things shift.

Sometimes, there is retaliation, but the victim has begun the path to freedom. It is no longer so easy for the perpetrator to keep getting away with their crimes once they are being exposed.



Malik as a crime-fighting Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle at his 5th birthday party, celebrated with family and friends. Source: Tanna family.

She says that the judge started paying more attention to their case “once he realized that there were other eyes on it.”

The Guardian ad litem allegedly “was so concerned” about word getting out about what was happening. They started closing ranks and closed the courtroom to everyone except those directly involved.

There were threats made to the family that they were not to talk about the case.

By then, Lakisha says, it was “One voice versus a hundred voices.” The story was out there, and people were watching.

While sometimes local mainstream media will pick up stories we break on MedicalKidnap.com, the “new” media that is making a difference is social media and independent news sources like *Health Impact News*. Some of the stories we have exposed over the past few years have gone viral and literally reached millions of people, putting tremendous pressure on local officials, social workers, judges, governors, etc.

See:

Child Protection Services is Out of Control – What Ordinary Citizens Can Do About It

Alternative Media Changing Public Perceptions About Legal Child Kidnappings and the Shame of Having Your Children Taken Away

When Lakisha first approached *Health Impact News*, our MedicalKidnap.com website and team hadn’t been around very long. It was difficult for her and other parents to talk about what was happening with Child Protective Services.

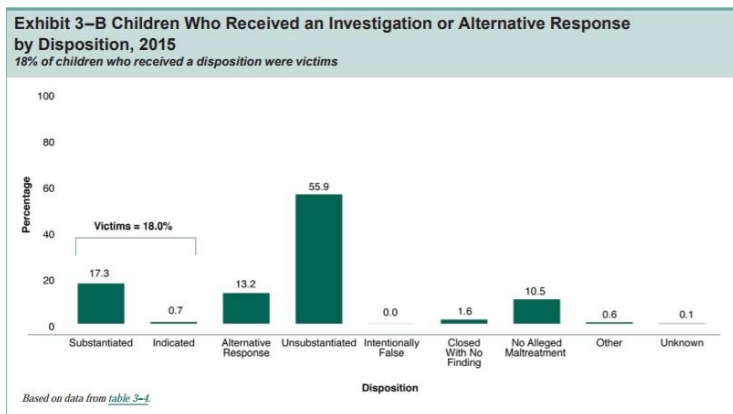
Parents, even parents who were completely innocent of any wrongdoing, were filled with embarrassment that CPS was involved.

Lakisha spoke of the shame:

Nobody wanted to talk about this publicly.

The mentality was that, if CPS was involved with your family, you must be a terrible person and an abusive parent. Unless it happened to them, most in the public were largely unaware that innocent people could lose their children.

Very few understand that the United States Department of Health and Human Services is aware that only 18% of all reported cases of abuse are even substantiated or indicated.



See [report here](#), page 18.

The Justina Pelletier case out of Boston, Massachusetts, was the most widely publicized case of Medical Kidnapping at

that time, but even then, most of the public believed that it was anomalous. There was little awareness that this type of thing was happening all over the country on a daily basis.

With increased awareness of the Medical Kidnapping stories, like Malik's, Lakisha believes that some of the stigma that families experience has been reduced, and that people are more willing to talk about what is happening.



Malik – all ready to start kindergarten. Photo provided by Tanna family.

Sick Children Need Their REAL Families to Heal

Malik's experience was horrible, and the fact that he was separated from the family that he knew and loved made his experience that much worse.

Lakisha says that taking the family away at such a vulnerable time hurts the child and makes treatment less effective.

She says that hospitals "need to involve the family" in treatment, and that the medical cases "need to be looked at a little bit more carefully before involving DCFS."

See:

[The U.S. Foster Care System: Modern Day Slavery and Child Trafficking](#)

It has taken time for Malik to heal from all the damage that was inflicted by the state in keeping him isolated from his family.

Judge Ruled Go Home, Still Took a Month

We [reported on July 8, 2015](#), that the judge ruled the day before that little Malik was to be returned home. He had turned 3 years old days before.

After his most recent surgery, Lurie Hospital sent Malik to Maryville Children's Healthcare Center, a facility for medically complex children. Lakisha reports that she believes that the children she saw there were almost exclusively wards of the state.

She described it as a “shelter-like facility,” where Malik was in a room with many other children, most of whom had trachs and could not talk.

They expected that he would be staying there for a few more days while paperwork and arrangements were made to bring him home.

Though DCFS petitioned the judge to allow 6 to 8 weeks for this transition to occur, Lakisha was thankful that the judge denied that request. She says then that she has to wonder if that is all about the money that would have been made from Malik if he had remained in that facility.

He didn’t come home quickly though. It took a full month. Lakisha believes that it was indeed about the money, and that they stretched his time there out as long as they could in order to maximize the funding they would get for him.

This is similar to the experience of many other families whose stories we have covered. Though Child Protective Services has no qualms about *immediately* seizing a child suddenly away from their family and everything they have ever known, the “reunification” process drags out as long as they can possibly do so.

Not one family we have spoken with believes that this has anything to do with what is best for the child, but that it has everything to do with the system maximizing the funds they can get by keeping the child in the system longer.

The family was on pins and needles, hoping and praying that there would not be any kind of sabotage or retaliation. Indeed, one reader sent a message of caution to us for the family:

Not to be a party-pooper, but I know CPS too well, and if, during the days and weeks ahead they can get any of the service providers they are forcibly sending this grandmother to (supposedly to complete “their” paperwork) to come up with even the remotest question about her willingness to cooperate, stability, ability to be an appropriate guardian or even if they can discover she has a mole on her back that “might” become cancerous someday—they will go back to court and take that child in a heart beat.

The only reason they backed down now is because of the media coverage and the odds they were going to lose. They will do this even if Malik is thriving and happy because their main concern is funding and their secondary concern is they cannot afford an uprising where they are seen as impotent—they must have the power to intimidate parents around the country! The welfare of the child is not even remotely considered, believe me.

Family Strives to Rebuild Their Family Life, Overcome Trauma

Despite their worries, Malik is safely home with his family now. When he first came home after a year and a half of being in state care, Lakisha says that he was insecure. He didn’t want to let her out of his sight. He wanted his toys and his important people right there with him at all times.

The family struggled as well. They were still under DCFS scrutiny for a few more months, till finally the case was completely closed out. They were very cautious about making waves, and lay low for a while.

When Malik started preschool right after coming home, it

wasn't easy to adjust. He was hesitant to interact with the other children and play with them, content to just watch. His social skills were lacking, because his basic sense of security had been so damaged by DCFS.

They had to rebuild and work with him to help him become more secure. Lakisha and Malik's aunt took him on a Disney cruise last December. He is no longer tied to machines and tubes. And slowly, he has recovered.



Malik with Pluto on a Disney cruise. Photo provided by Tanna family.

Malik celebrated his 5th birthday this summer with lots of friends for his Ninja Turtle party, and he just started kindergarten. He is loved and safe. He still goes to his specialists and

doctors, but he is doing well and has not had to be hospitalized since he has been home.

Lakisha told us:

We don't go to Luries for anything!

2 Years After Isaiah Rider Medically Kidnapped: “They Destroyed Our Whole World”



Michelle and Isaiah Rider are happy to be together, but the trauma of his medical kidnapping is something they still battle. There was unimaginable damage done caused by Child Protective Services. Photo [source](#).

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

It has been almost 2 years since Isaiah Rider was released from Illinois DCFS custody after being medically kidnapped. Like many families who are reunited after the trauma of dealing with Child Protective Services, Isaiah and his mother, warrior-advocate Michelle Rider, largely withdrew from social media and the public eye. The horrors they had experienced took a toll and they have needed time to heal.

They are still in the healing process, and even now it is difficult for them to talk about their experiences.

They recently shared their story with a reporter from KWIR, a publication whose audience is largely LGBT.

In the [final segment](#) of the 4 part series entitled, “Mother and son look back on two years demolished by DCFS,” Michelle Rider says that she wants their story to be told as a warning for parents. Reporter Gretchen Rachel Hammond writes:

Although not LGBT themselves, Michelle and Isaiah fear for both gay and straight couples who take a child to a hospital like Lurie for help and suddenly find themselves catapulted into a hell they could never have imagined.

In the [opening of the series](#), Hammond makes this statement:

As an increasing number of LGBT couples choose to adopt, the story of one of the most disturbing and bizarre cases of DCFS removing a child after hospital doctors claim Medical

Child Abuse serves as a warning.

As the audience of *Health Impact News* knows, Isaiah Rider's story, as horrific and disturbing as it is, is not rare. Medical Kidnappings and accusations of Medical Child Abuse occur regularly all over the country. We have covered hundreds of such stories.

The public, however, may not be aware that the LGBT community contributes to the demand for children to adopt. The Rider article series by KWIR serves as a cautionary tale that the children offered up for adoption to LGBT couples, and to anyone else seeking to adopt, are not always "poor abused children in need of a forever home."

Adoptive and foster parents are not always told the truth about the children who are placed with them. Far more often than not, the children were taken from families who love them, who never abused them, and who have been falsely accused of hurting their children. Social worker whistleblowers have told us that they are encouraged to seize children who are "adoptable." That often means children who from loving homes, while children who are truly abused are considered "damaged goods" who are "unadoptable."

See:

Arizona Judge: Child Removed from Home Illegally – Only Reason Was Child Was “Adoptable”

Adults wishing to adopt children increase the demand, whether they are LGBT couples unable to conceive on their own, infertile couples, couples with good intentions who want to help children, Christian and religious families seeking to care for “the needy and the orphan,” or even pedophiles. No matter the motive, whether good or bad, each serves to create the demand for children.

As that demand increases, more children are being taken from innocent families in order to supply the commodities (children) to meet the demand. It is simple economics.

The Isaiah Rider Story

Almost 2 years after Isaiah was reunited with his mother, they have shared their story with KWIR.

Excerpts:

In March last year, Michelle Rider and her then 19-year-old son Isaiah made the trip from their home in Kansas City, Missouri to the islands of Fiji. There, they drank from mineral waters of Natahradave Village. Fiji was still recovering from a tropical cyclone and it was rumored that the water, which flowed from the lush, surrounding mountains, could heal.

Michelle and Isaiah thought it was well worth a try but not in the hope of a miracle that would cure an excruciating medical condition with which Isaiah had been living since he was a child.



Michelle and Isaiah Rider in Fiji. Photo [source](#).

They needed to heal as a mother and son who, one Spring day in 2014, were needlessly ripped away from each other by the State of Illinois.

For the over two years which followed, Michelle and Isaiah were helpless as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) engaged in an inexplicable vendetta to keep them apart employing measures which crossed both State lines and those of the downright bizarre.

Health Impact News began covering the story of his medical kidnapping even before the Medical Kidnap division of the website was created:

[Chicago Children's Hospital Takes Custody of 16-Year-Old Away from Parent Who Sought Second Opinion](#)

MedicalKidnap.com was established in October 2014. On October 29, 2014, we published comprehensive coverage of the Riders' story on our website:

[Fight Rages for Teenager Isaiah Rider's Freedom - His Mother Commits "Cardinal Sin" Of Questioning Doctors](#)



Michelle and Isaiah Rider – Photo from [Team Isaiah Facebook Page](#).

In [part 2](#), Michelle Rider described to KWIR the awful day when her son was medically kidnapped by social workers and Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago, Illinois:

“I had a gut feeling that someone was wrong,” she said. “I was walked into a small room. There were people staring at me. I heard someone say ‘we’ve got the mom.’ A doctor and a social worker who I’d never seen before told me ‘we’re sorry about your brother, but we are taking your son for 48 hours.’ I asked them ‘for what?’ They said “for medical child abuse.””

Michelle recalled that Lurie’s staff then demanded that she stop crying so they could escort her out of the facility without alarming any other parents.

KWIR explains the concept of Medical Child Abuse and how that term is being used to destroy innocent families:

The definitions of abuse and neglect span some 140 pages of a DCFS procedures document.

In one section, defined alongside “violent acts towards a child such as smothering, strangling, pushing or shoving,” the term Medical Child Abuse can be found as Factitious Disorder by Proxy or Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome “a form of child harm that is characterized by a parent/caregiver who intentionally and persistently lies, fakes, and/or produces illness in the child and repeatedly presents the child for medical assessment/treatment.”

Doctors are given extraordinary latitude when it comes to accusing a parent of Munchausen by Proxy and Medical Child Abuse. Once a case is started with a call to a DCFS hotline, an investigator from the agency has 48 hours to reach a determination. A full investigation must be concluded within 60 days.

Since Munchausen by Proxy is a mental health condition defined as “the production of or feigning of psychological symptoms in another person” one would assume that a clinical diagnosis by a psychologist would be necessary before such an accusation is made against a parent.

Yet, there are reports of multiple Munchausen cases nationwide in which no psychologist was involved before a call was made to a Child Protective Services hotline.

In fact, so wide-ranging and absolute is a medical provider’s power to separate a child from a parent and so liberal is their ability to use Munchausen by Proxy as a reason, that it has given rise to the term “medical kidnapping.”

Stories in which parents have found themselves “terrorized by doctors” and ultimately separated from their children by a State’s Child Protective Services for arguing with a doctor’s diagnosis, objecting to a treatment plan or vaccination on religious grounds or otherwise, asking for a transfer to another hospital, deciding on the home birth of a child rather than at a hospital, using natural medicines or bringing a transgender child in for treatment have been brought to light across the country.

“I didn’t know doctors could take your child if you didn’t agree with them,” Michelle said. “They were not able to provide the care my son needed so, instead of doing that, they just removed me because, in their eyes, I was the problem.”

In a case in which a member of a hospital’s medical staff alleges Medical Child Abuse, rarely is a determination made in favor of the parents over the doctors even after an extended and prohibitively expensive legal battle.

Meanwhile, a child is hauled away from a loving home and placed into a totally alien environment; be it foster care or, worse, a group home which borders on juvenile detention.

See:

Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?

Doctors from Boston to Seattle to Arizona now use the term “Medical Child Abuse,” which was coined by a husband and wife team who wrote a textbook on the concept. The couple teach other Child Abuse Specialists and social workers how to use the allegation to take children and get parents out of the picture. More information on these doctors is included here:

California Christian Homeschool Family Torn Apart as Children are Medically Kidnapped, Forced into Public School, and Mother is Forced out of Family Home

“Like Watching ISIS Kidnap My Child”

Michelle Rider describes Isaiah’s kidnapping in terms of terrorism in her interview with KWIR:

After he was released from Lurie Children’s Hospital, Isaiah was placed in a smaller medical facility and finally a foster home. Michelle asserted the home was located on the South Side of Chicago—an area of the city which has become infamous nationwide for its heightened levels of gang violence and weekly murder rate.

“It was like watching ISIS kidnap my child,” she said. “They wait until you are at your most vulnerable. There’s no warning. All any parent wants is for their child to get well. You trust that a doctor agrees with you. Then they say they are taking your child away and you can’t do a thing about it because they have the total backing of the State.”



Isaiah in the hospital. Photo from [Team Isaiah Facebook page](#).

After leaving his loving, safe home, Isaiah suffered horrible things in Child Protective custody that no child should ever experience. Although he reported the crimes committed against him to social workers, they were reportedly swept under the rug, ignored by those charged with his care.

See:

Missouri Teen Medically Kidnapped Was Raped and Sodomized While in Illinois Foster Care

Army of Advocates Instrumental in Isaiah's Return

Even after Isaiah turned 18, Illinois DCFS was determined to stay in his life, even going so far as to threaten to arrest him if he moved out on his own. His case was not closed until 2 months before his 19th birthday.

See:

Medically Kidnapped Teen Isaiah Rider Finally Free from Child Protective Services but Ruined Lives Remain

Michelle Rider told KWIR in [part 4](#) that “an army of advocates” played a crucial role in their lives:

Michelle acknowledged that they might never have seen that day without the help of an army of advocates.

“There were so many people who were behind us; who were praying for Isaiah and me,” Michelle said. “I believe that’s how we made it through. There were horrible things that happened but there were so many wonderful people who took the time to read the facts and came to our aid.”



Michelle and Isaiah – reunited. Photo [source](#).

Picking up the Pieces

KWIR reports:

Their joy was tempered as a new battle to pick up the pieces of a pair of lives DCFS had systematically devastated began.

“This changed mom and I,” Isaiah said. “I don’t talk about it. I know she doesn’t because it hurts her. I don’t even talk about it with my girlfriend. I bury it.”

“They destroyed our whole world,” Michelle said. “I was so angry at everything that had happened to my son while he was in DCFS custody. All that time, the judge knew about all of it and did nothing. They harmed him mentally, physically, emotionally all in the name of protection. They wanted to win at any cost. If I allow myself to think about their winning I get sad and depressed. I thought that we lived in the land of the free. I believed in the government. It changed everything that I thought was real. I felt cheated.”

Isaiah, who once dreamed of helping people through a medical career, has been robbed of his belief in healthcare providers.

“I never knew human beings could act this way; so selfishly, so without care for another person until this happened,” Isaiah said. “I don’t trust doctors. I don’t know if they have my best interests at heart. I don’t even like seeing doctors unless I really have to. I get anxiety before I see a doctor. It’s really bad. I’m 20 now and I don’t know if I want to have my own children. If they had the same medical issues as m, [sic] I would be scared for that child. It sucks because I’m so scared that what happened to me will happen to him or her.”

... “Agencies like DCFS should do more research before they tear families apart,” Isaiah said. “You can’t imagine the cruelty and what this does to a child.”

Michelle says that the trip that she and her son took to get away to the Fiji islands helped:

“I did experience healing in that river,” she said. “I was able to release a lot of the things I was carrying around that were making me physically ill. It’s a work in progress and it will take time. I feel like we were innocent and received a life sentence. In return, I will spend the rest of my life making sure people, they can’t do this to anyone else.”

So will her son. He says:

“I just don’t want to see it happen to anyone else,” Isaiah agreed. “If my speaking out stops that from happening to even one family, then it’s worth it.”



Michelle and Isaiah in Fiji. They hope that, by telling their story, they can keep this horror from happening to another family. Photo [source](#).

A Family Devastated – for Money

Their story of medical kidnapping is over, but the impact of the experience has forever changed them. Doctors, social workers, and courts have done unimaginable damage to this family, as well as to thousands of others.

At what cost did Child “Protective” Services seek to get involved with their family? Is state protection of children who might be at risk worth the untold trauma that they put the Riders and thousands of other families through?

At what point do we, as a society say, “Enough is enough”?

It is clear to Michelle Rider and her son that this was never about Isaiah’s best interests, and that it has always been about the money.

Looking back, both mother and son feel that DCFS had only one thing in mind.

“Money,” Michelle said. “This is an industry and they used my son to benefit it.”

“It’s just a cash grab,” Isaiah said. “I believe that DCFS is corrupt and is all about money. My foster parent was supposed to give me an allowance. She told me how much she was getting but I found out later on, it was much more than that.”

See:

[Child Kidnapping and Trafficking: A Lucrative U.S. Business Funded by Taxpayers Called “Foster Care”](#)

A child like Isaiah with a rare medical condition can literally be worth millions of dollars to the pharmaceutical industry. Children who are wards of the state, in other words, those in

foster care, can legally be used as medical lab rats, entered into medical research or drug testing – without their parents’ knowledge or consent.

See:

[Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials](#)

See our other coverage of the Isaiah Rider Story:

[17 Year Old Boy Breaks Silence on Medical Kidnapping: Reports Hospital Drugged Him at Time of Custody Dispute](#)

[Isaiah Rider Is Suffering Horrible Pain But Not Getting Help \[Video\]](#)

[Medical Kidnap: 17 Year Old Isaiah Rider Taken Captive Against His Will](#)

[Isaiah Rider Being Forced to Leave Home Town and Return to Chicago Against His Will](#)

[Verdict – Missouri Resident Isaiah Rider To Remain Ward of the State of Illinois](#)

[Medically Kidnapped Isaiah Rider: “Don’t Underestimate Me”](#)

[Illinois Stops Teen from Going to Mayo Clinic – “Legalized Terrorism” Claims Distraught Mom](#)

[EX-CPS Investigator Uses Illinois Gov Facebook to Attack Mom of Medically Kidnapped Teen Isaiah Rider](#)

[Isaiah Rider Speaks out on Robert Scott Bell Show – Wants to go to Mayo Clinic for Pain but Held Hostage](#)

[Medical Terrorism: KC Teen Isaiah Rider Will Remain in Illinois Custody After He Turns 18](#)

After Trip to Emergency Room Illinois Couple has all 4 Children Medically Kidnapped



Baby Camden was taken from his family after an accident.
Photo supplied by family.

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

Like many Americans, Mary Sweeney and Cedric Roberts

believed that Child Protective Services was made up of “the good guys,” the ones who protect children from bad parents who abuse their children. They didn’t realize that a trip to the emergency room puts normal, loving parents at risk of losing their children.

Mary wanted to make sure that everything was fine after a simple accidental injury, but the trip to the ER resulted in all 4 of their children being taken from them.

It could have happened to anyone.

The suburban Chicago couple spent the summer without their children, including infant twins, because a Child Abuse Pediatrician in another state has accused them of abusing one of their babies.

The doctor never saw the baby in person. A fracture the doctor diagnosed ended up being a glare on her screen. There was no fracture. It was a mistake.

Even so, Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) has not returned the children to their parents.

Mary and Cedric have been together for 16 years. The couple has a 9-year-old daughter, 6-year-old son, and twin boys who were born prematurely on March 24. Mary says:

We are nothing out of the ordinary but just a regular middle class family that goes to work, family functions, BBQs, kids activities, mini vacations, and doctors appointments. I coupon and love to shop the clearance rack.

Accidental Injury

Their nightmare began with something that has happened to almost everyone. The baby fell off the bed.

Mary Sweeney was arguably exhausted. She was 27 weeks along in her pregnancy when her water broke. Doctors ordered bed rest. The twins were born at almost 31 weeks, and they spent their first 6 weeks of life in the NICU.



Photo supplied by family.

Mary spent her nights at the hospital with the babies, from 10 or 11 pm till 5 or 6 am, when her husband could be home with the older children.

She did kangaroo care, holding them skin-to-skin for 2 hours each during the night. Then it was home to get the older 2 children off to school.

After homework, dinner, and bath time, they put the kids to bed and Mary returned to the hospital to start over again.

The babies developed necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a serious condition that can affect premature babies in which the intestines become infected and a portion of the intestine can die. It was a frightening time for the family.

The twins were loaded up on antibiotics, and they had over 100 x-rays during their hospital stay.

They got better and were able to go home when they were about 6 weeks old.

Mary went back to work as a server at the diner where she has worked for over 15 years. She got home in the wee hours of an early June morning.

Both babies woke up for their bottles around 3 am. Noah is the quicker eater of the pair, so Mary burped him and put him back to bed. After Camden finished, he was a bit fussy and seemed to have a tummy ache. The exhausted mom fell asleep with him on her chest as she rubbed his back to try to comfort him.

She awoke to a thud sound. Camden had rolled off of her and fell onto the hardwood floor.

Mary was horrified, beating herself up as she soothed him and checked him over from head to toe. She cried harder than he did. He calmed down pretty quickly, and Mary

couldn't find any sign of problems.



Cedric and son miss their time enjoying the great outdoors. Photo supplied by family.

To the Emergency Room “Just to Be Safe”

Nonetheless, she called her aunt and then the babies' doctor. Mary answered the doctor's questions and checked his soft spot. Camden seemed to be fine, but the doctor recommended that she take him to the ER “to be on the safe side.”

Mary's aunt went with her to take 2 1/2-month-old Camden to Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois. It was June 3, 2018. The emergency room doctor checked the baby out and said that he appeared fine.

She gave Mary the option of having a CT scan done to be sure that there were no unseen injuries from his fall. She explained the benefits and risks. Mary wanted "to be on the safe side" and make sure that her baby really was fine, so she agreed to the scan.



A loving family separated over an accident. Photo supplied by family.

Terrifying Words

What happened next was shocking. After the CT scan, a nurse came into the room and started an IV. Then, a doctor came into the room. She reportedly told Mary terrifying words that she will never forget:

Camden has bleeding all around his brain, and he just might die.

Mary collapsed to the floor, crying hysterically as the doctor left the room.

Another doctor came in and looked at the baby's eyes. There was no flurry of activity, no mad dash of doctors coming into the room to save his life. Nothing. It didn't make sense to Mary. She thought:

If my baby might die, why aren't there a thousand doctors in here?

The next doctor who came into the room told her that she wasn't going to like her very much. She told Mary that they were calling DCFS. Mary was told that the policy of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) was that Child Protective Services has to be called any time that a "non-ambulatory" child hits their head.

Pediatricians' Policy Ensnarers Innocent Parents

That statement appears to be an oversimplification of the AAP policy. However, the AAP Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect issued a policy statement in 2015 entitled, "The Evaluation of Suspected Child Physical Abuse," in which author, Cindy W. Christian, states that:

General physical examination findings that suggest abuse include the following:

ANY injury to a young, preambulatory infant, including bruises, mouth injuries, fractures, and intracranial or abdominal injury

or

Significant injuries that are unexplained. ([Source.](#))

Those parameters alone leave much room for non-abusive injuries, accidents, or unknown medical conditions to lead to innocent parents being accused of abuse.



The two older children with their aunt and mother. Photo supplied by family.

Terror, Then Confusion

Mary frankly didn't care who the doctors called as long as someone was going to do something to help her son. They had just told her that her baby was dying.

Her baby wasn't dying, however.

A neurologist came into the room and told her that the amount bleeding around Camden's brain was very small, and thus no surgery would be needed. He would need rest, but he would be fine.

After that, an eye doctor came in to look at Camden's eyes. Likely he was searching for signs retinal hemorrhaging, something that Child Abuse Specialists frequently (inaccurately) attribute to being caused by nothing else besides child abuse. There was no retinal hemorrhage.

The eye doctor did, however, ask about Mary's nationality, commenting how "gorgeous" baby Camden is.

DCFS social workers came into the room to ask repeatedly what the story was behind the injury. Mary had not had any sleep and was exhausted by this point. She had been terrified that her baby was going to die from falling off of the bed, but now the doctors did not seem to be concerned about his health.

Child Abuse Specialist Pediatrician Makes Everything Worse

Next came a Skype call with Dr. Terra Nicole Frazier. DCFS and the hospital called in a Child Abuse Pediatrician who was 500 miles away, located at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.



James Anderst, MD, MSCI, Section Chief of the SCAN Clinic, co-developed an animated program that is helping law enforcement, social workers and court officials work more effectively with medical professionals in determining whether injuries to children are accidental or the result of abuse. Terra Frazier, DO, a member of the SCAN Clinic staff, is helping deliver the program to interested organizations.

Our original [source](#) for this photo of Dr. Frazier has taken it down. Health Impact News posted this photo in an earlier article exposing Child Abuse Specialists. See [article](#). This clinic was involved in one of our earliest Medical Kidnap stories. See [article](#).

There was more shocking news to be delivered. Dr. Frazier informed Mary that Camden's tibia was fractured. The x-ray showed a broken leg, the doctor told her, and it looked to be about 7 to 10 days old. She also said that there were:

concerns for head trauma other than the fall off the bed.

Mary says she was a wreck by that point, trying to figure out

what could have happened to her baby. Could one of the other children have fallen on him? Had something happened when he was in the NICU that had been covered up? None of this made sense to her.

The Child Abuse Pediatrician wrote in her report that:

Mother seemed emotional and upset.

State Seizes Custody

Based on the evaluation of the out-of-state doctor who had never seen the baby, DCFS social worker, Ladonna, compelled Mary and her husband to submit to a “safety plan.” It was just for 48 hours, the social worker said, until they could investigate further.

All of the children were placed with relatives. Dr. Frazier said that she couldn’t give a full evaluation until a follow-up visit 2 weeks later.

48 hours without their children turned into 2 weeks.

On June 21, Mary’s birthday, DCFS Child Protective Investigator Mrs. Dunlap called Mary Sweeney with good news and bad news.

Doctor Made a Mistake

The “good news” was that Camden did not actually have a leg fracture. Dr. Frazier reportedly admitted to DCFS that she had seen a glare on the screen. There was no broken bone, just “a glare off the lighting inside the room,” which caused

her to read the scan wrong and see a fracture that was not there. It was a mistake.

However, she went on to say that the brain bleeding had to be abuse.

Mary points out that there was no apology or remorse from the Child Abuse doctor for her mistake that threw her family into chaos.

By this point, the DCFS worker was skeptical. She wanted to get a second opinion herself, but she would have to get approval from the supervisor.

She also wanted the police to investigate. That requirement was incorporated into the safety plan. It took until July 2 for DCFS to notify the police that they need to investigate the case.

Cleared by Police

DCFS demanded toxicology and drug screenings. Those and the police investigation came back clear. An officer told the family that the children should be home by the end of the week.

That didn't happen.

Another DCFS worker, Ms. Jackson, told Mary and Cedric that they needed to be patient, because they have a doctor who said it was abuse. When Mary countered with the fact that the police had cleared them, Ms. Jackson reportedly told the couple:

No, Ms. Sweeney, the criminal investigation has nothing to do with our case.

They never got a second opinion either. DCFS refused to approve a second opinion, and their 2 weeks have now surpassed 60 days. Their protocols state that Child Abuse investigations should end in 60 days.



Mary Sweeney and her daughter. Photo supplied by family.

Can Short Falls Cause Harm?

The primary assumption in baby Camden's case by the Child Abuse doctor is the idea that "short falls" cannot cause the kind of brain bleeding that he has.

However, there are medical studies that have concluded that short falls can cause injury, up to and including fatal head injuries. According to a study published in the *American Journal of Forensic Medical Pathology*:

The author concludes that an infant or child may suffer a fatal head injury from a fall of less than 3 meters (10 feet). (Source.)

Chris Van Ee, PhD, points out that babies who are shaken violently enough to cause brain hemorrhaging would be "expected" to have neck injuries. (Source.)

Camden doesn't. Nor do any other children whose parents have been suspected of Shaken Baby Syndrome or Abusive Head Trauma that *Health Impact News* has covered.

Dr. Ee testified in 2008 a court of law that:

today's science cannot distinguish accidental from non-accidental impacts of falls of similar magnitude, barring extraordinary signs, e.g., grip marks or eye-witness accounts.

Steven Gabaeff, M.D., is a doctor of Emergency Medicine and Clinical Forensic Medicine. He analyzed research into

Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) theory. Of one study, he states:

Yet Caffey and his cohorts presumed from the inception of the SBS theory that short falls could not produce adequate force to cause serious injury. This was incorrect. Now with both new and old research, some child abuse specialists will for the first time admit that short falls can cause serious injury, including SDH [subdural hematoma], and have recently acknowledged that RH and other retinal damage can occur with short falls as well. ([Source.](#))

Prior Brain Bleeding

There are medical issues that have not been taken into consideration by DCFS or the Missouri Child Abuse doctor.

Camden's medical records show that he was low in Vitamin D, which can contribute to subdural hematoma. He also had anemia of prematurity.

Both Camden and his fraternal twin brother, Noah, spent a month and a half in the NICU. The babies had some brain bleeding from birth.

This is not uncommon. They were almost 2 1/2 months premature. It is well established within the medical literature that brain bleeds are quite common in premature babies.

See:

Common Childbirth Practice Could Lead to Later False Diagnosis of Shaken Baby Syndrome

To date, no doctor or investigator has compared scans from Camden's prior brain bleeding to those following his fall off of the bed, though it would seem a prudent course of action.

Dr. Steven Gabaeff points out the twisted logic of the American Academy of Pediatrics policies which are heavily influenced by Child Abuse Pediatricians.

There are over 2 million cases of subdural hematomas, or brain bleeding, in newborns within the United States each year. AAP policy says that all 2 million cases resolve on their own by the time babies are 5 to 8-weeks-old. Any bleeding after that point must by default be due to violent child abuse or to serious trauma such as a car accident.

See Dr. Gabaeff's study:

Investigating the possibility and probability of perinatal subdural hematoma progressing to chronic subdural hematoma, with and without complications, in neonates, and its potential relationship to the misdiagnosis of abusive head trauma

This logic more closely resembles magical thinking than serious scientific analysis.

Gabaeff also says that rebleeding in places of previous brain bleeding is common and that:

crying, vomiting, or even normal handling have caused

observable, often symptomatic episodic rebleeds. ([Source](#))

He criticizes doctors who jump to accusations of abuse in such cases, saying that:

the awareness that hygroma and CSDH are known to rebleed spontaneously or with minor forces, should impact the analysis of findings to avoid misdiagnosing abuse.

Accidental injury, such as Camden's head injury when he fell off of the bed, can and does cause rebleeding, according to Gabaeff.

The likelihood that a parent with no prior history of abuse or violence would suddenly cause harm to their child is very low. He writes:

Integrating an exculpatory social history, one of the most reliable indicators of non-abuse, further favors a non-abuse explanation over highly improbable clandestine abuse by previously loving parents.

The actual probability of ... abuse by previously loving caregivers with no history of violent behaviors toward children, should be recalculated in view of a basic statistical analysis in that population which demonstrates that the probability of an anomalous act of abuse ("snapping") in a population of nonabusive, caring and loving parents, to be virtually 0%.

Discharge Diagnosis – Mild Concussion

Baby Camden was discharged from the hospital the same day he went in, but he didn't go home to his family. The discharge documents paint a very benign picture that stands in stark contrast to the drastic actions taken by DCFS under the advice of the Child Abuse Pediatrician in Missouri:

*Your child presented to the ED with closed head injury. For these concerns, a head CT scan was ordered **which was negative.***

*Your child has been diagnosed with a mild concussion. **This is not life-threatening.**[Emphasis added by HIN.]*

Camden's parents want him and his siblings home. All 4 children are suffering from abuse by the state in being separated from their parents. Even short separations between parents and children can be extremely harmful to children. DCFS has given no indication as to when or if the children will be returned home.



Will this all get straightened out, or will this little boy continue to be separated from his parents? Photo supplied by family.

“False Allegations of Abuse Are Abuse”

Dr. Gabaeff’s conclusions are profound and should greatly impact the thinking of all those who investigate child abuse:

False allegations of abuse are abuse.

Misdiagnosis, leading to false allegations and legal proceeding, devastates families and the very infant patients’ lives that we all work diligently to protect. Families and children are thrown into chaos. It is essential that child abuse pediatricians fully understand the consequences of past and future misdiagnosis of medical problems and accidents as abuse. Continued resistance to evidence-based research, both old and new, that undermines the existing constructs of child abuse medicine, endangers families.

If an expanded understanding of these issues by child abuse pediatricians is not possible, then other participants in the legal process (our other medical colleagues, Judges, DA’s, police, social workers and defense attorneys) must take the time to study and analyze these issues themselves and apply common sense and their newly acquired knowledge to insure justice is served.

Each of us must realize that a body of exculpatory evidence based complexity, concealed under a cloak of dogma and zealotry, must be uncovered and incorporated into a willing embrace of the ever emerging, more sophisticated knowledge of the intricacies of the human neurophysiology and neuropathophysiology.

Local Media in Peoria Illinois Exposes Medical Kidnapping of Young Child Due to Child Abuse Specialist



The Crady Family. [Image Source](#).

Commentary by Terri LaPoint

Health Impact News

The phrase “with liberty and justice for all” is the cornerstone of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. This principle is the very foundation upon which our nation was founded, for which men and women have fought and died.

This noble and lofty theme is written in our anthems, on our statues, and in our hearts.

It is the very essence of who we are supposed to be as a nation that stands as a shining light among the nations, inspiring sacrifice and dedication throughout the generations to ensure that “liberty and justice for all” remains the bedrock of society for future generations to enjoy.

Where there is injustice, or when some “are more equal than others” (George Orwell, *Animal Farm*), ordinary people rise up and push back.

Our history is full of examples of heroes that we look up to for their courage and leadership in standing up for liberty and justice for all, against those who seek to relegate those beloved principles to a select few. Our favorite movies and books are inspired by this theme.

“Better that a guilty man go free than an innocent man be convicted” is a cherished American doctrine espoused by the Founding Fathers and passed down into the foundation of the justice system.

Yet there is an element of United States society that routinely refuses to embrace this concept, and their

devastating reach has the potential to impact every family within our borders: that is, the child welfare and family court system.

Many of their policies which lead to families being torn apart trace directly to a group of doctors known as Child Abuse Pediatricians.

They author policies and position statements for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which are enforced by Children's Hospitals, pediatricians, and child protective agencies.

We have covered the topic of Child Abuse Pediatricians often, which is a specialty that **must** find child abuse to justify its existence as a medical specialty.

To learn more about this specialty see:

[Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?](#)

[Child Abuse Pediatricians: An “Ethically Bankrupt” Profession that Destroys Families](#)

[Pediatric Child Abuse “Experts” are NOT Experts in Anything](#)

The AAP does not represent all pediatricians and doctors, despite public perception, and there are very qualified, excellent doctors who disagree with some of these policies.

A recent 2-part Special Report by 25 News in Peoria, Illinois, (Link to [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)) examines this issue of innocent parents, who are falsely accused by doctors, whose children

are medically kidnapped.

Reporter [Caitlin Knute](#) says that one local hospital, [OSF St. Francis](#), sees about 20 cases a month of child abuse, which also includes “neglect” cases as well.

Reporter [Tyler Lopez](#) asks the question that *Health Impact News* has been asking even before our *Medical Kidnap* division was established in 2014:

But what if some of those abuse cases were misdiagnosed or the result of a medical condition?

When that happens, there is often no liberty or justice for these families.

Innocent Families Are “Collateral Damage”



Child Abuse Pediatrician Dr. Channing Petrak. Image source from [video at Week.com](#).

Michelle Weidner, executive director of the [Family Justice Resource Center](#), was one of numerous victims of a false allegation by a Child Abuse Pediatrician. She cuts to the heart of the matter in Part 2:

Wrongful allegations are often considered collateral damage in the fight against child abuse. And it's often not taking into consideration the impact that wrongful allegations have on families.

Her baby was taken because Child Abuse Pediatrician [Dr. Channing Petrak](#) at OSC St. Francis misread a CT scan and accused the parents of abuse:

“When they did the CT scan he moved in the machine, which resulted in a blurred line, and that blurred line was misdiagnosed as a skull fracture,” Weidner explains.

Unfortunately, the Weidners wouldn't learn there was a problem with the scan till much later. Instead, in that moment, they found themselves accused.

“And the child abuse pediatrician told investigators that there was no other explanation than blunt force trauma,” Weidner adds.

In one of our earliest Medical Kidnap stories, a Child Abuse Pediatrician compared parents Bethany and Andrew Debski to dolphins caught in a net. Like hundreds of families whose stories we have covered since then, they too were collateral damage:

A child abuse doctor at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (HDVCH) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, actually thanked them for "taking a hard hit for the greater good" of catching abused and neglected children. They were innocent.

See:

Parents Falsely Accused by CPS Fight to Get Reputation Back – Pay Forced Hospital Bills

Baby Chandler's Story

The 25 News report starts with the story of Baby Chandler, a story that follows the template of dozens of other stories that we have covered involving a child with broken bones who actually had a medical condition causing his bone fragility.

Dr. Channing Petrak, Child Abuse Pediatrician, accused the parents of abuse, and he was taken from his mother by Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

According to [Part 1](#):

Chandler was born premature with a host of health problems, including a hole in his lung. He spent the first week of his life at the hospital. After he was released, his parents, Tara and Michael Crady, said they noticed one of his ankles felt strange, and brought it up to their pediatrician.

"The next morning we got a phone call saying, 'You know, were you in a car accident? Was there some sort of trauma during pregnancy?' And I said, 'No. I said why?' They said,

‘Well, it’s a healed fracture and it would date back to in utero,’ Tara explained.

From there it was back to OSF St. Francis Medical Center for more testing. But, what was supposed to be a routine follow up X-ray quickly escalated as the Cradys were told Chandler had 14 healed fractures, including 12 along his ribs.

The hospital called DCFS.

The Cradys say they were forced to stay at OSF under constant supervision for the next week while DCFS called in a Child Abuse Pediatrician, Dr. Channing Petrak, the Medical Director of the Pediatric Resource Center.

In her report provided by the family, Dr. Petrak ruled the fractures and other injuries were “suspicious of abuse.”

Specialist in Radiology, Dr. Ayoub, Disagreed with Child Abuse Doctor



Radiologist Dr. David Ayoub. [Image source.](#)

Fortunately, Tara Crady remembered reading about a similar story a few years ago in the news, and she was able to find the mother on Facebook. Dr. Petrack was also behind Michelle Weidner's false allegation of abuse. [Part 1](#) continues:

“While we were in the hospital I contacted Michelle Weidner and she got me in contact with this radiologist out of Springfield and by the grace of God he met us at like 6:30 that night at the hospital.”

That doctor was David Ayoub, M.D., a radiologist who specializes in these types of cases.

“There’s no question in my mind that they were abnormal bones, bones that showed fragility,” Ayoub declared.

From Chandler's X-rays and interviews with the family, Dr. Ayoub determined Chandler had metabolic bone disease, possibly infantile rickets, and said the healed fractures that appeared on the x-rays dated back to in utero and/or the birthing process.

Healing Rib Fractures Happened in the Womb

Many Medical Kidnap stories that we have covered involve babies who are discovered to have “multiple rib fractures in various stages of healing.” (See [link](#) to such stories.)

That particular phrase is in the medical reports of just about every story that we have investigated involving children with broken bones whose parents were accused of child abuse but were found by experts (other than Child Abuse doctors who really are [not experts in anything](#)) to have legitimate medical conditions, such as infantile rickets, osteogenesis imperfecta, collagen disorders such as Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, or other brittle bones condition.

[25 News](#) continues in Part 1:

“In utero fractures I've seen reported. They're not unheard of, but they are exceptionally rare.” Ayoub began. “Now, Chandler had x-rays at birth which is a little bit unusual. Why? Because he had a long injury at birth, which is one of the first clues that his ribs might've been injured at birth. If the ribs are weak at birth and the child passes through the birth canal what happens is those ribs don't hold up so they are pushed into the one tissue with much greater force than they would otherwise,” Ayoub further explained,

demonstrating the squeezing motion with both hands.

Dr. Ayoub said that would account for the punctured lung Chandler was born with. He also said that while Dr. Petrak's report might have stated they ruled out rickets or metabolic bone disease, that was because the tests they conducted in the hospital, measuring the boy's Vitamin D levels (an indicator in those cases,) were done at the time the injuries were discovered, not when the injuries would have occurred, adding that Vitamin D levels could change drastically for a developing child in that time.

"In infancy, it's not like any other time in life. The vitamin D levels change and change dramatically within the first three months of life. The baby will be born with typically 60% to 70% of the mother's levels and will double very quickly, in fact by 2 to 3 months those levels double," Ayoub shared.

With that theory in mind, Ayoub said Tara's levels of Vitamin D were measured and found to be 21.8, emanating Chandler's on average would have been around 14, which was considered low. Ayoub noted this and other findings that he felt explained the injuries discovered in a report the family sent to a judge before their first Shelter Care Hearing.

Including Ayoub, the Cradys ending up seeking out a total of 8 medical expert from all over the country, all specializing in unique cases like there. Among the group of Ivy League, board Certified specialists, was a Boston University Endocrinologist, Dr. Michael Holick. Holick not only agreed with Ayoub's findings, he also testified in a report submitted to the court that Chandler likely had a collagen disorder called Ehlers-danlos syndrome. Holick said that would be enough to "markedly increase the risk for fragility fractures with normal handling."

The Cradys eventually got their son back, but not before

their family was unnecessarily traumatized by the actions of the Child Abuse Pediatrician Dr. Petrak and DCFS.

Innocent Father Went to Prison over False Diagnosis of Abuse by Petrak



Richard Britts. [Image source.](#)

[Part 2](#) of the 25 News Special Report includes the story of an innocent dad who not only lost time with his children, but also spent 2 years in prison for a crime that didn't happen, based on the testimony of a Child Abuse Pediatrician.

His 3-month-old daughter “start[ed] gasping for breath in her crib” while the 19-year-old father was watching TV.

“I just didn’t know what to do, she was lifeless, she was still gasping, breathing very weird. I called her mother and I called 911 and they walked me through CPR which is probably the scariest thing ever did in my life,” Britts recalls.

The little girl was taken to a nearby hospital before being transported to OSF in Peoria, where doctors determined she had bleeding on the brain, and Britts says that prompted Dr. Petrak to conclude Saniya had been either shaken or hit.

Britts says he protested and told staff seizures ran in his family. Ultimately, though, he was arrested and taken to the Sangamon County Jail after he claims he was coerced into a confession without an attorney present.

“I didn’t know what was happening. I was 19 and they’re just telling me everything that I did was inaccurate. I couldn’t answer their questions,” Britts began, adding that in the end he felt worn down by the interrogations. He claims in an attempt to bring things to an end, he finally admitted if they thought he did something he must have, even though he didn’t know what that “something” was, not fully realizing that would be interpreted as a confession.

Britts spent more than 2 years in jail awaiting trial, where he was eventually found not guilty after a medical expert from out-of-state testified Saniya did, in fact, suffer from a seizure disorder. Since then he says he’s rebuilt his life, and enjoys time with Saniya, who made a full recovery, and her three sisters.

Still, he says nothing can replace the time that was taken from him.

“That’s 2 1/2 years I’ll never get back I had to reestablish the relationships with my children. Man, I lost a lot. I lost my home, I lost two jobs, I lost my marriage, my father passed when I was there,” he laments.

Organization Helps Families Fight Against False Allegations of Abuse



The Family Justice Resource Center (FJRC) was founded in Illinois to help families such as these. Chicago area attorney Diane Redleaf is on the organization’s board, and she has written extensively on the subject of ethical concerns with Child Protective Services and Child Abuse Pediatricians.

See:

[Family Defense Center in Illinois Documents Medical Ethics Violations in Medical Kidnappings](#)

According to [25 News](#):

She’s written a just-published book on the subject, profiling six families, “They Took the Kids Last Night: How the Child Protection System Puts Families At Risk.” [\[Source\]](#).

“The stories are all cases of families where the child welfare system came in and literally took the kids one night,” Redleaf explains.

Redleaf estimates she’s worked on anywhere from 70 to 100 cases involving families whose children allegedly had medical conditions that were mistaken for abuse.

“I believe any family could be subject to something like this and people need to basically have a wake-up call that this is occurring,” she emphatically states.

Dr. Ayoub is a medical specialist in radiology who is well-qualified as an expert in bone conditions.

Many families whose stories we have covered have looked to him for answers when the Child Abuse Pediatricians with the focus of finding abuse have accused them when they knew there had to be another answer. (See [link](#)).

Dr. Ayoub is one of the experts that FJRC consults. He told [25 News](#):

“I think when you look at the specialty of child abuse pediatrics you are geared up to protect children in harm’s way. So one of the first things you see, in other words, if you’re a nail everything is a hammer or vice versa. And there’s a specialty bias that we all have,” explained Dr. David Ayoub, MD.

Dr. Ayoub says he’s studied metabolic bone disease, rickets, and vitamin D deficiencies extensively and believes those conditions can often mimic abuse. As a result, he testifies in

cases all over the country.

True Justice and One-Sided Child Abuse Doctor Opinions Incompatible Concepts

If we are to hope to secure true justice for families, including the basic liberty of parents and children to be in relationship with one another, courts and agencies must stop looking to Child Abuse Pediatricians as the ultimate authority on what constitutes abuse.

They have a financial stake in ruling abuse, even if their is none.

They simply get it wrong in too many cases, devastating innocent families, even sending innocent parents to prison and their children into foster care situations where there they often encounter true abuse that they never experienced in their own home.

There is no consensus among true experts that the conclusions reached by Child Abuse Pediatricians are accurate, while there are many cases where truly qualified medical experts find legitimate medical conditions that mimic abuse in these children.

Justice demands that the other side of the story is heard and taken seriously, not ignored, as so often happens in juvenile and family courts today.

Chicago Psychiatric Hospital Investigated by Federal and State Authorities for Abuse of Children Under CPS Care

Commentary by Terri LaPoint
Health Impact News

A psychiatric hospital in Chicago is being investigated by federal and state authorities for multiple reports of abuse of children in their care, many of whom are under state custody through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Although the following ProPublica article highlights one particular hospital, investigations by *Health Impact News* have found that the stories contained within this piece are repeated in psych wards, group homes, and juvenile detention centers all over the country.

Many children who are able to tell their stories have told our reporters of similar horrors to the treatment suffered by the children in this story. Once they are hidden away behind the locked doors of these facilities, in state custody, with little contact with the people who love them, they often become victims of sexual assault, physical abuse, and drugging that they neither consent to nor want.

They become invisible, hidden in the shadows, with their only hope of a voice being the very people with vested financial interests in keeping them silent about the abuse. It is not unlike slavery in many ways.

Children who are eventually returned to their families often come back traumatized. They are haunted, and triggers lie around every corner.

The stories of Samuel Mitchell, Brady Folkens, and the Odonnell twins contain some of the most brutal reports of institutionalized abuse that we have reported. There are many more such stories that happen that go unnoticed by any media.

See:

[Colorado Mom Loses Medically Kidnapped Son's Childhood - Now Reveals State Corruption](#)

[Healthy 17 Year Old Dies Shortly After South Dakota Takes Custody Away from Mother](#)

[Kidnapped Twins in Michigan Physically Abused: Being Shipped out of State to Destroy Family Ties](#)

<https://youtu.be/04Dp3dRoT08>

It seems that every time that we talk to any former foster child that was forced into a psych ward, group home, or juvenile detention center, their stories of widespread sexual and physical abuse are the same. They are the rule, not the exception.

The response is always the same: the children all report that no one listened to them. When any one of them reported abuse by foster parents or in the facilities, they were told that no one would believe them. They are bullied or shamed into silence, left to suffer, while taxpayers pick up the tab to finance institutionalized abuse.

ProPublica reports that Neil Skene, special assistant to DCFS Acting Director Beverly “B.J.” Walker, gave the typical, politically correct response to the reporter and to the public:

“The question for DCFS is whether children are safe there,” Skene said. “Nothing that we are seeing gives us concern for their safety.”

DCFS acting inspector Mary Paniak disagrees with Skene’s assessment:

Paniak wrote that she had “significant concerns for the care and safety of the children” at Lakeshore, according to a copy of the memo obtained by ProPublica Illinois.

She provided a list of actions that DCFS could take.

No mention is made about the most obvious to many of our readers, which is to stop taking children needlessly and to work to keep children with family as much as possible.

That simple step would serve to eliminate much trauma and the “need” for psychiatric services – a need which is based more on the agency’s need for funding than the actual needs of the children.

Nonetheless, there was an important step that Paniak listed that would go far in addressing the problems facing the agency, but DCFS refuses to agree to it. That is:

...bringing in an independent expert to do a comprehensive

review of the treatment and mental health services at the hospital.

In an interview, Paniak said an independent voice could provide expertise and objectivity. She said she was disappointed by the agency's decision not to seek an independent review.

Interestingly, DCFS and Child Protective Services nationwide routinely force parents onto some form of a “safety plan.” If the parents do not comply with every provision of the plan, their children can be taken, taken children can be kept in the system, and parental rights may be terminated.

Yet, in a twist of hypocrisy, the agency itself seems to be able to refuse to comply with the “safety plan” given to it in order to protect the children it is tasked with protecting, and consequences for the agency are rare.



Chicago Psychiatric Hospital Is Under Fire Over Reports Alleging Abuse of Children

Aurora Chicago Lakeshore Hospital is under federal and state investigation over reports that detail sexual assaults and physical abuse of children, including some who were cleared for release but remained hospitalized because child welfare officials couldn't find more appropriate homes.

by [Duaa Eldeib](#)
[ProPublica.org](#)

A Chicago psychiatric hospital that treats hundreds of children in state care is under federal and state investigation over safety concerns and alleged sexual assaults, and it may be forced to close if it can't correct deficiencies.



STUCK KIDS Illinois Children Languish in Psychiatric Hospitals

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services has investigated 16 allegations of abuse and neglect this year at the Aurora Chicago Lakeshore Hospital in the city's Uptown community, including allegations that children were raped and sexually abused by staff and other patients, physically assaulted and inadequately supervised, a ProPublica Illinois investigation found.

Among those reportedly abused or hurt in the incidents were children who were cleared for discharge from the hospital weeks or months earlier. DCFS, however, had failed to find them a place to go — [a persistent issue for the troubled agency that ProPublica Illinois documented this year.](#)

In addition to child welfare investigations, the Illinois Department of Public Health has conducted a series of inspections on behalf of federal authorities since July that found the hospital had failed to ensure the safety of suicidal

patients, obtain consent before giving patients — including children — powerful medications and sufficiently monitor patients.

Federal authorities have said they will cut off funding that is crucial to the hospital's operations by the end of November if officials there do not implement immediate changes, according to federal records and court documents.

Hospital officials declined to answer specific questions from ProPublica Illinois, but the CEO, David Fletcher-Janzen, said in a statement that they have been working with state and federal authorities to fix deficiencies. He said the hospital strives to provide a safe, therapeutic environment for patients.

“Chicago Lakeshore Hospital takes every allegation of impropriety very seriously and files reports immediately. All allegations, regardless of probability, are reported to maintain a high level of caution and transparency,” Fletcher-Janzen said. “Our goal is to improve the lives of these young patients so they can grow to be healthy adults both physically and mentally.”

The hospital has come under fire before. State inspection reports in recent years found that an employee, who was later terminated, repeatedly punched a 26-year-old patient who had hit him; that the hospital failed to ensure a safe setting for a 15-year-old girl who received 18 stitches after cutting herself by breaking off part of a toilet; and that proper precautions were not taken with a patient with a history [of] inappropriate sexual behavior, according to records obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

In 2010, DCFS hired consultants from the University of Illinois at Chicago to conduct a review of Lakeshore and found a host of problems, from patients reporting sexual assaults by peers to “lax or inconsistent supervision by staff.” Lakeshore officials disputed the findings at the time, saying the report was “highly subjective” and contained findings “unsupported by the facts.”

[The Chicago Tribune](#) revealed in 2010 that children at the hospital had been sexually assaulted.

Neil Skene, the special assistant to DCFS Acting Director Beverly “B.J.” Walker, said the agency is focused on making sure children are properly cared for and addressing the issues federal officials have identified.

“We are fulfilling our responsibility to oversee the care of youth who are our responsibility,” he said. “We believe that the current monitoring bodies will let us know if their concerns rise to a level where we need to stop using the hospital.”

Many of the new allegations echo those of the past. In September, a 7-year-old girl was taken to the emergency room at UIC after she reported that a 12-year-old boy pulled down her pants, sexually assaulted her with his finger and “made her bleed,” according to confidential reports obtained by ProPublica Illinois.

While at the emergency room, she also reported that a Lakeshore employee had kissed her on the mouth and sexually assaulted her with his finger, and said she was “afraid to go back” to Lakeshore. A UIC social worker, records show, expressed concerns about delays in

Lakeshore's reporting and seeking medical care for the girl.

That same Lakeshore employee was at the center of another investigation in August. A 12-year-old girl reported that the man had locked her door, grabbed her by the shirt and touched her breasts. When she tried to pull away, she said that he pulled her down onto his lap, squeezed her buttocks and made her sit on his lap and touch his penis.

Both girls are in DCFS care. The agency said it continues to investigate the alleged assaults and the employee is not currently working at the hospital. Chicago police have also opened an investigation.

DCFS found sufficient evidence to support four other complaints this year, including one report in June that an 11-year-old girl sexually acted out toward four girls on her unit, according to agency records.

In yet another case, a 17-year-old boy diagnosed with bipolar disorder was left with a bloody mouth and bruising in April after he said two male employees dragged him to his room, where they pinned him down while holding his arms over the bedrail, according to DCFS records. The boy said one of the workers threatened to break his arm.

He had been admitted to the hospital that day after a suicide attempt, his mother said.

"It's never easy sending your child to the hospital, but the thing that helps you sleep at night is at least you know they're safe," the mother said in an interview. "But he was far from safe. He was hurt and scared."

When she arrived at the hospital to visit her son, she said she was horrified at the sight of blood on his lips and mouth and bruises on his face and arm. She began looking for another hospital to transfer him to immediately.

“I knew I could rescue him from there,” the mother said. “But most of the kids there are wards of the state. There is no one to rescue them.”

Hospital officials did not respond to allegations about individual cases. Fletcher-Janzen said employees who are subjects of allegations are either suspended or moved to a different building while Lakeshore and DCFS investigate.

The child welfare agency continues to send children to the hospital, which serves children and adults in two buildings a few blocks apart. Nearly half of the 16 investigations have not been substantiated, and the other cases reflect individual incidents rather than a systemic problem, Skene said.

“The question for DCFS is whether children are safe there,” Skene said. “Nothing that we are seeing gives us concern for their safety.”

As of late September, after officials with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services notified the hospital it planned to stop making its Medicare payments, 18 children in DCFS care were patients there, including a 4-year-old boy who had been at the hospital for nearly three weeks, according to documents.

At least three of those children had already been cleared for

discharge but DCFS had not found them other placements, records show. [ProPublica Illinois revealed in June](#) that hundreds of children have spent weeks and even months trapped in psychiatric hospitals as the agency searched for residential treatment centers, foster homes and other placements.

DCFS acknowledged the problem and said it was working to find more appropriate homes.

The number of DCFS patients at Lakeshore remained at 18 earlier this month; some children, including the 4-year-old, had been released, but others were admitted as federal and state officials continued their inquiries.

The investigations alarmed Meryl Paniak, DCFS' acting inspector general, who in a confidential memo urged Walker to take action. Paniak wrote that she had "significant concerns for the care and safety of the children" at Lakeshore, according to a copy of the memo obtained by ProPublica Illinois.

Paniak listed steps the agency could take, ranging from immediately planning for alternative placements for the children to sending an official to Lakeshore each day to evaluate the hospital's progress resolving its problems.

DCFS officials complied with nearly all of the recommendations, including the daily inspections and making plans to move children. But they have not agreed to one of Paniak's most sweeping recommendations: bringing in an independent expert to do a comprehensive review of the treatment and mental health services at the hospital.

In an interview, Paniak said an independent voice could

provide expertise and objectivity. She said she was disappointed by the agency's decision not to seek an independent review.

“The question for DCFS is whether children are safe there,” Skene said. “Nothing that we are seeing gives us concern for their safety.”

DCFS relies on Lakeshore to treat children in need of psychiatric hospitalization. Last year, of the approximately 1,100 children and adolescent patients treated at the hospital, 41 percent were in state care, according to court filings from the hospital. The majority of the hospital's revenue comes from Medicaid payments.



Read More: [Hundreds of Illinois Children Language in Psychiatric Hospitals After They're Cleared For Release](#)

The Department of Children and Family Services struggles to find appropriate homes for young people with mental illness

Lakeshore typically sees more children from DCFS than other area hospitals because it accepts children with the “highest needs and most volatile behaviors (that) other hospitals won’t,” Skene said.

The majority of the cases that DCFS substantiated or continues to investigate involve sexual abuse or assault.

A 12-year-old boy reported in January that he was fondled by a 17-year-old. Five other patients reported the teen tried to touch them inappropriately when employees were not looking, records show. The 17-year-old was on probation and was sent to juvenile detention following the incidents, according to DCFS documents.

In that case, DCFS cited hospital staff for inadequate supervision and wrote that it was unclear “where responsible staff were” when the abuse happened and why a 12-year-old was on the same unit with older teens.

Another investigation into allegations of inadequate supervision involved a 16-year-old from Honduras who had come to the U.S. unaccompanied. The girl, who is transgender and in the custody of the federal government, reported she had sex with another patient at the hospital this summer. That investigation is ongoing.

DCFS also is investigating an allegation by an 8-year-old boy who said one of his roommates climbed on top of him and started “to hump” him and another stood next to his bed while masturbating, records show.

One complication in investigating these cases is the lack of video evidence. While the hallways contain cameras, the hospital has not provided footage to DCFS investigators on several occasions when asked for it, ProPublica Illinois found.

Skene said the agency has discussed the issue with the hospital, and the hospital is in the process of replacing its surveillance system. The installation of the new system in the children's building is expected to be completed this week, a hospital representative said.

"It's just an awful lot of very serious red flags in a very short period of time," Charles Golbert, Cook County acting public guardian, said in an interview. He said children would be better served by an independent review of the hospital instead of separate investigations done by state and federal agencies.

He added it's difficult for DCFS to be objective because it depends on Lakeshore to care for so many of its children. Without Lakeshore, he said, the agency has few options for psychiatric treatment.

"That's a conflict of interest," he said.

Last month, Michael Jones, a DCFS senior deputy director, said in court records that "significant challenges and harm" would follow if Lakeshore lost its federal funding and was unable to treat DCFS children, reducing the number of available beds for them by 25 percent. He called the hospital a "community partner and a necessary ally for DCFS and the

children we serve.”

Jones also said the three other hospitals in Chicago that DCFS primarily uses do not always accept children in the agency’s care and may not be geographically convenient for some patients.

But Golbert said there’s another reason other hospitals are reluctant to take some children from DCFS. Those children, he said, sometimes end up staying weeks or months past their release dates because the agency can’t find homes for them. Children who remain locked in psychiatric hospitals for long periods of time may suffer additional emotional harm and sometimes begin mimicking the negative behaviors they are exposed to, including sexual and physical misconduct.

The 12-year-old boy who allegedly sexually assaulted the 7-year-old girl at Lakeshore last month had been admitted to the hospital in June and was cleared for discharge three weeks later. But he remained at the hospital for nearly four more months because DCFS could not find him an appropriate placement.

The alleged assault occurred during that time. The girl he allegedly assaulted was cleared for release at the end of August but did not leave until September, a week after the reported incident.

[Read More: Illinois Lawmakers Search for Solutions for Children Stuck in Psychiatric Hospitals](#)

Witnesses at legislative hearing criticize state child welfare agency, say some teens prefer jail to psychiatric facilities

In addition, one of four girls targeted for sexual acts by an 11-year-old girl in June was cleared for discharge in May. She remained unnecessarily hospitalized for more than three months. And records show the 12-year-old girl who an employee allegedly sexually abused in August had been on a waiting list to go to a residential treatment center for two months.

Lakeshore's most recent regulatory troubles began this summer at its adult building, though documented concerns there go back several years. In the last 12 months, at least two people have filed lawsuits in Cook County Circuit Court against the hospital alleging sexual assaults at the adult building, including a woman who said an employee followed her into a bathroom and raped her. Both lawsuits are pending.

This year alone, state regulators conducted inspections three times at the hospital, in July, August and this month. During the July inspection, public health inspectors faulted the hospital for having doors that posed a suicide risk. They also found that the hospital did not collect samples for a rape kit after a patient alleged she was sexually assaulted, failed to complete required safety checks and did not obtain informed consent from patients before administering psychotropic medications, according to a July 27 report obtained through an open records request.

“IDPH is always concerned about the health and safety of patients and when deficiencies are found, we follow-up to

make sure they are corrected,” department spokeswoman Melaney Arnold said in an email. “In situations where the health and safety of patients are in immediate jeopardy, the hospital is required to eliminate the immediate jeopardy and surveyors stay in the hospital until it does.”

When state inspectors returned the next month, they found the hospital had replaced the doors, but they identified additional suicide risks: 15 phones with long metal cords hanging from walls in hallways and dayrooms.

“This failure potentially put all 54 patients on suicide precautions, at risk for serious harm,” public health investigators wrote in the August report.

About three weeks later, federal authorities issued the notice to terminate Lakeshore’s Medicare participation, effective Sept. 28.

One day before the deadline, Lakeshore attorneys filed an emergency motion in federal court to halt the move. The attorneys said the hospital serves a unique role as one of the largest behavioral health providers in Illinois, treating more than 5,000 patients a year and routinely accepting children in state custody.

The attorneys said the hospital would be forced to close and lay off hundreds of employees if its Medicare and Medicaid payments were ended. Attorneys argued the hospital is doing its best to comply with suicide prevention guidelines that are vague and often change. Safer doors had been on back order when inspectors arrived in July. The day after the inspection, an employee drove to Wyoming to pick up the doors from the

manufacturer. In addition, they said the phone cords were removed while the inspectors were on site.

The hospital already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars before the inspections to remove and replace equipment that posed suicide risks throughout the buildings, according to the hospital's filings.

Hospital officials also took issue with some of the state regulators' other findings, saying many were related to documentation rather than actual patient harm. Still, they submitted a total of three correction plans — the most recent one just days ago — they said would “ensure patients are able to receive care in a safe setting,” according to records.

Federal regulators have twice extended the termination deadline, but a threat still looms. While the hospital addressed many of the violations, more emerged in an October inspection. Patients as young as 14 in the children's building were given powerful psychotropic medications without informed consent, records show.

With Lakeshore still out of compliance, federal authorities have notified hospital officials they are setting a new termination date of Nov. 30. On that date, the government will stop reimbursing the hospital for patients on Medicare. It is unclear if Medicaid payments would be affected. More than 80 percent of the hospital's patients this year were insured through Medicare or Medicaid, according to court records.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, which monitors DCFS as part of a federal consent decree, has requested additional information from the agency about the

conditions at Lakeshore in light of the ongoing investigations.

Claire Stewart, an ACLU attorney, said the group also wants an independent review of the hospital. The organization is considering legal intervention, she added.

“We will do what we need to do to protect the youth in care,” Stewart said. “This is an immediate safety concern and priority.”

For more, read this follow-up article:

[Lawmakers Call for Independent Inquiry at Psychiatric Hospital After ProPublica Illinois Report on Abuse of Children](#)

Recording Surfaces of Illinois Department of Health Planning to Medically Kidnap Newborns from Parents Who Refuse Vitamin K Shot at Birth

Newborn Vitamin K Injection



by **Brian Shilhavy**
Editor, Health Impact News

Earlier this year (2019) the [Chicago Tribune reported](#) on a federal lawsuit where parents sued several doctors at three hospitals and DCFS for medically kidnapping their newborn infants simply for refusing the Vitamin K shot at birth.

See:

Illinois Parents Sue Doctors, Hospitals, and DCFS for Medical Kidnapping After Refusing Vitamin K Shot at Birth

Megan Fox, [writing for PJ Media](#), has published a recording from an April 12, 2018 meeting of the Perinatal Advisory Committee (PAC) that operates under the Illinois Department of Public Health.

In the recording, health officials that apparently include doctors and possibly nurses who are authorized to give the Vitamin K shot to newborns, discuss how they can work together with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to take custody of newborn babies from parents who refuse the Vitamin K shot at birth.

The members of the Health Department basically conclude that since it is DCFS policy to mandate the Vitamin K shot, that medical professionals have the authority to take custody of the child and administer the Vitamin K shot over the objections of the parents, even without DCFS involvement. Such “custody” can be as little as only “2 minutes,” the time it takes to give the shot.

MAN #3: At what point does protective custody stop?

MULTIPLE VOICES. Right after...

UNDETERMINED WOMAN: It's two minutes or whatever it is.

UNDETERMINED WOMAN: How much beyond?

UNDETERMINED MAN: As soon as you give the injection.

UNDETERMINED WOMAN Continues: Is it two minutes? Is it ten minutes? Do we wait until DCFS says we are coming or we are not coming?

WOMAN #1: They don't have to come. I think protective custody is you just claim that you have done it.

The fact that these medical professionals who are also employed at the taxpayers' expense as members of the Illinois Department of Public Health are mainly concerned with making sure the Vitamin K shot is injected into every newborn child no matter what the consequences might be for removing custody, is obvious from one comment made by one of the PAC committee members:

WOMAN #1: You can take... Protective custody is just the right to do what you think is right for the baby. And, DCFS, if they say, 'yes, that we agree with you, cause this is our rule'. You give the vitamin K and then do any of us really care what happens next?

Apparently not. In fact, the only concern they have about "what happens next" is whether or not they can be sued – not what kind of effects their actions might have on the parents and the newborn baby.

An investigation into what kind of kick-backs these medical professionals might be getting from Merck for meeting quotas of newborn babies injected with the Vitamin K shot is certainly in order, one would think.

Listen to the recording:

<https://youtu.be/ER91ouZ2ZZA>

So basically Illinois Health Department officials decided in a meeting that they had authority to take a child away from the parents, without DCFS involvement, without parental approval, and with no court or judge's order to take custody, and forcibly inject the newborn child with the Vitamin K shot.

According to the [Chicago Tribune's report](#) earlier this year, DCFS has since rescinded their policy on the Vitamin K shot.

The episode was the result of a controversial DCFS policy that classified parents' refusal of their newborn's vitamin K shot as medical neglect, a move that thrust the agency into a contentious debate over the rights of parents to make decisions about their children's care. The policy was rescinded a year ago as agency leaders sought to ensure that DCFS wasn't "overstepping the boundaries" of state law and determined the shots should not be classified as medically necessary.

Vitamin K is available in other forms besides intramuscular injections.

The form that is injected, AquaMEPHYTON®, is produced by Merck, and comes with several warnings, including DEATH, according to the [package insert found on the FDA website](#):

WARNING – INTRAVENOUS AND INTRAMUSCULAR USE

*Severe reactions, **including fatalities**, have occurred during and immediately after INTRAVENOUS injection of AquaMEPHYTON* (Phytonadione), even when precautions have been taken to dilute the AquaMEPHYTON and to avoid rapid infusion. Severe reactions, **including fatalities**, have also been reported following INTRAMUSCULAR administration. Typically these severe reactions have resembled hypersensitivity or anaphylaxis, including shock and cardiac and/or respiratory arrest. Some patients have exhibited these severe reactions on receiving AquaMEPHYTON for the first time. Therefore the*

INTRAVENOUS and INTRAMUSCULAR routes should be restricted to those situations where the subcutaneous route is not feasible and the serious risk involved is considered justified.

If one were to search coroners' reports on causes of death among newborn babies, I wonder if "death by injection of the Vitamin K shot" would ever be listed? Or do these kinds of infant deaths get lumped together with SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)?

All across the U.S. local health departments yield tremendous authority to force medical procedures upon the public outside of the law, as these departments are comprised of unelected political officials with or without appropriate medical training. They are ripe for corruption and for being manipulated by the powerful pharmaceutical industry which spends more money on political lobbying than any other group in the U.S.

Read the full article by [Megan Fox at PJ Media](#).