

Health Impact News

Medical Kidnapping Children in the United States: Alabama

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Alabama



Alabama Seizes 7 Children from Family After Child with Autism Wandered to Neighbors



The Cartee family together at a visit before the baby was born. (Source: [Bring Back Home The 7 Cartee Kids](#) Facebook page)

UPDATE 11/27/2015

Grandparents Come Forward Reporting CPS Kidnappings in Corrupt Alabama - Parents Gagged by Court

UPDATE: 3/5/2015

A gag order has been placed on Tony and Sabrina Cartee.

As reported on the Facebook page that supports the family, [Bring back Home The 7 Cartee Kids](#), the Cartees learned on Tuesday, March 3, that they had a hearing that afternoon at 2 pm. “They received no subpoena, no letter, no notification, nothing concerning this hearing.” Tony had a child support hearing that morning, because parents whose children have been seized by the state often are required to pay child support. The judge told them he would see them at 2:00 that afternoon. This was the first notification that the couple had about the hearing.

A family member contacted *Medical Kidnap* to inform us about the gag order, stating that Sabrina and Tony are not permitted to speak with the press. They are not permitted to use their children’s names publicly, only their initials.

Allegedly, DHR requested that the names of the social worker Alesia McFarlin and Randolph County be removed, but the judge reportedly denied that request. Alesia McFarlin has previously been reported as spanking the Cartees autistic son in front of his mother and teenage sister, as well as making threats to Sabrina to make her life “hell” if she contacted legislators in Montgomery any more.

Grandparents Thomas and Winnie Crumbley report that they have attempted to get their grandchildren until their daughter and son-in-law could get them back. However,

they were denied, based on an allegation that was made when Sabrina was a teenager. Sabrina previously reported that she fell down the bleachers at a football game at the age of 17, and someone made a phone call to DHR accusing her father of beating her. There were never any charges filed, and no one ever went to court over the report. However, the allegation has remained in the state DHR records. Based on this unsubstantiated claim, the grandparents were reportedly blocked from being able to care for their grandchildren.

by Delores Liesner and Terri LaPoint
Health Impact News

An Alabama couple is afraid that they may never get their children back. All 7 of their children were taken by DHR (the state's child protective services) after their not-yet diagnosed child with autism began wandering off. It is called "elopement" in the autism community, and is very common in children diagnosed with autism, happening in [49% of these kids](#), even in the best of homes and the most carefully guarded of situations. It is scary, but experts say that it does not at all reflect poor parenting.

It has now been over a year since Sabrina and Tony Cartee's children were taken, and the state plans to file to terminate their parental rights for all of their kids, including the baby who was born in September, after the other children were taken by DHR. The breastfeeding newborn was seized at only a day and a half old and placed in a foster home with one of her brothers.

Months after being taken from his home, Kyden, now 6, told his mother:

“Mama, I wanta come home. I promise you I won’t run away no more. It’s my fault we’re not home.”

Sabrina says they never told him that, but obviously somebody did.

Wandering, and Suspicion of Autism

Kyden was 5 at the time when he began wandering off from his home in Wedowee, Alabama. His parents were beginning to suspect autism, because some of his behaviors were similar to those of his older brother. Timothy, now 8, had already been diagnosed with the condition. When the first elopement incident occurred in June 2013, Kyden’s mother found him outside by the fence around 7 am.

The Cartee’s took precautions and installed more locks on the doors. Sabrina’s research after Timothy’s diagnosis had led her to put the family on a gluten-free, casein-free diet, and they saw significant improvements with the kids when they were eating this way. On the night before Kyden’s first escape, he had been with his grandpa, who let him eat food containing gluten. Sabrina wondered if that played a part in his getting out.

Then, it happened again. Their little Houdini managed to open all the locks on the door and neighbors found him in the road. Alarmed, Sabrina immediately loaded all of the kids up in the van and took Kyden to the doctor to request an emergency evaluation.



Sabrina and Kyden – the day before he and his siblings were taken by DHR. (Source: Cartee family)

While they waited for paperwork so that the evaluation could be done, they consulted with their doctor, the local school, and online autism groups, looking for suggestions to keep Kyden from eloping. They even checked with the local DHR office, but they allegedly could offer no suggestions, informing them that a doctor's suggestion to place a dresser in front of the door was an unacceptable fire hazard.

They learned that many parents of children with autism find their wandering to be one of the most difficult challenges they face. Sabrina and Tony tried every suggestion they could think of and that they were advised to take, up to and including having one of the teenagers sleep in front of the door.

There was a change in routine when black mold was found in

the home they were renting. While they were searching for another house, the family stayed with some friends in neighboring Clay county. Despite their best efforts, Kyden got out again, this time taking his 2 year old brother with him. It was around 8:30 in the morning on July 15, 2013, not long after Tony had left for work. They managed to wander down the property where neighbors who didn't recognize them called the police. When officers arrived, they brought along DHR.

State Takes Custody of All 7 Children

The social worker informed Sabrina that they were taking the two youngest Cartees into custody. Sabrina called her husband and they met at the Clay county DHR office, while a friend was called to stay with the older kids at the house. During the meeting, the Cartees were asked to sign a service plan. The discussion between husband and wife grew heated, as one wanted to sign the papers in hopes of getting the kids back and the other didn't believe that they should sign. It was a very emotional and stressful time as they faced one of the worst nightmares a parent could face.

Though Sabrina and Tony report that it was just a normal disagreement that any other couple could have in a stressful situation, and there was no hint of violence, a DHR supervisor allegedly called the police and filed a domestic violence charge. Based on that argument, DHR seized the rest of the kids and placed them in foster care.

Since the Cartee kids have been in foster care, Kyden has, in fact, been diagnosed with autism. Sabrina says the social worker said that just about every medication to treat autism has been tried, but nothing seems to be helping. Sabrina firmly believes that getting him back on a gluten and casein-

free diet will help, but that has not been done since he has been in foster care.

DHR Demand? Get Divorced if You Want Your Children Back

Life has been a never-ending ride of trying to jump through hoops and satisfy demands, according to the Cartees. They found a house in Wedowee to move into that does not have mold issues. At that point, their case was transferred from Clay county to Randolph county DHR. They have remodeled and placed a 6-foot high chain link fence around the house, per DHR's request.

A relative moved to Alabama from Georgia and bought a home big enough for all the kids, in the hope that they could stay with them while Sabrina and Tony jumped through all the hoops and requirements, things which allegedly keep changing as time goes on. However, after more than a year, they report that a caseworker has yet to do a home study on them.

Tony and Sabrina were required to take psychological evaluations, as well as attend parenting and domestic violence classes, and participate in counseling. Sabrina tells *Health Impact News* that, last summer, one of the counselors, Carrie Holiday, told her that their caseworker said that she would have to file for a divorce if she had any hope of getting the kids back, and that DHR wanted Tony out of the picture.



Tony and Sabrina Cartee (Source: Cartee family)

Tony reports that the caseworker denied saying these things when he confronted her, but when Sabrina refused to file for divorce, the counselor stopped the sessions. In December the judge reportedly ordered that counseling be resumed; however, the Cartees say that the caseworker never got them set them up again.

Sabrina and Tony resisted the idea of divorce for a long time, but finally decided last month that they would go through with it, if that is what it took to get the children back home.

It was not what they wanted, and there were many tears as Sabrina filed the papers.

Then, at a hearing on February 18, the judge and attorneys told them that they didn't need to get a divorce and it would be better for them to work together. When Sabrina said that they wanted to cancel divorce proceedings, the caseworker allegedly asked Sabrina if she was bi-polar, and said that she needed to do another psych evaluation because she changed her mind about the divorce. (Previous evaluations requested by the court found only that she was mildly depressed, which was not surprising, after what she has experienced in the past year and a half.)

Homeschooled Children Forced into Public School – Breastmilk Refused for Baby

When the Cartee's baby was born in September, Sabrina pumped her breastmilk for her new daughter who had been placed into foster care. She kept pumping and supplying it until Thanksgiving, but later found out that they had allegedly placed baby KayLyn on formula from the beginning. Sabrina reports that the baby developed a severe diaper rash that she kept for almost 2 months.



Timothy holds his baby sister KayLyn for the first time, with Daddy. (Source: Cartee family)

The oldest 2 Cartee kids have been homeschooled since 2008, but they were placed back into public school when they were taken from their home.

Children Suffering in State Custody

Timothy, 8, allegedly kept an ear infection for a number of months before it was treated. It got so bad, according to Sabrina and a family friend, that it stank. He also had a large tick that his mother found during a visit.

Another foster child was allegedly caught fondling the Cartee's youngest son Keenan in the foster home. He and the baby were removed from that home; however, recently they have been returned to the same home. The Cartees have not been able to find out if the offending child is still there or

not.

One of the older children, Leona, had previously been taking allergy medication. After going into state custody, she was subjected to nasal surgery, a surgery that she and her parents did not want. After the procedure which they call “unnecessary,” she is reportedly worse, not better.

Separation From Parents and Siblings is Emotionally Hard

Not only have the kids been separated from their parents, they have also been separated from each other. The 7 kids are in 4 different homes. They miss each other terribly, and they cannot do anything to change their situation.



The 6 older Cartee children at a visit. (Source: [Bring Back Home The 7 Cartee Kids](#) Facebook page)

The children have cried to come home, reporting bad dreams and trouble sleeping. Sabrina writes that Timothy has told her that he “says his prayers asking God to come home and ends up crying himself to sleep.” To which, Sabrina says:

“I just wish there was more I could do, but its in God’s Hands not mine. What can I say to him but I love him always and I want him home too?”

Social Worker Hits Child with Autism

On August 12, 16 year old Leona was visiting with her brothers and mom at the DHR office in Randolph County. She reports that the caseworker, Alesia McFarlin, was “being highly rude towards me and my mama that day.” She describes the events of that day in an email to her child advocate:

“She came in there fussing about a stupid camera say[ing] ‘I hope you know that thing was like \$350’ and i turned around and said ‘well our family was more than that’ and she got mad because I started doing her the way she was doing my mama and she turn around and asked if I needed medication. ... so while mama was giving bye hugs to Keenan Alicia unplugged the camera and popped Kyden about 3 good times and that really made me mad. So we all went to leave and my little brother wanted to give me a hug bye and at first she wouldn’t let him so he jerked away from her and ran to me anyway. She came up to me and jerked him away from me and I walked away mad. and she turned and looked at mama and asked if I needed counseling!!”

Sabrina describes the spanking that the social worker gave her son in front of her as “3 good open handed licks on top part of leg.”

She also explains that Leona is understandably angry because their family has been torn apart. She believes that “she will be fine” when her family “gets put back together.”

Threats from Caseworker

At one point Sabrina says that she contacted officials in Montgomery, Alabama’s capitol. When word got back to Alesia and her supervisor, she reports that the caseworker threatened her:

“If I called anymore, she would make it hell for me to get my kids back, and it would be a hell of a roller coaster ride.”

When Tony reported the above conversation to me, he said that the process of their family dealing with DHR is causing “a lot of pain,” but,

“What can you do? If we go against DHR, they threaten to keep the kids.”

Termination of Parental Rights – Children Told They will be Adopted

These children who were originally taken because a child on the autism spectrum was eloping now face their parents’ parental rights being severed. During a hearing on February

18, Alesia allegedly told the Cartees that they will file in 30 days for a TPR – termination of parental rights. Even the 18 year old will be included, because in Alabama, kids are not legally adults until they are 19.

Someone has apparently been talking to the kids about that possibility. During a phone call with Timothy that same day, as Sabrina was trying desperately to reassure him that they were working hard to get them back home, 8 year old Timothy (child with autism) told her words that “ripped her heart out”:

“Mama, I don’t want to be put up for adoption.”

Sabrina and Tony told us that attorneys and social workers who work in neighboring counties have said that if their case were in another county, their children would have long since been home. Not only are they not home, but they face the possibility of never coming home, and being adopted out to other families, remaining separate from each other as well as their parents.

How to Help



There is a Facebook page set up to support the Cartees as they try to reunite their family at [Bring Back Home The 7 Cartee Kids](#). They believe that families should not be punished when one of their members is autistic, and needs help, because separation from their family causes more harm than good.

Supporters are requesting that calls be made and letters be sent to the governor and legislators, asking for help in reuniting the Cartee family.

The Randolph County DHR can be contacted at (256) 357-3000 and [emailed from here](#).

Governor Robert Bentley's office may be reached at 334-242-7100 or contacted [here](#).

The Cartee's Senator is Gerald Dial. He may be reached at 334-242-7874 and contacted [here](#).

Representative Bob Fincher is their Congressman, and may be reached at 334-242-7600 and contacted [here](#).

Alabama Autistic Boys Kidnapped from Native American Ambassador Mother and Abused in Foster Care



Dawn Cullins with her boys Arnold and Alan at a visit.
Source: [Bring Dawn Adaleha Cullins' Children Home](#)
Facebook page.

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

Just three hours after a Native American mother got home from the hospital after a suspected heart attack, Child Protective Services (known in Alabama as DHR, Department of Human Resources) showed up on her doorstep and took away her two autistic sons. Now, Alan “Mighty Thinker,” age 13, and Arnold “Swift Eagle,” age 10, are living in a foster home in Mobile, almost 250 miles away from their Sylacauga home, and their mother says that they are being abused in foster care and that their culture is being trampled by the social workers and foster parents.

Dawn “Adaleha” (“my sunshine” in Cherokee) Cullins was appointed as the Alabama Ambassador for the Sokoki tribe, and in 2003, was recognized for “acts of compassion and kindness” and awarded the [Civic Recognition Award](#) in her community. She holds a degree in Paralegal studies and is very active in tribal activities. Her record is squeaky clean, without so much as a traffic ticket.

“Genocidal Kidnapping”

None of this was enough to stop DHR from turning her family’s lives upside down for reasons that Dawn says are erroneous and an “abuse of discretion,” charges that she alleges in a brief that she filed this week in federal court. Like Michelle Rider of Missouri, whose son was taken by Lurie Children’s Hospital and Illinois DCFS (story [here](#)), Dawn also charges that ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) laws have been ignored.

Health Impact News has previously reported that Native American children are taken by CPS at a higher rate than other children in many states. ICWA of 1978 was an attempt to reverse this disturbing trend, yet many jurisdictions are

not in compliance with the provisions of the Act, aimed at preserving Native American families and their culture.

Native American Children in Maine Five Times as Likely to be Placed in Foster Care as non-Native Children

South Dakota Commits Shocking Genocide Against Native Americans by Abducting Their Children

Dawn and her sons are card-carrying members of the Sokoki tribe, and are part of the Wolf clan. They speak not only English, but also Cherokee and Lakota. Their Native American heritage is very important to the family, as is their Christian faith. However, like many of their ancestors, Dawn says that their culture is being taken from her children since they have been in state custody. She calls it “genocidal kidnapping,” and reports that, when she told DHR that they were Native American, the social workers told her that she would never get her kids back.

Alan’s Problems Began After Measles Vaccine

Alan was a healthy baby boy who was developing normally until his MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) shot at just after 18 months. Dawn reports that he developed a very high fever that he kept for a week. She believed that the vaccine was responsible, but she says that the doctors didn’t want to make that connection, recommending alternating Tylenol and Motrin. Studies have linked Tylenol (acetaminophen) to autism when given to children after certain vaccines. (See: [Study: Evidence that Acetaminophen, Especially in](#)

Conjunction with Vaccines, is a Major Cause of Autism and Asthma.)

They would not admit him to the hospital, and he was never the same after that.

“I watched him shrink into a shell.” But “No matter what anyone says, I love my children just the way they are!”



Alan “Mighty Thinker” at the last visitation. Source: [Bring Dawn Adaleha Cullins’ Children Home](#) Facebook page.

Very Difficult Birth with Arnold

Arnold's issues began with his difficult birth at Coosa Valley Hospital, where the baby weighing almost 11 lbs was born hypoxic, after 28 attempts with a vacuum extractor (a maximum of 3 attempts is recommended by the [American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.](#)) His arm was broken in three places, because he presented with an arm in front of his head.



Arnold “Swift Eagle” at recent visitation. Source: [Bring Dawn Adaleha Cullins’ Children Home](#) Facebook page.

The boys have always been close, bonding even before Arnold was born. Alan used to hug his little brother while he

was still in the womb. Both boys are autistic and have developmental delays, but his grandmother told *Health Impact News* that they are really sweet and really smart.

“They say autistic children are really smart, and I believe it. They always love their mom.”

Autistic Child Elopes, Opening the Door for DHR Involvement

DHR first became involved with Dawn and her boys when Arnold was 6, and he eloped from his house. Eloping, or wandering away, is reported as one of the most difficult problems for parents of autistic children to deal with. Dawn was in the bathroom when Arnold found a way to unlock the front door and run down the street. When she found him, DHR had already been called to investigate.

At that time a social worker was assigned to visit Dawn’s home 3 and 4 times a week to check on the children, and make sure that the house was clean. There were allegedly never any problems found, and Arnold did not elope again from his home. (Since that time, he has eloped once from the foster home, breaking a window in order to escape.)

Health Impact News reported about another Alabama family earlier this year whose children were taken by DHR after an autistic child eloped.

Alabama Seizes 7 Children from Family After Child with Autism Wandered to Neighbors

Mom Goes to Hospital; DHR Appears 3 Hours After Her Return Home

One year to the day since that first encounter, Dawn reports that DHR came back to her house. Just before that, Dawn thought she was having a heart attack, and was admitted to the hospital for several days. Her mother, Sybol Castleberry, reports that Dawn's ex-husband demanded that she pay him \$500 to watch his children while Dawn went to the hospital. When Dawn got home on Sunday, August 5, 2012, she immediately began cooking dinner for the boys, then fed and bathed them.

She had barely been home for 3 hours when social workers and police came knocking on her back door, without warning. They said they had a call of neglect and needed to see the children. They didn't have a search warrant, but insisted on coming in anyway, Dawn reports, in violation of her 4th Amendment rights.

"They could see that the children were fine, not neglected nor abused."

They took the children and put them in the back of a police car, and ordered their mother to collect their belongings. She tearfully asked why, but reports that neither the social worker, Meighan Hallmark, nor the officers responded.

In court the next morning, DHR cited charges of a messy house and dirty children.



Alan and Arnold in the back of a police car just before being taken away. Source: Cullins family.

Less than three weeks later, on August 23, 2012, the boys were transferred to a licensed, therapeutic foster home in Mobile, Alabama – a drive which takes Dawn 6 to 7 hours. When Dawn asked why so far away, she was told that it was because that was where the therapeutic foster home was. The foster mother later told her that she had no experience with autistic children. Dawn says she was the one who gave her a great deal of information about how to care for children with autism.

Forcibly Drugged and Hungry in Foster Care

Dawn is only rarely permitted visitation, and recently went for 5 months without being allowed to see them. The mother alleges that her boys are now living in the basement of the foster home, and that their Native American culture is being sacrificed. The foster parents are Black Muslims. Ms. Cullins fears for her boys, because she says that they are being abused and drugged.

Both boys have lost weight since being taken in 2012. Arnold weighed about 80 lbs when he was taken and now weighs about 60 lbs. His older brother has lost much more weight than that. She does not believe that they are being fed adequately. At one time, the foster mother told her that Alan was only eating 2 navel oranges a day. Dawn promptly went out and bought food that she knows her son likes.

During one visit, Dawn reports that she saw the foster mother pouring “at least 6” different medications in the boys’ apple juice. When she asked what her boys were being given, the foster mother told her that she had been instructed not to tell her what medications the boys were on. Dawn says her sons were asleep within 30 minutes of being given the cocktail, and she reports that they often appear disoriented and drugged when she sees them.



The boys at a table in the basement of the foster home. This is where they eat. Source: [Bring Dawn Adaleha Cullins' Children Home](#) Facebook page.

Social Worker Forbids Native American Speech

During another visit, the boys began dancing around in a circle singing in Cherokee and Lakota. Dawn says that the social worker, Tiffany Twyman, told them that they were forbidden to use “those words.”

“They are nasty words. They are vulgar and vile.”

However, neither the Cherokee nor the Lakota language contains any curse words.

Beaten for Saying the Name of Jesus

On one occasion, Dawn was on the phone with Alan, the older of the two boys. He began singing a chorus he remembered from church.

“Oh my Jesus. Oh my Jesus. Hallelujah.”

Dawn was horrified when the foster mother grabbed the phone away from Alan and threw it down, apparently thinking that she had hung up. But Dawn heard everything. She describes hearing at least 7 whacks, which “sounded like a gun shooting off. I don’t know what it was she used.”

She heard Alan screaming,

“Please stop. I won’t do it again.”

Arnold picked up the phone and whispered to Dawn,

“Alan did bad. He said, ‘Jesus.’ We can’t say that.”

Dawn heard Alan throwing up in the background, and also heard the foster mother tell him that she was going to beat his behind for that. At that point, she grabbed the phone from Arnold and hung up.

Never Spanked at Home, Only in Foster Care

Dawn says that, in her care, the boys were never spanked, even once. She disciplined using time-outs, taking away toys or privileges, or talking. However, during one visit, she says that Arnold posed for her to show her how they are required to stand when they are being whipped by the foster mother. Sometimes the boys have shown up to visits with “bruises from belt buckle marks, dilated eyes, bumps and knots on the forehead.” But she says that the judge in her case refused to view the photographs, terming them “hearsay.”

Not Allowed to Say “I Love You”

When her sons lived with her, Dawn says that their school teachers always spoke of how inquisitive, bright, and happy her children were. Now, they have regressed developmentally, and she asks, “Where have their smiles gone?”

During one visit, Alan whispered into his mother’s ear,

“They’re watching us. They’ve got cameras. We can’t tell you we love you.”



Dawn and her boys have to be careful at visits. Source: [Bring Dawn Adaleha Cullins' Children Home](#) Facebook page.

Discriminatory Requests from DHR about Housing

Dawn reports that she has complied with everything that the social workers have told her to do in order to get her boys back, but still they are not home. At the time that her children were taken, she was living in a rental house, because there had been a fire in the home that she owned. After insurance covered the repairs, she says that DHR would not approve the home that she loved, instead telling her that she needed to let her house go into foreclosure and move into a particular set of projects. Then she would be able to get the boys back, they allegedly told her.

“So I let it go [my home]. My kids are worth more than a building.”

(Note: Dawn is not the first to report such behavior by CPS. There have been several families that have shared similar stories with Health Impact News, of CPS telling them to move into the projects or dangerous neighborhoods in order to get their children.)

In a recent conversation with a police officer over concerns about the dangers of the community, including shootings and drug deals, she was alarmed when he told her that DHR had to have placed her at the projects “on purpose” so that she would get hurt. She says that he has directed her to resources to help her get out of the high crime neighborhood and into a safer environment.

The Rest of the Story

Dawn was deeply in love with her first husband, but she lost him to a heart attack. She became acquainted with her boys’ father when he began writing her letters while he was incarcerated. Dawn and he had mutual acquaintances from high school, and he began pursuing her from prison. Dawn says that she had mercy on him because friends, and even his mother, were telling her that he was innocent of the charges that sent him to jail. She believed him then, but has since regretted that decision to trust him.

He allegedly played on her sweet and compassionate nature, as well as her low self-esteem, and convinced her that he was a devoted Christian – a religion that she says he lost the moment he walked out of jail. But it was too late. She had committed herself to him in marriage, and she was determined to make the best of it. The two boys were a product of that relationship. However, she found that he was abusive to her. She says that she finally found the courage to call the police on June 24, 2011, and escape the abuse.

She wonders if he was the person behind the call that was made to DHR, but she may never know the truth. He has accused Dawn of somehow causing the boys' autism.

What's Next

All Dawn Cullins wants now is to get her boys back. Her last court date was in March, where she filed an appeal for a Trial de Novo – “new trial.” Her request has been granted. She has filed in federal court and asked for a trial by jury. Losing is not an option for her. She says she was told by her court appointed attorney (who is no longer working on her case) that she should give up.

“I can’t. My babies are my life. I don’t intend to lose. I plan to get my kids back.”

Dawn Cullins is described by her friends as sweet, polite, and generous. But underneath that Southern hospitality, a fire of determination burns to fight with everything within her to get her children back and protect them.

How You Can Help

Dawn has stated that her legislators have not listened to her before now, but she hopes that concerned citizens will make phone calls on their behalf, and come alongside her to help her fight for her children. Their Native American heritage is being taken away from them, even as they have been taken away from the loving support of their mother. Her heart is broken for her children.

“I know when my babies cry. I can feel it.”

There is a Facebook page set up to support the family called [Bring Dawn Adaleha Cullins' Children Home](#).



Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office may be reached at 334-242-7100 or contacted [here](#).

Dawn Cullins' Senator is Jim McClendon. He may be reached at 334-242-7898 and contacted [here](#).

Representative Ron Johnson is her Congressman, and may be reached at 334-242-7777 and contacted [here](#).

ICWA, the Indian Child Welfare Association, has reportedly not intervened on the behalf of Alan "Mighty Thinker" and Arnold "Swift Eagle," although a number of provisions and laws pertaining to Native Americans have allegedly been broken. They may be reached at 503-222-4044 and contacted [here](#).

Alabama DHR Woman Indicted: Faking Credentials and Collecting \$864K in Medicaid funds for Kidnapping Children



Image from [WAFF](#)

by [Margo Gray](#)

[WAFF](#)

Excerpts:

HUNTSVILLE, AL (WAFF)

A woman accused of faking her credentials to counsel children in custody cases with the Department of Human

Resources has been indicted by a grand jury on charges of deceiving the public.

We first told you about Angel Gieske in February, after a mother contacted us when she lost custody of her children under Gieske's recommendation.

"Almost all my rights have been removed. I see my children every other Sunday for three hours," said Tina Berryman.

The fight over custody played out in a Colbert County courtroom in 2012.

Angel Gieske took the stand as an expert witness in behavioral therapy and analysis.

With a little digging we found out the woman who claimed to be doctor Gieske with a license in counseling was no doctor. Up until last fall, Gieske was an approved Medicaid vendor to work with DHR custody cases in 6 counties.

She collected more than \$864,000 in Medicaid funds, and cashed in the most money and had the most cases in Lauderdale and Colbert Counties.

Sources:

[Woman accused of fake credentials indicted on theft charges](#)

[WAFF 48 Investigates: Controversy over counselor's credentials](#)

Alabama Girl Medically Kidnapped and Forced on Drugs: Parents Facing Jail for Failure to Pay State Child Support



Makayla. Photo courtesy Norris family

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

Laine Norris of Alabama had good reason to refuse permission for her 15 year old daughter to be taken to DeKalb County Mental Health Center and be put on anti-depressants, as demanded by Child Protective Services. Both of Laine's parents had been prescribed anti-depressants by that very facility – her mother at the age of 22, and her father at age 54, one year prior to the social worker's demand. Both of her parents subsequently committed suicide after taking the medications.

Guardianship of her daughter Makayla was seized when Laine told them that she had made an appointment with the family's doctor, instead. She reports that she told the social worker:

I went along with what y'all wanted me to do, but I'm drawing the line [at taking her to Dekalb County Mental Health Center]. I want my daughter back.

Original Report Result of Teenager Upset Over Cell Phone Being Taken

Makayla had been taken from her home the previous week in August of 2014 when she accused her mother of slapping her to a teacher at school. The incident was reported by the teacher but despite Makayla later recanting, the state didn't believe her.

Her mother was told that the removal was temporary, just for Makayla to "cool down." Laine said that the social worker gave her the choice of allowing Makayla to spend the night somewhere "for a night or two," or they would take both Makayla and her younger brother, now 12, and place them

into foster care. Then the reunification process would take at least 6 months. Laine did not believe she had any choice.

Under Alabama law child abuse is defined as “harm or threatened harm to a **child’s** health or welfare which can occur through nonaccidental physical or mental injury; sexual **abuse** or attempted sexual **abuse**; sexual exploitation or attempted sexual exploitation.” (See [here](#).)

According to Laine she never slapped her daughter and Makayla admitted she lied about it. Makayla was upset about losing her phone for misbehaving.



Laine and Makayla in happier times. Photo courtesy Norris family.

Not Notified About Hearing, Excessive Services Demanded

The Department of Human Resources (DHR) oversees child welfare in Alabama. They filed a petition against Laine in

August of 2014, but allegedly never served Laine with it and never notified her of the hearing on it.

The hearing took place on August 28, 2014. Present at the hearing were Patrick L. Tate, attorney for DHR, Tommy French, Guardian Ad Litem, for the minor child, and Ellen Morrow, investigator for DHR. The court “granted protective supervision” over the minor child, and ordered the mother to comply with the services recommended by the department.

Laine was allegedly not present at the hearing and never agreed to their service plan, which contains many demands that she considers unreasonable and intrusive.

She voluntarily obtained parenting classes, counseling, and a psychological evaluation on her own; however, those were not deemed sufficient by DHR, who demanded that she utilize those services with their providers.

Even though Laine has never been accused of, or has any history of drugs, DHR wanted her to participate in a drug testing program that requires participants to call in each day. If they tell the participant that they must come in that day, she would be required to give a urine sample, with someone watching her the whole time. If she were to miss for any reason, she could be charged as guilty and jailed.

Also, included on the service plan that Laine did not sign were allegedly orders to have social workers come into her home, which she owned – debt-free – and teach classes on how to budget, shop, cook, and clean. She was to quit her job and get a different job, as well as get a different home. They reportedly wanted her to have a mental health assessment at the Dekalb County Mental Health Center, and agree to take

any medications they may prescribe.

DHR states the mother is “extremely difficult to communicate with and is uncooperative.” It is important to note that the list of people listed as present at the petition hearing does not include an attorney for the mother, suggesting that she was never served with the petition, because her attorney would have been present.

Custody Given to People Family Believes Are Dangerous

Laine Norris and Joe Cason, engaged to be married, are struggling to pay the child support ordered by the court for Laine’s daughter who is now in the custody of Joe’s estranged sister and brother-in-law, Micky and Jacky Mashburn. The court has given Laine until November 30 to come up with almost \$5,000. If she fails, they will put her in jail.

Recently, the foster mom, Mickey Mashburn, allegedly assaulted Laine’s son Wayne, a 12 year old boy. The assault was videotaped and law enforcement was called. DeKalb County sheriff’s office confirmed that procedurally they make the victim of crimes take the police reports they generate after a call of any incident to the district attorney’s (DA) office themselves and request prosecution. The sheriff told Laine to take it to the DA and try to press charges, but when they tried to show the video to the assistant DA, [Julie McCormick](#), she allegedly refused to watch it. There were no charges brought against Mickey Mashburn for battery assault. The DA’s office was reportedly uncooperative in answering questions from Health Impact News as to what their reason would be for not watching the video.

According to Laine, her daughter was given to Mickey and Jacky Mashburn, because they already had custody of their two biological granddaughters, for whom they are collecting disability, food stamps, and other financial assistance. She had requested that DHR allow Makayla to go to Joe's mother's home instead, but was denied. DHR wanted her to go to the Mashburns instead, because they were already in the system.

Jacky is a former federal prison guard in the state of Alabama. Jacky is named in several lawsuits by prisoners for unfair practices against inmates. (See one case [here](#).)

In December of 2014, DHR won custody of Makayla at a hearing where Laine was not present again. This time she failed to appear because the alternator in her car died and she had no transportation. She called Joe to come back to take her, but by the time he arrived, it was too late. She called her lawyer and was told it was "too late." There were no taxis in Dekalb County, Alabama, in December of 2014. The current taxi company, Wolf's Run Taxi, opened for business in 2015. Today the cost of that taxi ride would be approximately \$40 each way. There were no trains, or buses to get there. Laine requested that the court send someone to get her, but they refused.

Laine says she was never served with the original petition for protection, nor was she informed of the hearing that took place on August 30, 2014, and therefore was denied due process. In her response to the petition, she demanded proof of any wrong doing. No proof of child abuse has ever been given. Her rights have not been terminated; however, the Mashburns refuse to allow her to see her daughter.

Teenager Put on Anti-Depressants, Against Her Mother's Will

According to Laine, without her approval, the state and the Mashburns now have her daughter Makayla on several medications that she did not approve, including anti-depressants. Makayla had never been depressed before and never needed medication for depression before. Laine is fearful for her daughter's safety, due to her family history with anti-depressants, and the fact that the FDA has issued a black-box warning label on anti-depressants for use in adolescents.



Makayla at Noccalula Falls. Photo courtesy Norris family.

An abstract titled “[Future Neurology: Antidepressants and Adolescent Brain Development](#)” published in Medscape 2011, concludes:

Given the malleability of the adolescent brain to environmental stimuli, exposure to psychotropic drugs during this developmental period can have unexpected short-term and enduring neural consequences.

They have also put her daughter on birth control without her mother's consent.

Is Alabama Running a Debtor's Prison in Dekalb County?

Laine Norris is due to go to jail on November 30th, 2015, unless she comes up with almost \$5,000 in child support and interest. This includes a lump sum of "back child support" that was awarded to the Mashburns dating to the date that DHR placed Makayla in their custody. At that time, Laine reports that she was giving the Mashburns money for food and buying clothes for her daughter, outside of the court system.

Laine has only seen her daughter Makayla four times in the last year and a half. She is not allowed any visitation and has essentially lost her parental rights, except for the right to pay child support to the Mashburns. She notes the irony:

He has not paid one penny of child support for his first child, but yet he is suing me and I will go to jail on the 30th for not paying child support.

SPLC lawsuit: Alabama city operating debtors' prison

Debtors' Prisons Are Back. This Is The Fight To Get Rid Of Them.

In January of 2015, Laine filed a “Motion to Set Aside or in the alternative notice of Appeal and Request of Certification of Adequacy of Juvenile Court Record.” This motion declared that she was denied due process, that the court declared that she failed to appear when in fact she was late but was told it was too late, that the court erred in awarding Makayla to a nonparent, and asked for a new trial. Her motion was denied.

Warrant For Joe's Arrest – They Are Terrified

It is Thanksgiving this week, his step-daughter's 17th birthday is today, November 25, 2015, and the county wants him in jail.



Laine and Joe. Photo courtesy Norris family.

On November 10, 2015, DeKalb County Alabama Sheriff's

department issued a warrant for the arrest of Joe Cason, Laine's fiancé, Makayla's step-father-to-be. He is charged with harassment, and his bond is set at \$500. Joe discovered the warrant on the sheriff's website. He has no idea what the charges are for.

The Norris' are worried that if they both go to jail, DHR will take away Laine's younger son Wayne as well. They believe that this action is in retaliation for attempting to have the DA prosecute Mickey Mashburn for battery assault. Joe Cason is planning to turn himself into the sheriff's office this morning, November 25, 2015, Makayla's seventeenth birthday. Due to rumors of corruption and violence in DeKalb County jail, Laine is terrified for Joe's well-being if he goes to jail.

According to Chief Deputy Michael Edmondson, any citizen can go to the county clerk, Pam Simpson, and present evidence requesting an arrest warrant. The clerk is the magistrate and has the power to decide whether or not sufficient evidence exists. The clerk also decides how much a bond should be. This position is an elected position that has a six year term.

Governor Robert Bentley's office may be reached at 334-242-7100, or contacted [here](#).

The family's Senator is Clay Scofield. He may be reached at 334-242-7876, and contacted [here](#).

Representative Becky Nordgren is their Congressman, and may be reached at 334-353-9032, and contacted [here](#).

Also, Congressional members of the Alabama Governor's DHR Task force may be contacted. [ALFRA](#) reports the

following:

From the Alabama Family Rights Association (ALFRA):

***Did you know?** Most citizens in Alabama are unaware of the nine-member task force created to examine the work of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR).*

1. Tasks: 1) look at how DHR functions in every county, 2) analyze ways to improve the delivery of services by DHR, 3) consider whether more transparency is needed in programs, 4) etc...

a. First meeting: October 14, 2015

b. Projected next meeting: last of December, 2015

2. Bentley gave the task force a deadline of Jan. 15, 2016, to report any suggested changes to state law and departmental policies.

If you have issues or concerns about DHR services, consider contacting the following legislators/lawmakers:

- *Mac McCutcheon, State Representative, Task Force chair / 334-242-7705 / 256-655-3764 / email [here](#)*
- *Chris England, State Representative / 334-242-7703 / 205-535-4859 / email [here](#)*
- *Greg Reed, State Senator / 334-242-7894 / email [here](#)*

Committee Members: [Executive Order Number 11](#)

[Announcement: Governor's DHR Task Force to begin meeting Oct.14](#)

Grandparents Come Forward Reporting CPS Kidnappings in Corrupt Alabama - Parents Gagged by Court



The Cartee family together at a visit before the baby was born. (Source: [Bring Back Home The 7 Cartee Kids](#) Facebook page)

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

A gag order was placed on Tony and Sabrina Cartee by a Randolph County judge to prevent them from talking to

media and the public about the medical kidnapping of their children by Child Protective Services. However, Sabrina's parents are not under the gag order, and contacted *Health Impact News* reporting that they can no longer sit back and watch the unjust destruction of their family by Child Protective Services, and one social worker in particular. Tommy and Winnie Crumbley, Sabrina's parents, had a great deal to say about what is happening in the lives of their grandchildren. They are frightened for their well-being and want them to come back home.

As previously reported, the Cartee children were taken by Child Protective Services, known as DHR (Department of Human Resources) in Alabama, when their then 5 year old son began "eloping" – the term used when autistic children wander away from home. One of his older brothers had already been diagnosed as autistic, and the family suspected that he was as well. They just didn't have a diagnosis yet.

When their newest baby was born in September 2014, DHR seized the breastfeeding baby from her mother's arms just 2 days after she was born.

Original story:

[Alabama Seizes 7 Children from Family After Child with Autism Wandered to Neighbors](#)

The violations of the family's moral, legal, and Constitutional rights are numerous and egregious, report the Crumbleys. They say that their grandchildren should never have been taken away from their parents, and they want to see them returned to Sabrina and Tony, "where they belong."

The Cartee's 17 year old daughter has also emailed us, saying:

I want to go home, my parents have not done anything wrong and we don't deserve to be harrassed by Alecia [social worker] anymore!!

Children Were Supposed to Be Returned Home in August

When the children were first taken, Tommy Crumbley reports that Alesia McFarlin, the social worker from Randolph County DHR, told his daughter that if it was left up to Alesia, she would never let the Cartee children come home. She gave no reason why, and the Crumbleys don't understand her apparent hostility toward their family.

The Crumbleys told us that the Randolph County judge ruled in June that all of the children were to be returned home by the time school started in August. At the time, the 7 children were living in 4 separate places, some with relatives and some in foster homes. Even though DHR seized all the children at the same time (except the baby, who wasn't yet born), they wanted to "transition" the children home, a few at a time. Allegedly, the social workers thought it would be "overwhelming" for all of the children to come home at once.



The Cartees' newborn was taken days after birth. She just turned a year old. She has yet to spend a single night at home. Photos courtesy Crumbley family

Th older children started being permitted temporary visits home, followed by occasional overnight visits by the younger children, except the baby. Alesia the social worker reportedly insisted upon the older children being out of the house when the younger ones visited. Mr. Crumbley believes that:

Alesia did not want the siblings seeing each other.

By July 20, all of the children were finally out of foster care and placed with family members. School started on August 10, and the kids were supposed to be home, but that didn't happen. The 2 youngest Cartees were still not home with their family. By this point, the Cartees' oldest child, Michael, had turned 18, and was living on his own.

DHR Takes Children Again

As soon as they were back home, Mr. Crumbley says that Sabrina put the 2 autistic boys, ages 7 and 8, back on a gluten-free and cassein-free diet. They came off of their ADHD medicines as soon as they got out of foster care and into family care, and the boys were adjusting well. However, as soon as school started, the social worker insisted that Sabrina put them back on ADHD medicines, even though dietary changes had made a significant impact. Alecia threatened to get a court order if Sabrina refused, so she felt she had no choice.

On the afternoon of August 24, Alesia called and told the Cartees to bring the children to the DHR office as soon as they got home. Little did they know that this would be the last time they would see the 7 and 8 year old boys.



The 7 and 8 year old Cartees, getting off the bus on the 1st day of school. Photo courtesy Crumbley family.

When they got off the bus that day, Sabrina loaded the kids in the car. She only had 4 of the 7 children with her, and the 8, 12, and 17 year old were very apprehensive, even screaming, and did not want to go to DHR. The Crumbleys said that the 7 year old was oddly excited about going there. They said that he was happy about getting a prize out of the treasure box there. They want to know if he was somehow bribed.

To this day, many in the family suspect that the social worker bribed the 7 year old. She had access to see the children at school, and there was a new allegation. Allegedly,

he had told her about something happening with one of his siblings. This is the justification that DHR used to take the kids back into custody again. That day, they took only the 2 autistic boys, and placed them into foster care.

A few days later, DHR came to the school and took the 12 and 17 year old. The Crumbleys don't know why, but the case with them is now in Cleburne County instead of Randolph County. However, Alesia remains their social worker.

Older Children Forced to Sleep in Social Services Office



12 year old at the most recent visit. Photo courtesy Crumbley family

The Crumbleys found out that that their 12 and 17 year old were not placed immediately with anyone. Instead, they slept that first night in the DHR office. They were also kept out of school for several days.

No one in the family has seen the 7 or 8 year old since the day they were taken, so no one has had the opportunity to question him. No one in the family, including the other children, believes the new allegation. Mr. Crumbley says that since it was Alesia who said that the 7 year old had reported something, “Is it even true that he said it?” Since that time, the Crumbleys have learned that another social worker has determined that there is no merit to the new allegation. So, the question they ask is, why aren’t the children home?

Instead, the plan has changed to put some of the children into permanent placement with relatives, and DHR wants to adopt out others of their grandchildren. Mr. Crumbley told us that he learned that the foster parent who wants to adopt the youngest two children is one of Alesia’s best friends. He doesn’t understand how they can do that.

Distrust of Social Worker

The Crumbleys are very distrustful of the social worker, Alesia McFarlin. Winnie Crumbley reports that, no matter what her daughter Sabrina and her husband Tony do to comply with the DHR demands, it is never enough.

Once she [Sabrina] gets something done, they always come with something else. It’s always Alesia that comes up with something else.

At one point, Tommy heard Alesia state that, if his daughter would divorce Tony, she could get her kids back. Later, during an ISP meeting, she denied making such a statement. When Tommy contradicted her and said, “You did say that,” he says that she kicked him out of the meeting.

Grandma Threatened For Taking Grandson to Dentist

Mrs. Crumbley worries about the lack of health care being provided to her grandchildren under DHR care. The baby has had numerous ear infections. She said that once when she saw the oldest grandson who was 17 at the time, he complained of a tooth that had been hurting him for 3 weeks. Since no one was doing anything about it, she took Michael to the dentist. He needed a filling. She says that, when Alesia found out that she took him for dental care for a hurting tooth, she threatened a lawsuit. Alesia also reportedly threatened jail time for Mrs. Crumbley and Sabrina.

Insistence on Drugging 17 Year Old

The Cartees oldest daughter recently sent an email to *Health Impact News*. She reports that the social worker is trying to put her into a therapeutic foster home, force her to take medications she doesn't want, and get her on disability. [Note: the state receives more money for children who are on disability in foster care.]

she said she is going to put me in a facility even i have somewhere to go. ... i asked how i [could qualify for a therapeutic foster home] and she said "because you lack being able to mind" and mom said she was going to have me and [the 12 year old] tested on her own, and once again Alicia got pissed off. But then we left and on the way back to [the foster home] she said she wanted me back on ADHD medicine and i strait up told her "NO" because that stuff always made me sick...and i said id never take it again....plus she said the only reason she says half the stuff she says to me

is to make me mad. I want to go home, my parents have not did anything wrong and we don't deserve to be harrassed by Alicia anymore!!



17 year old at most recent visit. Photo Courtesy Crumbley family

The Crumbleys report that their older grandchildren have told them numerous times that the social worker makes threats to them when she is in the car with them.

Religious Freedom Threatened

Just before DHR took the children again in August, the family had begun attending a group at a church called [Celebrate](#)

Recovery, a Bible-based program to help people deal with “hurts, hang-ups, and habits.” The group was helping them to deal with all of the trauma that they had experienced from being separated and in foster care. They were just a few weeks short of completing the program. Sabrina has since finished it and received her certificate.

The 2 autistic boys got baptized at the church the day before DHR took them.

The Crumbleys report that Sabrina decided that she wanted to be baptized, and was very much looking forward to the Sunday morning when she was to be baptized. Meanwhile, when DHR took the children in August, the older children were placed temporarily [after sleeping at the DHR office] with a missionary from the same church.

His daughter talked with the DHR supervisor about how to handle seeing the children at church. She was told that she was not to go into a room with them alone, or to hug them. Being in the same building or greeting them in the hall was acceptable.

However, that is not what apparently happened. Alecia reportedly learned that Sabrina was going to be at the same church as the children, and she called the missionary, forbidding them to be in the same place. Sabrina showed up on her daddy’s front porch that Sunday morning, crying, because Alesia wouldn’t let her stay at the church and get baptized, since the kids were there too. She did get baptized at a later date.

Sabrina cannot even ask for prayer online, according to Mr. Crumbley. When Sabrina posted on her Facebook page asking for prayer for court, DHR made a big “stink” about it.

He said that they somehow construed her gag order from discussing court proceedings to say that she can't even ask for friends to pray for her when she has court:

The government ought to stay out of her religious freedom.

Cost to Taxpayers

The Crumbleys expressed concerns over all the unnecessary things that taxpayers are footing the bill for in their grandchildren's case. There have been numerous psychological evaluations, and parenting assessments and classes. The senior citizens believe that there is a better use for taxpayer money than all the services and court hearings with their family, for a case that they say should never have happened.

Lack of Visits

The Cartees have not been allowed any visits with their autistic boys, and are now only given 1 visit per month with the other children. Winnie Crumbley says that this is so hard on the children:

They want to be with their mother.



This little guy just turned 5. He wasn't allowed to celebrate his birthday with his sibling. He only had a late party with his mom and baby sister. Photo courtesy Crumbley family

Father Faces Jail for Being Behind on Child Support

The Cartees are still expected to pay child support to the

state, including for the months that most of the children were home. Tony drives a truck and missed a monthly child support court appearance when he was out on the road. There is now a warrant for his arrest for one month's support, plus a "purge fee," which is more than the child support.

[SPLC lawsuit: Alabama city operating debtors' prison](#)

[Debtors' Prisons Are Back. This Is The Fight To Get Rid Of Them.](#)

Why Isn't This Over? and How You Can Help

All of this allegedly started when an autistic child eloped. Mr. Crumbley expressed great frustration that his daughter asked for help when this happened, but instead of helping the family, DHR has ripped his family apart. The children never should have been removed, in the Crumbleys' opinion, and this should have ended long ago with the children being returned home. He and his wife are asking for the public to step in and help, to call legislators, and to raise their voices to help bring these children back home.

Our forefathers came over here from England to get away from the tyranny of the government. And what is our own government doing to us now? The same thing that we fought to get away from! ... Something's got to give.



Supporters have set up a Facebook page to follow their story and offer support – [Bring Back Home the 7 Cartee Kids](#).



The Randolph County DHR can be contacted at (256) 357-3000 and [emailed from here](#). Ask them to investigate social worker Alesia McFarlin and take her off of this case immediately.

Governor Robert Bentley's office may be reached at 334-242-7100 or contacted [here](#).

The Cartee's Senator is Gerald Dial. He may be reached at 334-242-7874 and contacted [here](#).

Representative Bob Fincher is their Congressman, and may be reached at 334-242-7600 and contacted [here](#).

Also, State legislative members of the Alabama Governor's DHR Task force may be contacted. [ALFRA](#) reports the following:

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chair / 334-242-7705 / 256-655-3764 / email [here](#)

- Chris England, State Representative / 334-242-7703 / 205-535-4859 / email [here](#)
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Committee Members: [Executive Order Number 11](#)

[Announcement: Governor's DHR Task Force to begin meeting Oct.14](#)

Alabama Child Protective Services Steals Newborn Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital



Family embraces newborn – loved no matter how he was conceived. Photo credit: Juda Myers.

UPDATE 8/19/2016

[Alabama 14 Year Old Rape Victim Released from State Custody with her Baby](#)

UPDATE 8/10/2016

[Alabama Child Protective Services Continues to Harass Alabama Family](#)

UPDATE 7/26/2016

[Alabama DHR Continues to Destroy Family of 14 Year Old Rape Victim](#)

UPDATE 7/11/2016

From the [SAVE Braelon's Family](#) Facebook page:

BREAKING NEWS: DHR has been halted from performing the circumcision by the attorney's petition and order of the court!!! Thank you to everyone!!!

Health Impact News received word that the hospital also apparently refused to do the procedure because of all the publicity.

UPDATE 7/10/2016

Newborn Kidnapped Baby of 14 Year Old Alabama Mother to be Force Circumcised Against Wishes of Family

UPDATE 7/6/2016

Is 14 Year Old Mother Being Held Prisoner and Denied Legal Counsel After DHR Kidnapped her Baby?

UPDATE 7/2/2016

Newborn Alabama Baby is Now Sick in the Hospital While Under DHR Care After Being Taken from 14-year Old Mother

From the [SAVE Braelon's Family](#) Facebook page:

BREAKING NEWS: baby Braelon has a high fever and was throwing up and his mother had to BEG the workers at her group home to take the baby to the local hospital first and then he was transferred around midnight last night to Children's Hospital because of the severity. After a spinal tap was done white blood cells are high and Spinal Meningitis is suspected.

The negligence on the part of a group that is supposed to protect children is outrageous! Even though the baby had a dr's appt the day after he was discharged from the hospital it wasn't til TEN DAYS LATER that they took the baby to be checked!!

Please pray for Braelon and his mom. DHR is NOT allowing advocates, any recording devices video or pictures. They do

NOT want this to be shared with the world. PLEASE SHARE!!!

[Read more.](#)

UPDATE 6/29/2016

[Alabama Judge Threatens Health Impact News Reporter](#)

UPDATE 6/26/2016

[Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at Hospital](#)

UPDATE-2 6/24/2016

[Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping](#)

UPDATE 6/24/2016

[Alabama Court Seeks To Suppress 1st Amendment Rights](#)

Judge Corey Moore is reportedly hearing the DHR juvenile court case of the newborn baby seized from the 14 year old rape victim mother today in Alabama. The court has reportedly ordered that no cell phones are allowed in the proceedings of this case today. Reports also say that the court has ordered the grandparents to remove all

information about this case from the Internet or face jail.

Health Impact News has received threats like this in the past from Family Court judges, and of course will NOT comply but stand on our 1st Amendment rights. This story has been read by over 1 million people across the U.S., and it will not be taken down.

We will provide updates of today's court hearing as details become available.

UPDATE 6/18/2016

[Accused Man Arrested in Alabama Rape Mother Story – Allowed to Enter Hospital Room to See Baby Before His Arrest](#)

UPDATE 6/16/2016

Since this story was published, it has now gone viral on social media, and is expected to be read by more than 1 million people in the next day or so.

Many people have asked questions that we want to address in this update. First, a common comment is “there must be more to the story.” Yes, in all of these medical kidnapping stories, there is always “more.” But what we strive to do at Health Impact News is stick to the facts. The facts in this particular story are based on eye-witness accounts who were present at the hospital on the day this event occurred. DHR, as well as all “Child Protective Services” around the country, refuses to comment on these cases. So anything other than what we have reported here is speculation.

Many have asked why the local media will not report on this

story. That is a great question. The answer is pure speculation. Are there financial connections, for example, between the media and the hospital in this story, or other local connections applying pressure to not report on this story? We don't know. Local media is reportedly telling readers that there is "more to the story" and that it is not worth reporting. Really?? If you work for one of the local mainstream media outlets in the Birmingham Alabama area, and want to "blow the whistle" on why this story is being censored, [please contact us](#). We will keep your identity confidential, if that is requested.

Here are the facts we know. The accused rapist is NOT a family member, as some are suggesting. A DHR social worker told the family that they are investigating several other reports of the 19 year old alleged rapist raping other underage girls.

The grandparents have been approved by DHR to care for their grandchildren, and if their home was unsafe, why have the other grandchildren been allowed to remain in the home until now?

The 14 year old mother and her twin brother have now been seized by DHR. A tearful Dee Prince called at about 6 pm on Thursday to report that DHR and the police were on their way to take the twins. She had no idea why. When they arrived, the family asked for a court order or warrant. There was none. It was reportedly a "DHR order." Could this be retaliation for the story going viral and putting pressure on DHR?

The young post-partum mother was permitted to pack a few things, but her twin brother was not permitted to pack anything at all. They were both quite upset and didn't want to leave their family.

A police officer present at the scene reportedly told the boy that, if he didn't get in the car, he would taze him. The boy was not even privy to the reason he was being taken, much less was he a criminal, yet this Alabaster police officer was willing to risk the child's life in order to place him in "child protective" custody. (See link to taser dangers [here](#).) He left in just his shorts and a T-shirt.

Though the DHR social worker promised that the twins would not be separated, they were taken away in different vehicles.

Mrs. Prince asked for the social worker's name, but she refused to give her full name. She told her:

You'll find out all you need to know in court tomorrow.

An observer on the scene was able to locate the worker on Facebook and identify her as Adrianna Carter.

Just as before, the social worker had insisted that she speak to the minors alone, without their guardians present.

Later in the evening, the family got news of the single bright spot in their whole nightmare of the past 2 days – the young mother was reunited with her baby, and was able to breastfeed him. However, she will not be able to attend either of her own hearings tomorrow – neither the one for her newborn son at 1 pm, nor the one for her and her twin brother at 9 am. The twins were, indeed, separated.

A Facebook page has been set up to support the family, called [SAVE Braelon's Family](#).



Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital

by Terri LaPoint
Health Impact News

Juda Myers of [Choices4Life](#) calls her a “Hero Mom.” A 14 year old Alabama girl became pregnant from a rape, but she courageously chose life for the baby that was conceived. She refused to consider the option of abortion, and told her grandparents, who are her legal guardians, that if they would help her, she would raise and love this baby.

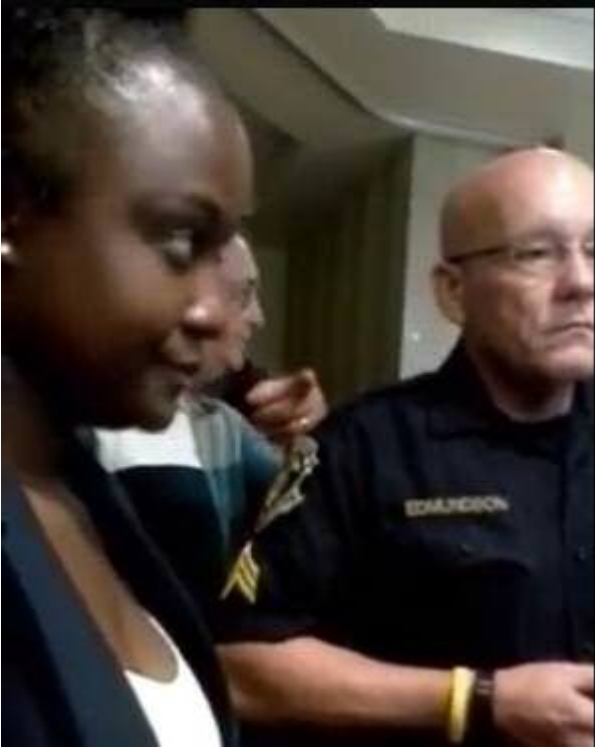
Instead of celebrating her as a hero, Alabama child protective services – DHR – came into the hospital yesterday and seized her newborn baby, leaving a devastated young mother and her family in their wake.

Juda Myers and I were there to witness the trampling of every Constitutional and moral right of this young mother,

and we are shocked and devastated at what we saw. There is no legal or moral justification for what we saw happen at Shelby Baptist Medical Center in Alabaster, Alabama, on Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

[Choices4Life](#) founder Juda Myers flew to Alabama from Texas on Monday in order to be supportive of this young mother who chose life for her baby conceived in rape. The tagline for the ministry is “Restoring honor and dignity to women and children of rape conception.” Juda says:

This 14 year old’s dignity was stolen. Cases like hers are exactly why Choices4Life exists.



DHR supervisor Ahzshaka Evans with Officer Edmunson.
Photo by Health Impact News.

There was no court order, no warrant, and no sign of imminent (or any other) danger, yet hospital social worker Jamilia literally ripped 51 hour-old Braelon from his mother's arms right after he finished breastfeeding, under the direction of DHR supervisor Ahzshaka Evans, with the approval of 3 Alabaster police officers, led by shift supervisor Officer Edmunson, Detective Raugh, 2 security personnel, and hospital Director of Risk Management/Compliance Ashley Cole-Tyson.

By all accounts of the nursing and medical staff, the young mother was doing an amazing job of mothering her baby son Braelon. She loves and adores her baby. Even though he was conceived in rape, it is clear that this is HER baby.



Mother and baby – obviously in love. Photo credit: Juda Myers

He was born on Monday with a labor doula and his grandmother by his mother's side. There were candles and soft music. She gave birth naturally, with no epidural or drugs that could possibly cause harm to the baby. She rejected circumcision when she learned that there were risks for her newborn for the cosmetic procedure. She chose to breastfeed, and by his second day of life, she was already very comfortable with her role as a breastfeeding mom. Everyone, staff and visitor alike, remarked at what a pro she already was. Her milk was already coming in by Wednesday afternoon.

Just Following "Protocol"

We were told by Jamilia, the hospital social worker, that DHR was notified after the baby's birth. When grandmother Dee Prince asked why they were called, she was told that this was "protocol." Months ago, when the mother reported the rape to the police, the police notified DHR, citing policy, because the rape victim was a minor. Jamilia assured us that this was different than the part of DHR that takes children away from parents, and that this was just a procedural thing that they had to be notified of the birth, and that after the DHR social worker stopped by to visit, the family could go home.

The mother had a place all set up at the home she lives in with her custodial grandparents, complete with bassinet and all the necessary things for her baby. But her baby hasn't seen any of it. The family wonders if he ever will.

All day on Wednesday, we were told by nurses, the nurse-practitioner, and the hospital social worker that mom and baby could go home as soon as the visit from the social worker happened. They thought they would go home by lunchtime. Juda got her flight booked to return to her home

in Texas for that evening. We all thought we were just waiting for the formality, because that is what we were repeatedly told.

Mom and baby were completely healthy, with no medical issues. The nurse-practitioner said that the baby's bilirubin level was 8, which is not concerning, but should be rechecked in a day or two in case it increased any more. Grandmother Dee made an appointment with the pediatrician for the follow-up visit. All was well.

Why Can't They Go Home?

By late afternoon, the family was becoming concerned, and they became worried that maybe they weren't going to let them go home after all. The young mother's grandfather, a retired police officer with 35 years of experience, asked the staff if they could go on and go home.

The more concerned the family became, the more testy the staff became. The family was told that they could NOT leave the hospital without being released, which would not happen until DHR got there and gave permission for them to be released.



Mother worried about the fate of her baby. Photo credit: Juda Myers.

Hospital Holds Family Hostage

Many have asked why they, or other families in similar situations, don't just walk out and go home.

They cannot.

Because of the widely-publicized cases of criminals coming into hospitals and kidnapping babies, every baby in virtually every hospital in America gets an ankle band alarm placed on them immediately after birth. The protocol that was put in place to protect families from illegal kidnappers is the very protocol which facilitates the legal kidnapping of babies from hospitals.

In effect, every birthing mother and their newborn become hostages in every hospital because of this protocol.

Webster defines “hostage” as:

a person held by one party in a conflict as a pledge pending the fulfillment of an agreement; a person taken by force to secure the taker’s demands; or one that is involuntarily controlled by an outside influence

So the family waited. When Shannon, the DHR social worker finally came, she was very friendly and checked the baby and spoke with all of us. She said that they had no intention of taking the baby from his mother, but she needed to talk with the mother alone.

The mother didn’t want to and asked for one of her grandparents to accompany her. She is only 14, and as a minor, she has the right to have a parent or guardian present when being questioned, but Shannon said that she could not have them present.

She told her that if she refused, she would just get a court order.

This was quite puzzling, and the Princes asked why. No

reason was given.

Finally, the mother relented and said, “Fine.” She would go with Shannon alone if that meant she could finally go home.

The family tried, unsuccessfully, all day to reach their attorney.

When the mother came back to the room, she reported that Shannon just asked her simple questions about how the birth went and such – no big deal.

We all expected to be able to leave at that point. The family got most of their belongings loaded up into the car. But the hospital staff said that the DHR supervisor, Ahzshaka Evans, was on the way.

“We’re Taking the Baby”

That was when it got ugly. Despite numerous attempts by the family to learn what DHR’s concerns were, all they were told was “policy” and “protocol” and that things needed to be “assessed.” We asked for a copy of the protocols to which they referred, but none was given or cited.

No reason was ever given for what happened after that. The family was accused of being non-compliant, simply because they wanted answers – answers which remained elusive. They were compliant with everything that was asked. When the Princes simply wanted to know why they couldn’t go home, Evans called law enforcement.

Tammi Stefano of the National Safe Child organization became involved by speaker phone, but Evans refused to speak with her. She later cited to law enforcement what

Alabama laws they were breaking, and there were plenty. Stefano, who remained on the phone for a couple of hours trying to talk with the social workers and police officers, stated:

The social worker and the supervising social worker have refused to provide the reason for their visit to this family. The family has asked multiple times the bases for their visit what allegations were on a referral and yet the social workers are considering this question to be uncooperative on the part of the grandparents. Actually, this question prompted the social workers to take a stand to threaten the grandparents that if they did not answer all questions that a court order would be procured and the child would be removed.

I find this incredulous because the social workers had already made a determination on several occasions with this particular family that they were in fact safe, that their home was safe, their living environment was safe, and have approved these grandparents to care for these children. Furthermore, the court has found these parents are grandparents to be safe caretakers. In fact, grandfather is a retired police officer. If the social workers feel there is danger that rises to be considered imminent danger to justify the seizure of this infant, a court order is necessary. They have no authority or training to legally seize this child without a court order.

I would ask that the police, although they were called by DHS, actually assist the family, the grandparents and the mother of this child, in being able to leave this hospital peacefully. Any other action by the police department would be in violation of the constitutional rights of these people's rights that law enforcement themselves under the Constitution are trained to follow.

A nurse came into the mother's room and said that she had to take the baby to the nursery "to check vital signs" and to remove the alarm band. The mother told her that she could do that in the room. We witnessed the nurse throw up her hands and walk out.



Alabaster Police Officer Edmunson in the hospital room with other police. Photo by Health Impact News.

[Alabaster Police](#) Officer Edmunson later told us that he had told the nurse to do that "so that we could avoid this" – this being the emotional confrontation that happened shortly after when he and 2 other police officers, DHR supervisor Evans, 2 security guards, and several hospital staff, including

hospital Risk Management director Ashley Cole-Tyson, all came into the hospital room stating that they were taking the baby.

We were floored.

WHY???

There was no reason given while we were in the room. There was no history of drug or alcohol abuse by the mother whose only “crime” was that she was a rape victim. The mother’s plans were to go home with her custodial grandparents, who had approval from the state to take care of her and her siblings.

https://youtu.be/HCD_KOtnlo

Ironically, the alleged rapist is still free. He has been identified. DNA has been taken from him, and was taken from the baby on Tuesday. Juda Myers comments:

I see this over and over, where the victim is treated worse than the criminal for loving her rape-conceived baby, because society believes that these children are a reminder of the rape. But one mother said, ‘A man stole my body, and society is trying to steal my baby.’

In this family’s case, the family believes it is opportunistic tyrants who are untouchable behind DHR doors who are trying to steal their baby. They believe the police and the hospitals are playing unquestioningly into this human rights violations.



Devastated young mother turns to her beloved grandfather for comfort. Photo: Health Impact News

When Rodney Prince asked for a court order or warrant, Officer Edmunson told him:

DHR does not need a court order or a warrant to take a child.

However, the 4th Amendment of the United States Constitution states clearly:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation,

and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Does DHR of Shelby County somehow trump the Bill of Rights?

There was clearly no evidence of abuse or neglect, which is required by Alabama state law for seizure of a child. For a law enforcement officer to seize a child from their parents without a warrant, a child must be in “imminent danger,” meaning the child’s life is in danger and there is no time to get a warrant from a judge and conduct a proper investigation. The child was just born, and was in the hospital where he could not leave, so how could that condition possibly be met for a warrant-less seizure?



Dee Prince weeps as the family faces losing Braelon. Photo: Health Impact News

As “non-family members,” Juda Myers and I were escorted off of the hospital property at about 8:15 pm by 5 security guards. I had identified myself to them as a member of the Press, and I was there as a friend of the family and at their invitation, as was Juda Myers.

We waited at a nearby restaurant. The family joined us about 20 or so minutes later, without baby Braelon. The tearful

mother told us that the hospital social worker tore her baby from her arms shortly after we left.

<https://youtu.be/Fv2d6gPZemg>

We asked to see the removal documents. They didn't have any. DHR told them that there were "safety concerns."

DHR didn't offer to place the baby with any other relative or family friend, as is required by federal law. The family has no idea where their newest family member is or who he is with. They told the breastfeeding mother that there will be a Shelter Hearing on Friday at 1pm. The mother is pumping her milk and will not be permitted to visit or breastfeed her baby before then.

How You Can Help

People are invited to rally outside the Shelby County Courthouse at 112 N Main St, Columbiana, AL, on Friday, June 17. The Shelter Hearing is scheduled for 1pm, and supporters are planning to be there by 12:30.

Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Cam Ward is the Senator for their district. He may be reached at 334-242-7873, or contacted [here](#).

Representative April Weaver represents their district. She may be reached at 334-242-7731, or contacted [here](#).

According to the [Alabama Family Rights Association](#), ALFRA:

Alabama has a nine-member task force created to examine the work of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). If you have issues or concerns about DHR services, your best plan of action is to contact the following legislators/lawmakers and committee members:

Mac McCutcheon, State Representative, Task Force chair / 334-242-7705 / 256-655-3764 / email [here](#)

Chris England, State Representative / 334-242-7703 / 205-535-4859 / email [here](#)

Greg Reed, State Senator / 334-242-7894 / email

The complete list of committee Members can be found here: [Executive Order Number 11](#)

Shelby County DHS Director Kim Mashego
http://dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county_results.aspx?id=Shelby

Accused Man Arrested in Alabama Rape Mother Story - Allowed to Enter Hospital Room to See Baby Before His Arrest



[SAVE Braelon's Family](#) Facebook page

UPDATE 7/2/2016

More Charges against Man Arrested for Rape

The man arrested and charged for rape in the case of the 14-year old mother is currently in the Shelby County jail after being arrested on June 29, 2016, on two additional counts of 2nd degree rape. This follows a second arrest on June 25. Bail on each new charge continues the pattern of being set at \$30,000 each. Source: <http://inmatelisting.shelbyal.com/>

Samuel Woods III



Arrested 6/18 - Rape 2nd degree



Arrested 6/25 - Rape 2nd degree

**Arrested 6/29 -
2 charges -
Rape 2nd degree**



Mug shots source: <http://inmatelisting.shelbyal.com/>

[AL.com is reporting](#) that the man has now been accused of rape by 4 different girls.

Accused Man Arrested in Alabama Rape Mother Story – Allowed to Enter Hospital Room to See Baby Before His Arrest

by Terri LaPoint

Health Impact News

The case of the 14 year old rape victim and her baby who was seized by Alabama DHR (Department of Human Resources, responsible for Child Protective Services) earlier this week has been continued by the judge to next week, and the accused rapist has been arrested.

See original story:

Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital

Yesterday, Juda Meyers and I appeared on the National Safe Child Show to update the story:

Video no longer available.

Since Health Impact News originally published this story based on eyewitness accounts and video from [Choices4Life](#) founder Juda Myers, [the story](#) has gone viral with over 1 million views in 24 hours. Rumors and speculation abound, and numerous comments are being made by those claiming to know inside information.

Health Impact News strives for complete accuracy in our reporting, and the delay in updating the information has arisen from our determination to verify information before it is published.

Case Before Judge Continued

After the 14 year old “hero mom” and her twin brother [were seized Thursday night by DHR](#), DHR made the decision that neither they nor the baby would be present at the Shelter Hearings scheduled yesterday (Friday June 17th). The case

was continued to next week reportedly so that the young mother could be in attendance. The family has now obtained legal counsel, and supporters are donating money to help pay for the cost of hiring the attorneys who have been highly recommended.

The hearing began at 9 am. Juda Myers and I were in the hallway at the courthouse with the grandparents and other family members and supporters. We learned that Alabama juvenile hearings are typically closed to the press and to all who are not parties to the case, and this was no exception. Attorneys and case workers were observed going in and out of the courtroom, but the grandparents were not called in until late in the proceedings.

Confidentiality Law Similar to Gag Order

When the Princes came out, they informed us that they were told that they were bound by confidentiality laws in the state of Alabama not to speak about the case to media. Health Impact News has learned that the confidentiality laws apply in juvenile cases in the state, and neither the Princes nor any of the attorneys, case workers, GALs, or the judge are permitted by law to speak about the case, with possible penalties of jail time if they do not comply. Therefore, any rumors of inside information from attorneys should be viewed with suspicion, as their license to practice law is on the line if they were to give such information.

Technically, these confidentiality laws are not “gag orders,” though they do have the same effect. The original intent of the laws were to protect the children involved, but as Health Impact News has said in the past, they sometimes serve to shroud corruption in a veil of secrecy. This does not appear to be the case in this particular instance at this time.

“DHR Pickup Order”

Up until the point where the Princes went into the courtroom, they still had not been told the basis of the children’s removal (the 14 year old mother and her twin brother), other than the nebulous, unspecified “safety concerns” that we had all been told.

There was still no court order, and no warrant; there was only the statement by DHR supervisor Ahzshaka Evans and Alabaster police officer Edmunson that there was a “DHR pickup order,” which was never shown or given to the family.

We question how a pickup order by the agency meets the criteria that is set up in the 4th Amendment of the Constitution:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

It is my observation that the family was never given any paperwork during this entire incident over the past few days, until they were given papers after the conclusion of the hearing yesterday just before noon.

The other Shelter Hearing that was scheduled for 1 pm was rolled into the 9 am hearing.

Mother Is Reportedly Safe and With Her Baby

The hero mother was reunited with her baby Thursday evening, after about a 24-hour separation, during which time the infant was given formula and his mother pumped her milk.

This kind of separation often causes havoc with a breastfeeding relationship and can cause emotional trauma to both mother and baby. Babies can become nipple-confused, and some babies never figure out again how to breastfeed. Bottle feeding becomes easier to the baby.

However, Health Impact News has learned that the baby is again nursing well, after a long and difficult night. This does not surprise this writer, who has observed the determination and confidence of this mother to breastfeed her baby.

It has been reported that the 14 year old mother has complained that she is in a nasty, mold and bug filled environment in her new foster care setting.

Juda Myers and I had the opportunity to visit and tour the family home from where the [mother and her twin brother were taken](#), and we found it to be a beautiful, homey, clean home. It felt like “grandma’s house” – warm and inviting, and filled with family photos and trinkets that represent a lifetime of memories. No group home could possibly compare to what the mother left behind.

The young mother’s twin brother is reportedly residing in a different foster home, even though DHR had assured the family that the twins would not be separated.

Alleged Rapist Arrested

Health Impact News has confirmed that the alleged rapist was picked up and arrested on Friday, June 17. Nineteen year old Samuel Woods III was charged with 2nd degree rape. His bond was set at \$30,000, and has been posted as of Saturday.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL inmatelisting.shelbyal.com. The page contains a search interface with a text input field containing 'woods' and a 'Search' button. Below the search field are radio buttons for 'Current Inmates', 'Recent Arrivals', and 'Release in the Last Thirty Days'. A table of inmate records is displayed below the search options. The table has columns for Inmate #, NAME, Booking Date, Release Date, Charge Description/Bond Type & Amount. Two records are visible: one for Woods, Jeffery Gabriel and another for Woods, Samuel III. The record for Samuel III shows a charge of RAPE 2ND and a bond of \$30,000.00.

Inmate #	NAME	Booking Date	Release Date	Charge Description/Bond Type & Amount
303480	WOODS, JEFFERY GABRIEL	06/17/2016	06/19/2016	SPECIALTY COURT SANCTIONED \$00.00 NOBD
303478	WOODS, SAMUEL III	06/17/2016	06/18/2016	RAPE 2ND \$30,000.00 POST

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Record accessed 6/18/2016

The accused rapist came to Shelby Baptist Medical Center on Tuesday, under the direction of DHR and the police in order for investigators to obtain a DNA swab. No explanation has been given why DHR and the police had him go to the hospital where his alleged victim had just given birth, rather than to the police station.

Both the accused and his mother went to the hospital on the day prior, demanding to witness the birth, but the victim and her grandparents refused him access. However, they returned the next day to meet the police, and came up and entered the room where the mother was recovering from birth. It is unclear how hospital security allowed this.

The policy is for the family to have no more than 5 visitors in the room at any time. Each maternity patient has 5 yellow security badges issued for her room, and visitors are required

to obtain one and be buzzed into the locked maternity floor. The posted policy states that visitors are to sign in, but Juda Myers and I noted that we were never asked to do so.

There were already 5 passes issued to us and to family and a family friend, when the accused rapist walked into the hospital room with his mother, accompanied by a cousin of the family. The brief encounter was surreal and the tension in the room was palpable.

Samuel Woods III waltzed in and picked up the baby, while everyone else looked on in confusion and shock. The young mother's eyes grew wide as she backed into the corner as far as she physically could go. She was clearly very uncomfortable and seemed to disconnect.

Juda Myers confronted him boldly after he and his mother acted like this was perfectly normal for them to come in and pick up the baby. After a very strained couple of minutes, he and his mother left.

The next day, a social worker informed us that he was under investigation for at least 2 other rapes of underage girls. We also confirmed that the accused rapist had previously texted the young mother and threatened to kill her if she told anyone about the rape. Juda says that this is a common tactic of rapists, accounting for many rapes not being reported at all, or in other cases, for the rape not being reported unless a pregnancy arises.



Mug shot of accused Samuel Woods III. Source: inmatelisting.shelbyal.com

Rumors of Sex Abuser in the Home Unfounded

Despite rumors and speculation to the contrary, Health Impact News has confirmed that there is not a convicted sex offender living in the home, nor has there ever been. The rumors are patently false. If there had been, DHR would not have allowed the 14 year old twins to live in the home for all the years they have been there.

Threats to Social Workers

It has come to our attention that there may have been threats made against some of the social workers involved in this case. Health Impact News does NOT condone this kind of action. We strongly disagree with such actions.

Supporters Rally at Court House

After the hearing on Friday, a group of about 45 people gathered in front of the Shelby County Courthouse in Columbiana, Alabama, for a rally on behalf of baby Braelon and his mother and family. Juda Myers and I addressed the crowd, and prayer warrior Terry Foote led the group in prayer for the families of our nation who are being victimized by corruption in the Child Protective System.

After the rally, person after person after person came up to Juda and me to thank us, saying, “This happened to me, too.” “They took my children unjustly, too, with no evidence.” People are not happy that their families are being ripped apart, and their Constitutional and parental rights are being violated by an agency with little regard for the law or for what is right.

Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping



Is justice truly being served at this court house in Shelby County, Alabama?

UPDATE 6/29/2016

[Alabama Judge Threatens Health Impact News Reporter](#)

by Brian Shilhavy
Editor, Health Impact News

Last week Health Impact News published the story out of Alabama where DHR (Department of Human Resources) removed a newborn breast-feeding child that was only 2 days old from his 14-year-old mother who is alleged to be a rape victim, and was still in the hospital. The story quickly went viral with over 1 million views in the first 24 hours, and gained national attention.

See our previous coverage of this story:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

[Accused Man Arrested in Alabama Rape Mother Story – Allowed to Enter Hospital Room to See Baby Before His Arrest](#)

Health Impact News had a reporter at the scene, along with other advocates who had shown up to encourage the 14-year-old mother who had chosen to give birth to her baby. They were present at the birth by invitation of the family, which included the 14-year-old mother, and her grandparents. Her grandparents had already been approved by Alabama DHR to take care of the 14-year-old mother, along with her siblings.

However, as we originally reported, DHR social workers, with the help of local law enforcement, forced the young mother to give up her baby, taking the newborn away from her while she was still breastfeeding the child in the hospital. Advocates present in the hospital recorded Officer Edmunson state that the social worker did not need a warrant to remove the child:

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/LqVrmh_3SKQ?feature=share

Constitutional Rights and Due Process of Law Concerns with Alabama DHR

Ironically, another law enforcement officer from Shelby County, Alabama, sheriff deputy Lee Stockman, wrote an article in December of 2015 that seems to contradict Officer Edmunson's claim that social workers can take babies away from their parents with no warrant:

Alabama DHR and Due Process Concerns **(post has since been removed from LinkedIn –** **Find it here)**

Sheriff deputy Lee Stockman starts out his article by commenting on the problem of the high turn-over of child welfare workers in Alabama:

DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner said one factor she hopes the task force will look at is the 20 to 25 percent turnover ratio for child welfare workers. Starting pay for those workers is comparable to that of a prison guard with a GED, she said, while social workers need a college degree to be hired. That kind of turnover results in a lack of institutional memory with a largely young staff. 'We're not the job of choice,' she said.

Officer Stockman goes on to state that DHR social workers face the same type of scenarios law enforcement does when investigating claims of child abuse, and due process of law and Constitutional rights can easily be violated:

The main issue is that the investigative portions of DHR's duties mirror directly the same types of scenarios encountered by law enforcement. One of the main scenarios involves exigent circumstance exceptions to warrant/court order requirements where the DHR is called to act in conjunction with law enforcement agencies. This is one of the many scenarios where additional due process concerns can arise when DHR and other agencies pursue their state sanctioned duties.

Stockman then states that the leading case in Alabama regarding the initial investigation and issues that arise when the parent, guardian, or resident does not cooperate with DHR investigator is *H.R. v. State Department of Human Resources*. This case sets precedent that not only does a social worker need a warrant to remove a child from the parents, but if there is a warrant issued by the court, there must also be valid reasons that meet Constitutional standards to remove that child.

The case and the decision of the Alabama Court, which “reversed and set aside” the order of the Juvenile Court of Houston County to remove children from an Alabama family, [can be read here](#).

*This court is well acquainted with the difficult task of DHR in investigating charges and complaints of child abuse and neglect. However, the case worker cannot be empowered to enter private homes, poor or rich, without reasonable cause to believe that the charged acts are occurring. Such an entry is in pursuit of an investigation *480 which may or probably will result in a criminal charge or in removal of custody of children. We consider that the legislature did not intend to authorize an unconstitutional act in enacting § 26-14-7.*

The order of the Juvenile Court of Houston County is reversed and set aside.

Lawsuit Filed Challenging 1st Amendment Rights

Shortly after the 14-year-old mother had her baby taken away from her, DHR came to her grandparents home where she was living and also removed her and her twin 14-year-old brother from their grandparents home. They are now allegedly separated in foster care. ([Story here.](#))



Members of the media are named in a lawsuit in Alabama for publishing photos like this one. Picture of 2-day-old baby who was removed from his 14-year-old mother. [Story here.](#)

The grandparents of the 14-year-old mother who lost her newborn child last week appeared in court today in Shelby County, Alabama for the DHR juvenile court proceeding regarding their grandchildren. Also appearing were members of the media and witnesses of the event at the hospital.

However, not only did they not get their grandchildren and infant great-grandson returned home, another surprise awaited those who showed up at the court house.

A lawsuit that was filed in the Circuit Court of Shelby County naming various family members and media personnel, including Health Impact News, was presented to many of those who had come to the courthouse. The lawsuit was filed by Erin B. Welborn, listed as the Guardian *ad litem* of the newborn child. They are demanding that we take down our story and stop publishing anything regarding this case.

The Job of the Press is to Publish the Truth and Hold Governments Accountable When the Law is not Upheld



One of the most important legal documents in our nation's history is the first ten amendments to our nation's Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights. These "rights" were adopted during the meeting of the first U.S. Congress

in 1789, and ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures on December 15, 1791. They can be [read here](#).

Here is part of the text of the Preamble, stating the purpose of these “rights”:

***THE** Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.*

Clearly, the Bill of Rights, and other amendments to the U.S. Constitution that followed, were intended to protect citizens of the United States from abuses in government.

The very first of those amendments was the right to freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Hence, Health Impact News will defend the 1st Amendment and our right to publish the truth, exposing government over-reach and abuse.

This will be an on-going story and we will need the public’s support.

How You Can Help

The priority at this point is to reunite this family that has been torn apart.

Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Cam Ward is the Senator for their district. He may be reached at 334-242-7873, or contacted [here](#).

Representative April Weaver represents their district. She may be reached at 334-242-7731, or contacted [here](#).

According to the [Alabama Family Rights Association](#), ALFRA:

Alabama has a nine-member task force created to examine the work of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). If you have issues or concerns about DHR services, your best plan of action is to contact the following legislators/lawmakers and committee members:

Mac McCutcheon, State Representative, Task Force chair / 334-242-7705 / 256-655-3764 / email [here](#)

Chris England, State Representative / 334-242-7703 / 205-535-4859 / email [here](#)

Greg Reed, State Senator / 334-242-7894 / email

The complete list of committee Members can be found here: [Executive Order Number 11](#)

Shelby County DHS Director Kim Mashego http://dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county_results.aspx?id=Shelby

Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at Hospital



Haly and her new baby while she still had custody. Photo used with permission from the family.

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

Last month Shelby County DHR (Department of Human Resources) took a 3 day old breastfeeding baby from her mother at a hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. The baby had been flagged for removal based simply on the fact that DHR already had a case open on 2 other children from the same mother. The young mother is currently appealing their case where her parental rights to her children were terminated.

When people hear these stories, often the first response is, “There has to be more to the story.”

This is the “more to the story,” and what our investigation reveals is there appears to be a definite pattern as to how Alabama DHR seizes children, often right out of the hospital as soon as they are born. Many people from Alabama who have contacted Health Impact News are reporting that Alabama DHR actions often violate federal laws, state laws, and basic civil rights protected under the Constitution of the United States.

The young mother’s name in this story is Haly. She is 20 years old, and she is the older sister of the 14 year old alleged rape victim at the center of the [recent Medical Kidnap story](#) that has captured the heart of many across the nation and beyond. When we first published her sister’s story, it received over 1 million views within the first 24 hours.

Read her sister's story here:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals Newborn Breastfeeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

Haly's Story Delayed from Publication When Her Sister's Baby is Seized at Birth

Health Impact News was already investigating Haly's story and had planned to meet for another interview when her sister, the [14 year old alleged rape victim](#), went into labor on Monday, June 13. Grandmother Dee Prince expressed concern that DHR might try to take the 14 year old's baby as well, since they had recently taken Haly's baby from the hospital.

Because of her family's history of seeing what they believe are unethical tactics by DHR over the years, she was genuinely afraid. Sadly, her fears were confirmed when DHR [removed the 2-day old infant from his 14 year old mother at the hospital](#).

Because this baby was allegedly conceived in rape, our investigative reporter Terri LaPoint phoned Juda Myers for her counsel, since ministry to mothers who conceive babies in rape is Juda's specialty.

Terri expressed her thoughts that, surely, child protective services would not take a baby from a new mother simply because she was young and the baby was allegedly conceived in rape.

Juda informed Terri that she has seen it happen before, and she quickly made plans to fly to Alabama that evening to advocate for the young mother.

Juda and Terri drove to Shelby Baptist Medical Center on Tuesday to meet with the family in support, and they decided to stay with them until they all arrived home safely, which never happened. Some in the public have questioned how Medical Kidnap and Choices4Life “just happened” to be there when this baby was taken.

This is how. Theirs was never intended to be a Medical Kidnap story or a public story, but when it became clear that DHR was intent on taking the baby, many felt the story had to be told.

Long History of Alabama DHR Actions Against the Prince Family

The 14 year old mother and her baby appear to be just the latest victims of a long history of DHR actions against their family, beginning before she and her twin brother were even born.

Their story, and Haly's, began many years ago.

Haly and the teen mom are 2 of 5 children born to a mother who the family reports has had a long and difficult history of what the family says are poor choices which resulted in her own mother (Dee Prince – the grandmother) caring for her children for most of their lives.

DHR became involved at the beginnings of the children's lives. In their grandparents' care, the children reportedly thrived and knew that they were loved, and they had visits with their mother. Dee Prince reported to Health Impact News that her hope has always been that her daughter would change her life and make good choices.

At one point, DHR attempted to terminate the mother's parental rights to her children, but Dee insisted that her daughter's parental rights be maintained, because she says she has always prayed for restoration of her family, and has never given up hope, no matter what her daughter has been through.



Dee and Rodney Prince with 5 of their grandchildren that they have raised, happy together before everything changed. Photo used with permission.

A False Allegation Destroys a Multi-generational Family

In 2009, an allegation was reportedly made that changed everything. For years, the family has believed that the accusation and others which followed came from the children's biological mother, because that is what DHR social workers have allegedly told them.

Now, some in the family are beginning to question the truth of that. Health Impact News notes that it is highly irregular for child protective services to disclose where allegations come from, unless it is a report from a doctor or other mandated reporter, such as a Child Abuse Specialist. Customarily, the source of allegations is never disclosed to the family.

The question arises: Could some social workers have been trying to drive a wedge deeper into the family dynamics by telling the grandparents and the children that their biological mother has been making allegations that she has not?

The biological mother maintains that she did not make the accusations against her family.

In 2008 an allegation was made against Haly's twin brother, Hadyn, (yes, both of these young mothers who had their babies taken away are twins) of sexual misconduct against his siblings, and this allegation led to all 5 of the children being taken from their home by DHR, who was involved in their lives already because of them being taken from their biological mother to be placed in their grandparents' custody.

To read the DHR reports, one could believe that Haydn was a monster capable of all manner of horrors. Word of these reports are possibly what was leaked to people who claim to know “inside information” about the case.

Is there more to the story? According to the family, there absolutely is more to the story.

“He didn’t hurt me. He popped my bra strap!”

When Haydn was 12 years old, he allegedly popped his twin sister’s bra strap. Haly was lying down on her stomach on the floor, while Haydn and his older sister Jonna were sitting on the couch. He reached down and playfully popped his sister’s bra strap, admittedly a very immature move, but nothing that could be defined as “sexual abuse.”

Health Impact News has spoken independently with 4 out of the 5 siblings about the incident. They are indignant about the accusations against their brother, and they insist that all he did was pop a bra strap.

Within days, that minor incident morphed into allegations of sexual misconduct. No one seems to know for certain how this happened, and several of the children still believe that their biological mother was behind this.

She denies this, however. DHR was involved with the family already, and the other children were taken to [Owens House in Columbiana](#), and Haydn was hauled in to the police for questioning. His siblings report that they told workers that he didn’t hurt them, and that their brother was questioned for hours by police while they waited at Owens House.

12 Year Old Interrogated for Nearly 5 Hours Without Legal Representation

Haydn's grandparents requested that they or an attorney be present while he was being questioned, but that request was allegedly denied. Health Impact News witnessed DHR deny the 14 year old mother and alleged rape victim her right to have a family member present when they questioned her at the hospital, despite her request for such, and this appears to be a pattern in Shelby County.

He was still a boy, only 12 years old, without representation, yet police allegedly interrogated him for between 4 and 5 hours. Finally, he reports, he admitted to "whatever they were accusing me of," in the hopes that, if he admitted it, they would stop and leave him alone. He reports that he "had to pee."

There was never any evidence of any crime or sexual misconduct. His alleged victims denied, and deny today, that he did anything to them, beyond popping his twin sister's bra strap. No rape kits were allegedly done. There was only the confession of a 12 year old child who was scared and had allegedly been broken down by relentless questions about all kinds of allegations that seemed crazy to him. It is allegedly the confession of a young boy who had no legal representation and who hoped that they would let him go to the bathroom if he "gave them what they wanted."

He was allegedly taken into custody shortly after, and spent the next 5 years being shuffled from treatment facility to facility – a total of 6 in 5 years time.

He was finally able to return to his grandparents home at the age of 17, where he has lived ever since. He has a juvenile

record from other misdeeds that happened while he was in state custody.

These are things that he freely admits that he did. He was quick to express responsibility for the fact that he got into fights in the juvenile facilities, and that he committed the “crime” of running away several times from facilities where he suffered abuse, and once stole a four-wheeler in the effort to go home. Even today, he is on probation and paying fines for those crimes.

However, the charges of sexual misconduct were dismissed in 2011. One document from 2012 states:

He is not charged with a juvenile criminal sex offense and was therefore not assigned a risk of re-offense level.

Though he certainly struggles with all the trauma that he has experienced since the allegations, Hadyn is likable, intelligent and was quickly able to make up school credit in order to graduate from high school, an accomplishment not afforded to him while he was in the system. He is currently working and is a good employee. Some reports state that he views himself as “a champion for the underdog.” Several counselors over the years have expressed that they were not concerned about his siblings being around him. DHR stated in a document dated in 2013 that, since he was placed back in the custody of his grandparents on 5/23/2013:

Haydn has been able to maintain himself in the home with relatives with minor behavioral issues. Mr. and Mrs. Prince continue to work with Haydn as he transitions and adjust [sic] to being in the home with relatives, and helping [sic]

him understand their rules and expectations.

From this and other reports, it would appear that DHR was not concerned about his presence in the home, since the now 14 year old twins were residing in their grandparents house at that time, up until their seizure by DHR last Thursday evening over “safety concerns.”

Internet reports from those claiming to be “in the know” have asserted that the safety concerns arose from there being a sex offender in the home, allegedly Haydn. Haydn, however, has had all charges of sexual misconduct dismissed, and DHR had approved of him being in his grandparents’s home.

To sum up the “facts”:

- 1) DHR maintained jurisdiction of Haydn for 5 years, which allowed them unfettered access to his every move and,
- 2) DHR was and is well aware that the evidence, aka, the snapping bra strap, allegedly didn’t rise to the level for the state to charge Haydyn and
- 3) before Haydyn was finally able to return home after 5 years, DHR insisted on conducting an extensive evaluation of the home which they concluded posed no potential safety risks.

From Haydn’s alleged coerced confession under duress to crimes he reportedly did not commit, the entire family has suffered from Alabama DHR actions. After reading the history below, as told by the family, one could conclude that these false allegations against Haydyn, and the resulting

actions taken by DHR, destroyed the entire family.

Children Seized and Drugged in DHR Care

Shortly after Haydn's removal from his grandparents' home in 2009, all 4 of his siblings were removed from the home, the home they had all grown up in, where they were reportedly loved and were thriving.

When DHR and the police tried to seize 12 year old Haly, she refused to be taken. She cried for her grandparents not to let her be taken away, so much so that an ambulance was allegedly called. The terrified child was allegedly strapped to a gurney and hauled away, screaming:

Nana, please don't let them take me!

The younger twins, age 7 at the time, were returned to their grandparents' custody after 8 months. It took 4 years of fighting DHR to get Jonna, the oldest granddaughter back. Haydn was returned to their custody after 5 years.

When the children were taken away, none of them were allegedly on any medications. However, after they were in the custody of DHR, each of them was put on psychotropic medications, for ADHD, anxiety, and other various ailments that they allegedly did not have before they were seized from their home. The older children and their grandparents fought against these medications, and there are several reports and letters in which they refused such medications.

Jonna wrote a courageous letter to DHR's Christina Fisher in 2012:

I am refusing to take the narcotics that you all are prescribing for me due to the following reasons:

- 1. Every child in foster care (DHR) is medicated with one or more narcotic medications because no one wants to deal with me/children.*
- 2. I refuse to be in an environment where I always look like I'm high or I am a walking zombie.*
- 3. The reason I am refusing to take/accept these narcotics is because my evaluation is not certain that my diagnosis is Bipolar/Manic depressive. You all just want money off me and I am not a guinea pig! I am a human being, and a minor child with a family that is fighting for me.*
- 4. NOTHING IS WRONG WITH ME! ... My sister, Haly ... was made to take Abilify which caused her to have hallucinations. Abilify was recommended for me too, but my grandfather, Rodney Prince said, "No" the day he took me to see [therapist] for evaluation. I will not take medication that I do not need.*

Haly's Story – Changed Life in State Foster Care

Haly's story is different, and her grandmother originally reported to Health Impact News that, out of all the harm that has come to her grandchildren from DHR involvement:

Haly is the one who has suffered the most.

After she was taken from her home at the age of 12 and separated from her siblings, she was shuffled from facility to foster home to other foster homes, for a total of 8 different placements over the years.

She has been accused of defiant and disrespectful behavior many times, but that was not her family's experience of her before she was taken. One has to wonder how much trauma she has suffered as she left the security of her loving home to be shifted from place to place.



Haly was happy before DHR took her from her family. Photo used with permission from family.

For more information about the state of the U.S. Foster Care

system, and how it is a lucrative child trafficking business, see Health Impact News' investigative report:



[Child Kidnapping and Trafficking: A Lucrative U.S. Business Funded by Taxpayers](#)

Haly became pregnant in foster care and gave birth to her first child at the age of 16. This is consistent with numerous reports that girls in foster care are more likely to be teen mothers than the general population. She and her new baby were able to stay together in a foster home where she says that the foster mother encouraged her to have as many babies as she wanted. (The foster mother also received more funds for each baby that she had.) She met a young man named Anthony and they had a baby together when Haly was 17. Haly and her 2 babies lived at the home of the foster mother, and she was able to parent her own children.

Tragedy Strikes – Haly Loses Her Babies

Despite all of her struggles, Haly graduated from high school at the age of 18. That summer, however, her foster mother had a major heart attack that took her life. Besides suffering this devastating emotional blow, she also was subject to DHR. Her children were part of the system from the beginning. The little family was moved into another foster home, but Haly reports that the new foster mother didn't want her there and kicked her out, without her babies.

At the time, her grandmother Dee was fighting her own battle for her life. She had cancer and was very sick from radical chemo and radiation treatments. It wasn't that she didn't want to take in the babies; she physically couldn't at the time. Now, thankfully, she is in remission and is much improved – back to fighting for her family with every bit of her regained strength, with her supportive husband right by her side.

But Haly was separated from her children, with only visitation. Because of the babies, she did not come back home to her grandparents out of DHR custody like the rest of her siblings.

Over the years, DHR has allegedly attempted to get her on medications. A social worker first stated that she was bipolar, and a psychiatrist affiliated with DHR made the diagnosis.

Haly has fought this pronouncement over her from the beginning:

I'm not bipolar!!! I'm just PISSED at Y'ALL!!!

DHR has called her unstable, but one must question what kind of stability that DHR provided her with, when she was in 8 different facilities/homes over an 8 year period – 9 places if you count her own home to which she recently returned. She has been accused of not participating in counseling in order to avoid losing her babies, but she reports that they did not offer her counseling, even after the death of her foster mother.

Haly's babies are currently in their 4th foster home. They are now 4 and 3 years old.

In December 2015, DHR terminated Haly's parental rights. Her grandmother Dee says that DHR told her that this was done because the babies "had already been in foster care for so long." The family has not seen the children since, and that case is currently in appeal.

Haly moved back to her grandparents' home at the age of 19, and she and Anthony are now married and are the parents of a new baby girl born on May 9, 2016. She asked social workers if she would be able to keep this baby, and she says they told her she could.

However, that did not happen.

When the baby was 3 days old, Shelby County DHR came into their hospital room at UAB West Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama, in Jefferson County, and seized the new baby.

As was the case a month later with her little sister, there was allegedly no warrant, and no court order.

DHR told her that they had a "pickup order," which Haly says she never saw. Three police officers accompanied the

DHR social worker into the room and took the breastfeeding baby from her mother's arms. Haly was alone that day, and had just been waiting for final discharge papers from the hospital. She says that she was devastated.

Dysfunctional Family or Dysfunctional DHR?

While some are trying to portray the Prince family as a very dysfunctional family that does not provide a safe environment for young children in their home, knowing the story from the family's perspective and their long struggle against DHR, one might conclude that DHR is the organization that is dysfunctional and has done its best to destroy this family.

The family would like nothing better than to get on with their lives. Their home, "Grandma's house," is seen as a lovely, secure home where the love for each other is palpable. When Dee Prince first spoke with Health Impact News, she said:

I would love to get DHR out of our lives and off our backs, so we can love our children and have a normal life.

Her husband Rodney is a strong man of great character, who served 35 years as a police officer. He told me that, with the recent seizures of the babies:

I felt so helpless. I am Mr. Fix it – I couldn't fix it.

They would appreciate the opportunity to be a family without government interference.

How You Can Help

There is a hearing for Haly and Anthony about their newest baby on Tuesday, June 28 at 9am at the Shelby County Courthouse in Columbiana, Alabama. Though these hearings are typically closed, supporters are welcome to come to the courthouse in support of this family.

There is a Facebook page that has been set up to support the family, called [SAVE Braelon's Family](#). Supporters may encourage Haly and the rest of the family at this page as well.



Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

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Greg Reed, State Senator / 334-242-7894 / he is on [Facebook](#).

The complete list of committee Members can be found here: [Executive Order Number 11](#)

Shelby County DHS Director Kim Mashego at http://dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county_results.aspx?id=Shelby

Alabama Judge Threatens Health Impact News Reporter



by **Brian Shilhavy**
Editor, Health Impact News

In a move that can only be interpreted as an attempt to restrict free speech and deny the 1st Amendment right of freedom of the press, Alabama Circuit Judge Corey B. Moore had Health Impact News reporter Terri LaPoint escorted into his courtroom yesterday to give her a stern warning.

Investigative reporter Terri LaPoint commented:

I had no idea that I would be taken into court today! I was simply outside (the courtroom) as a friend of the family when they called me in. I was only dressed in a t-shirt and jeans, since I never intended to enter the courtroom.

Mrs. LaPoint was at the courthouse with the Prince family who had a hearing that day regarding one of the newborn babies that was taken away from the parents by DHR recently. Mrs. LaPoint has reported on the family and their fight against Alabama DHR which has removed two newborn nursing babies recently while still in the hospital at the time of birth. Her original story quickly went viral and was read by over 1 million people in the first 24 hours.

See:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

and:

[Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at Hospital](#)

Mrs. LaPoint relates how the court-appointed attorney for one of the young mothers who was at court that day explained to her that the lead counsel for DHR allegedly wanted to call her in and put her on the witness stand. They were allegedly upset with our reporting on these stories. The attorney appointed to the family allegedly objected, stating that she had no legal counsel at the moment and was not part of the case, but the judge ordered her to be brought into the courtroom anyway.

Once Mrs. LaPoint was escorted into the courtroom, Judge Moore asked her what her name was, and forbid her to record anything. He then told her that because she did not

have legal counsel present, she did not have to make any comments or answer any questions.

Mrs. LaPoint reports that Judge Moore then warned her that she should retain legal counsel, and become familiar with the confidentiality laws regarding juveniles in Alabama.

The court-appointed attorney for the Prince family then apparently told Mrs. LaPoint on her way out that this was not strictly a “gag order,” but that the judge was upset and wanted her to “play ball.”

Attempts to Silence the Media and Reporting DHR Activities in Alabama

So what is going on in Alabama? How can a judge sitting on a bench hearing a case currently in session have the authority to pull in someone off the street who is not part of the case, without a subpoena and with no legal representation, and who is also a member of press, and basically threaten her?

There is an obvious concerted effort in Shelby County, Alabama to silence those who are reporting facts regarding DHR activities and snatching newborn babies from hospitals.

When the family we reported on showed up in court last Friday (June 24th) for the hearing on the 14 year old alleged rape-victim mother who had her baby taken away at birth ([story here](#)), almost everyone present who had shown up in support of the family and had reported on these events were slapped with a lawsuit filed in Shelby County by a GAL (Guardian *ad litem*) that was appointed to represent the newborn baby. The lawsuit was demanding that all material published on the Internet and Social Media regarding DHR taking this new-born child away from his mother be

removed. Read the full story here:

Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping

How can an appointed GAL of a new-born baby, whose mother apparently still has parental rights, take out a lawsuit on behalf of the baby and have that baby sue everyone, including his own great-grandparents? And since this was filed in a civil court, how can they demand that the lawsuit be sealed? Could this happen in any U.S. court of law outside of Alabama?

Just to recap the facts from the [original story](#), Terri LaPoint of Health Impact News, along with Juda Myers of [Choices4Life](#), were actually present at the hospital at the request of the family when the baby was born. They witnessed first hand how DHR and the local sheriff department came in without a warrant, without the baby being in imminent danger, and subsequently take that baby away from his breast-feeding mother and great-grandparents.

Where is the Local Media in this Story? Are they too Afraid to Publish the Truth?

In the almost 2 years that Health Impact News has been covering these types of stories through our MedicalKidnap.com website, we have almost always had local media pick up stories we break that go viral in social media.

So why is that not happening in Alabama?

I have issued an invitation to any journalist in Alabama who

would like to become a whistleblower and explain this censorship, and I issue the invitation again. We will agree to keep your identity hidden if requested.

Others have emailed us and stated that they believe the media is too afraid to report on these types of stories.



Alabama blogger Roger Shular went to jail for refusing to take down material from his blog. His case and the Alabama Court's alleged violation of 1st Amendment rights drew national attention. Image from Shelby County Jail.

One story that was brought to our attention was the story of Alabama blogger Roger Shuler, of [Legal Schnauzer](#). Shuler was arrested in Alabama for refusing to take down material from his blog.

Shuler's case drew national attention, due to the obvious 1st Amendment violations allegedly committed by Alabama

courts. Mr. Shuler apparently made many enemies in Alabama with his rhetoric, and was involved in some defamation lawsuits, but his arrest in Alabama and alleged violation of 1st Amendment rights shocked people all across the nation.

As the [New York Times reported](#):

But even those who longed for his muzzling, and there are many, did not see it coming like this: with Mr. Shuler sitting in jail indefinitely, and now on the list of imprisoned journalists worldwide kept by the [Committee to Protect Journalists](#). There, in the company of jailed reporters in China, Iran and Egypt, is Mr. Shuler, the only person on the list in the Western Hemisphere.

'It seems to me that the judge's order was really way out of bounds,' said [David Gesspass](#), a civil rights lawyer in Birmingham, who was further troubled by the judge's initial decision to keep the case under seal.

Mr. Shuler continued blogging. On Oct. 23, the police followed Mr. Shuler as he pulled into his driveway, arrested him in his garage and took him to jail on charges of contempt and resisting arrest.

In the hyperpartisan corners of the blogosphere where Mr. Shuler was already known, there was shock. Even some of his dedicated foes were alarmed.

The National Bloggers Club, a group led by the Republican activist Ali Akbar, who has also threatened to sue Mr. Shuler for defamation, released a statement condemning Mr. Shuler's 'rumormonger cyberbullying' but also criticizing the injunction as creating a potential chilling effect on blogging.

The state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union filed a 'friend of the court' brief, and the [Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press](#) sent a letter to the judge.

Read the [full story at the New York Times](#).

In the end, after serving 5 months in jail, Mr. Shuler feared for his well-being and had his wife take down the offending material from the blog:

Roger Shuler said that he and his wife took down the material after all this time because he realized that complying with the court was necessary for his own security.

'I saw no other way to get out of jail. After five months in a very difficult environment ... I felt my physical well-being was at stake,' Shuler said. 'I had hoped to get outside legal representation that could get my release on lawful grounds. But that was very slow in developing, so I just had to make a move for what I considered to be my own survival.' (Source: [Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press](#).)

Shelby County Sheriff Deputy's Article Criticizing Alabama DHR Disappears



Lee Stockman
Deputy Sheriff at Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Follow

Image source from LinkedIn.

In an article we published on June 24th, [Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping](#), we published a video of Alabama Officer Edmunson telling family members and friends inside the hospital where the 14 year old alleged rape-victim mother was sitting with her new-born baby that DHR did not need a warrant to take away her baby.

https://youtu.be/LqVrmh_3SKQ

We also published excerpts from an article written in December of 2015 by Shelby County Sheriff Deputy Lee Stockman titled "*Alabama DHR and Due Process Concerns*" which was published on LinkedIn, and seemed to completely disagree with Officer Edmunson. That article has now apparently been removed.

Sheriff Deputy Stockman has not yet replied to Health

Impact News' request for an explanation as to why it was removed.

Health Impact News will be republishing Mr. Stockman's excellent expose on the legal concerns of the practices of Alabama DHR under the Fair Use rule. ([Article now published here.](#))

DHR and Alabama Court Want to Silence Family, Friends, and the Media – But Alabama Politicians Are Free to Defame Family



State Sen. Cam Ward. Mugshot from Shelby County Sheriff's Office when he was arrested for DUI in 2015. [Image source.](#)

When we published our first story on the Prince family, regarding the 14 year old alleged rape-victim mother having her baby taken away by DHR at birth, people became outraged and wanted to know how to help. We posted links to contact the governor of Alabama as well as local

legislators who represent the district where the Prince family lives.

One of the local legislators that represents the family is Alabama State Senator Cam Ward. People who contacted Senator Ward received a response, and this is what he told one reader:

**Cam Ward**

to me

9:43 AM [View details](#)

Carolyn there is a whole lot more to this story. Police acted in good faith with documentation and the judge now has the case to review and determine the safety of the mother and her child. There is a real issue as to whether they are safe in their home due to a long history of incidents involving drugs and domestic violence. To make this situation so sad was that the guy who has been accused of raping this young girl was invited by the family to come to the hospital for the birth of the child. It is sad and scary for both the 14 year old girl and her baby. It is my hope that will all the facts before him the judge will be able to make an informed decision soon and proper measures are taken to protect this girl and her baby.

Respectfully,

Cam Ward
State Senator, District 14
Post Office Box 1749
Alabaster, Al. 35007
Office- [205-620-6610](tel:205-620-6610)
Montgomery- [334-242-7873](tel:334-242-7873)
Twitter: [@SenCamWard](https://twitter.com/SenCamWard)
www.camward.com

[Show quoted text](#)

So while DHR, Erin B. Welborn (GAL for the newborn baby who has sued everyone) and Judge Moore wants to restrict the media and the family from talking about this case, others who work for the State of Alabama, such as Senator Cam Ward, are openly disseminating information and making accusations against the family, such as Senator Ward's statement above that the family has a "history of incidents involving drugs and domestic violence," something the family vehemently denies.

Alabama DHR and Due Process Concerns

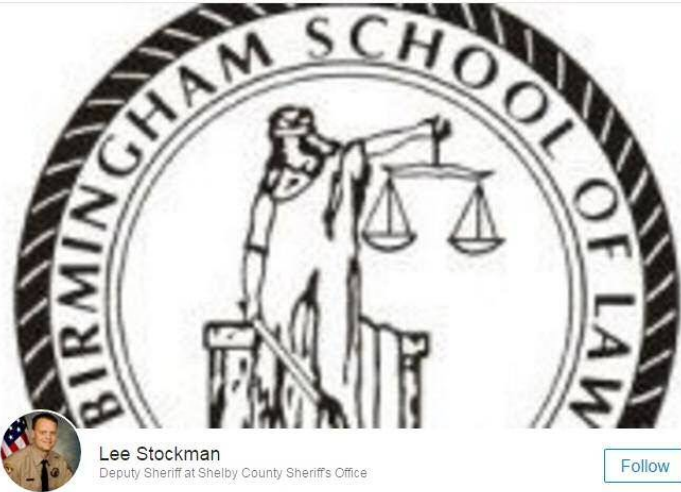


Image from LinkedIn.

Health Impact News referenced the article “Alabama DHR and Due Process Concerns” written by Shelby County Sheriff Deputy Lee Stockman on LinkedIn in our article: “[Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping.](#)” But the article disappeared shortly after that, so under the Fair Use rule we are reprinting it here.

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By [Lee Stockman](#)

The state of Alabama has launched a Department of Human Resources (DHR) Task Force to examine the workings of a state agency that serves 67 counties with an annual budget of around 2 billion dollars. DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner said one factor she hopes the task force will look at is the 20 to 25 percent turnover ratio for child welfare workers. Starting pay for those workers is comparable to that of a prison guard with a GED, she said, while social workers need a college degree to be hired. That kind of turnover results in a lack of institutional memory with a largely young staff. “We’re not the job of choice,” she said. “You’ve got to love it to stay with it.”[1]

When turnover and a lack of experience is a problem in a job that includes harsh realities coupled with State sanctioned authority the results can default to “get the job done” instead of “do the job right”. As a current law enforcement officer, I can empathize with that mentality. However, knowing the duties of the position is the easiest part of the position. Knowing the procedure for properly accomplishing those duties in a judicious manner is the key. Knowing the consequences for not accomplishing the purposes of the position in the right way has lessons for not only DHR but also the law enforcement agencies that work with them.

DHR’s primary duty is to protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through abuse and neglect.[2] DHR is mandated to carry out this duty through investigation, complaints from citizens, or otherwise.[3] Additionally, the agency is granted the authority by statute to investigate all cases of suspected abuse and neglect.[4] This is an enormous undertaking that often requires the assistance of other state agents and agencies. State authority, combined with state agencies and state agents investigating citizens where criminal charges could be the result, gives rise to legitimate 4th Amendment concerns.

This is where the methods of the investigation into alleged acts of neglect and abuse are just as important as the duty to investigate.

Titles 26 and 38 of the Alabama State Code give legislative authority to DHR. The policies and procedures of the agency are found in the Alabama Administrative Code.[5] The investigative portion of DHR's duties on a county level begins with a complaint or report of neglect or abuse. The evaluation begins with the children, extends to the parents/guardians, examines the possibility of providing support to families, and can result in invoking the legal authority of the courts to provide remedies.[6] The most serious sanction, not including criminal sanctions, is the termination of parental rights.[7]

County DHR workers are directed to determine the safety of children by conducting a safety assessment of the situations they are tasked with investigating.[8] This is the point of where policy, procedure, and training are falling short. The direction of what to do is clear, but the direction of how to complete these duties in a manner consistent with Constitutional considerations is lacking. The main issue is that the investigative portions of DHR's duties mirror directly the same types of scenarios encountered by law enforcement. One of the main scenarios involves exigent circumstance exceptions to warrant/court order requirements where the DHR is called to act in conjunction with law enforcement agencies.[9] This is one of the many scenarios where additional due process concerns can arise when DHR and other agencies pursue their state sanctioned duties.

The two areas that will be focused on here is when DHR goes into the field to begin its investigations known as Child Abuse/Neglect Assessments (CA/N) and after an

investigation shows “indicated” evidence of abuse or neglect. With any report of abuse or neglect, DHR will investigate which often means going to the homes of children even when the reports are made by anonymous complainants. This is the first instance where proper procedure must be adhered to through proper training and supervision. The leading case in Alabama regarding the initial investigation and issues that arise when the parent, guardian, or resident does not cooperate with DHR investigator is *H.R. v. State Department of Human Resources*.^[10]

In this case, two anonymous complaints were received and investigated by DHR of Houston County. The agent of DHR was notified of the complaint on November 6, 1991, but did not go to mother’s home until December 11, 1991. Once there, the agent informed the mother that she needed to see the home and speak privately with the children in order to complete the investigation. The mother refused the agent access to the home or the children.^[11] On January 15, 1992, the agent, Donna Jones filed a petition with the Juvenile Court of Houston County alleging abuse and neglect of each of the four children in the home. Each petition was based on § 26-14-7(c) which states that court of competent jurisdiction, *upon cause shown*, shall order the parents or persons in charge of any place to allow an interview of the children in question and an examination of the premises.^[12]

The Alabama Court of Appeals took this case after the petitions were granted by the Houston County District Court. On appeal, it was found that cause shown amounted to a showing of reasonable or probable cause to believe that a crime either is or is about to be committed. The court went further to state that anonymous complaints amounted to unsworn hearsay and to a mere suspicion of criminal conduct that is not sufficient for unwanted entry into a private home based on *Nicaud v.State ex rel. Hendrix*, 401 So.2d

43 (Ala. 1981).[13] The standard is the same for DHR investigating a potential criminal matter as it is for law enforcement.

The second area of due process concern is after CA/N Assessments have shown an “indicated” incident of abuse or neglect. In this scenario suspected abusers or negligent persons are divided into two categories regarding due process legalities:

1) Persons that are licensed by or hold a certificate from the state have due process rights stated by statute[14]

2) Persons that are NOT licensed by or hold a certificate from the state. This includes private citizens. Due process rights for these persons is stated in the Alabama Administrative Code.[15]

Those suspected of wrongdoing in group one are entitled to written notice, 10 department working days to answer in writing, and to request a CA/N hearing.[16] Those persons in group two are entitled to the same review except the hearing is referred to as an administrative record review.[17] The burden of proof for both of these hearings is a preponderance of the credible evidence.[18] The hearing procedures and the rules regarding credible evidence are outlined Chapter 660-1-5. DHR bears the burden of proof in these hearings, and discovery request by the person allegedly responsible for abuse/neglect must be made in writing 5 days prior to the hearing. [19]

The standards supra are adequate for due process concerns. The problem is that the above is not the standard in Alabama as recently stated in *Duran v. Buckner*. [20] This case specifically noted that the lack of due process is systematic

in hearings involving persons licensed by or that hold a certificate from the state. The court found these examples of a failure of due process:

1. “Nancy Buckner, as the current Director of the State of Alabama Department of Human Resources and Kim Mashego as the current Director of the Shelby County Department of Human Resources have established a custom, practice or policy which has resulted in the denial of the written request for a hearing and has resulted in the plaintiffs’ names and information continuing to be listed on the Central Registry. As a result of that custom, practice or policy, the State Department of Human Resources and the Shelby County Department of Human Resources routinely and systematically deny written requests for a hearing following notification of an ‘indicated disposition’”[21]
2. DHR agents have failed to properly train and supervise workers in the lawful and proper method of communicating the information about the methods by which a disposition may be challenged.[22]

The court concluded that, “These systemic failings, which proximately result from [the defendants’] wrongful conduct, action and inaction as complained of herein have resulted in a flawed and unlawful system whereby Due Process has been denied to plaintiffs after receiving notice of the ‘indicated disposition’; and, that same flawed and unlawful system results in a high confirmation rate following record review; and, that same flawed and unlawful system allows DHR to introduce the ‘indicated disposition’ in those cases which DHR brings before the juvenile/family courts of the State.”[23]

Duran v. Buckner showed that clearing a case quickly is more important than clearing a case correctly. Here, the court saw fit to reverse the claims asserted by Duran, Calhoun, and Bongers against the defendants [Nancy Buckner, Commissioner of Alabama DHR, and Kim Mashego, Director of Shelby County DHR] in their individual capacities as to the claims alleging conduct that was allegedly willful, malicious, fraudulent, in bad faith, beyond their authority, or under a mistaken interpretation of the law.[24] However, often it is the case that DHR does not work alone in its state-sanctioned duties discussed *supra*. It is often the scenario where local municipal police officers and county deputies accompany DHR agents.

Violations of basic 4th Amendment protections are not limited to Alabama and the remedies to improper actions by agents of the state are also not limited to state court review. This additional check to improper acts by state agents and the results is best illustrated in *Walsh v. Erie County Department of Job and Family Services*. Here, parents, individually and on behalf of their six children, sued county social workers, the county agency that employed social workers, the county board of commissioners, city, city police officers, and city police chief, asserting federal civil rights claims under § 1983 and state constitutional and common-law tort claims.[25] 42 U.S.C.A. § 1983 states, “Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom or usage, of any State or Territory, ... subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or another person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress[26]. The individual defendants, in their capacity as ECDJFS caseworkers and police officers of the City of Vermilion, acted under color of state law.

Therefore, the question is whether their actions violated the plaintiffs' Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights.[27]

Just as in *H.R. v. State Dep't of Human Res* cited *supra*, this case involved an anonymous complaint that was investigated by the State of Ohio's equivalent to Alabama's DHR. An investigation was started and a home visit was conducted the day after by field agents Darnold and Brown. Both were denied entry to the home and denied access to the children. The case workers returned with the local law enforcement officers. The homeowner, Mr. Walsh, asked if there was a warrant and was told that there was no warrant, but was told by a law enforcement supervisor, "If you make us go through the hassle of getting a warrant, rest assured we will cite you for anything we find in the home." Sgt. Chandler also allegedly warned that if the plaintiffs did not allow the field agent into the home, Mr. Walsh could be arrested for obstruction of official business.[28]

Walsh still did not allow any access to his home after speaking with his attorney. In light of the plaintiffs' continuing refusal to permit Darnold and Brown to inspect the home, Darnold again called her supervisor. He advised Darnold to call an Erie County assistant prosecutor, who, in turn, advised Darnold to obtain a search warrant.[29] While preparing an affidavit for a search warrant at the Vermilion Police Department, Chief Kish, gave Brown a radio, told her to return to the Walsh residence, and to let him know if the plaintiffs attempted to leave. Chief Kish then contacted Judge Wakefield of the Vermilion Municipal Court to obtain an "administrative" warrant. Driving Darnold's automobile, Brown returned to the Walsh residence and parked on the road in front of the house. She observed the children and parents entering a van and; according to Mr. Walsh, the family was leaving to go to a function at their church.[30]

The Walsh family never left their residence under facts disputed by the Walsh family and the other defendants named. Chief Kish and Sergeant Chandler returned to the home while the affidavit for the search warrant was still being prepared. Subsequently, Mr. Walsh was placed on the Darnold's car and frisked where he and Chief Kish had a conversation. Chief Kish acknowledged that charges of obstructing official business were probably mentioned during his conversation with Mr. Walsh. Chief Kish testified: "All I knew is I talked to him and I explained that there are steps that could be taken and I said, 'All we want to do is get in the house,' and we had a conversation. I don't remember all the words, all the details." [31]

Given these facts, the court cited actionable claims against the social workers to include:

- 1) § 1983 Fourth Amendment claims;
- 2) the failure to train claim against ECDJFS; and
- 3) the state law claims of false arrest/false imprisonment and intentional infliction of emotional distress [32]

The City of Vermilion faced actionable claims to include:

- 1) § 1983 Fourth Amendment claims; and
- 2) the state law claims of false arrest/false imprisonment, assault, battery, and intentional infliction of emotional distress [33]

The court also went on to address the facts that § 1983 actions are not limited to just law enforcement officers, nor do they contain exceptions to the 4th Amendment regarding

the type of investigation that is being conducted. “The Fourth Amendment applies to them, as it does to all other officers and agents of the state whose requests to enter, however, benign or well-intentioned, are met by a closed door. There is, the defendants’ understanding and assertions to the contrary notwithstanding, no social worker exception...”[34]

The law enforcement officers assisting other state agents should also serve as checks against unlawful violations that could rise to causes of action. While some state agents may not have the necessary training and experience with 4th Amendment issues in the field law enforcement officers are expected to have knowledge of such considerations. The court quoted this test, ” The relevant question ... is the objective (albeit fact-specific) question whether a reasonable officer could have believed [defendants’] warrantless search to be lawful, in light of clearly established law and the information the searching officers possessed. [Defendants’] subjective beliefs about the search are irrelevant.”[35]

In conclusion, this look into the results of taking on a tough job with under trained, under supervised, and underpaid state agents. The sovereign immunity provided to this state agency provides some level of protection. However, it is a regular tactic of the county agents of DHR to use local law enforcement officers to assist them. This is particularly true in the initial investigation stages. These local law enforcement officers should be aware of the Constitutional considerations specific to search and seizure issues. All agents working together should work together to not only accomplish their duties but to also, accomplish their duties within the scope and authority of their positions as agents of the state.

[1] William Thornton, *Governor's DHR Task Force to look at 'the big picture'*, al.com, Oct. 14, 2015, http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/10/governors_dhr_ask_force_to_lo.html

[2] Ala. Code § 26-14-2.

[3] Ala. Code § 38-2-6(10).

[4] Ala. Code § 26-14-6.1

[5] Ala. Admin. Code 660.

[6] Ala. Admin. Code 660-5-34-.02(1)(a-d).

[7] Ala. Admin. Code 660-5-30-.03.

[8] Ala. Admin. Code 660-5-34-.06.

[9] *Id.* at (4).

[10] *H.R. v. State Dep't of Human Res.*, 612 So. 2d 477 (Ala. Civ. App. 1992).

[11] *Id.* at 477-78.

[12] *Id.* at 478.

[13] *Id.* at 477, 479.

[14] Ala. Code § 26-14-7.1

[15] Ala. Admin. Code 660-5-34-.08.

[16] Ala. Code. § 26-14-7.1(1)(4).

[17] Ala. Admin. Code 660-5-34-.08(3).

[18]*Id.*

[19]*Id.* at (6)(b-c), (f), (n)(1-6).

[20]*Duran v. Buckner*, 157 So.3d 956 (Ala, Civ. App. 2014).

[21]*Id.* at 979.

[22]*Id.*

[23]*Id.* at 980.

[24]*Duran v. Buckner*, 157 So. 3d 956, 983 (Ala. Civ. App. 2014).

[25]*Walsh v. Erie Cnty. Dep't of Job & Family Servs.*, 240 F. Supp. 2d 731 (N.D. Ohio 2003).

[26] 42 U.S.C.A. § 1983 (West).

[27]*Erie Cnty. Dep't of Job & Family Servs.*, 240 F. Supp. 2d at 744.

[28]*Id.* at 741-42.

[29]*Id.* at 742.

[30]*Id.* at 742.

[31]*Id.* at 742-43.

[32]*Id.* at 768.

[33]*Id.* at 768.

[34]*Id.* at 746.

[35]*Id.* at 758.

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Newborn Alabama Baby is Now Sick in the Hospital While Under DHR Care After Being Taken from 14-year Old Mother



Young mother afraid for her newborn after DHR threats. Photographed by Juda Myers with mother's permission while neither mother nor baby were in DHR custody.

UPDATE 7/10/2016

Newborn Kidnapped Baby of 14 Year Old Alabama Mother to be Force Circumcised Against Wishes of Family

Newborn Alabama Baby is Now Sick in the Hospital While Under DHR Care After Being Taken from 14-year Old Mother

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

The story [we have been reporting on in Alabama](#) with the young 14-year old mother who is an alleged rape victim and had her child taken away at birth by Child Protective Services (DHR) seemingly took a turn for the worse today, as the family is reporting that the newborn baby is now in the hospital with possible Spinal Meningitis.

From the [SAVE Braelon's Family](#) Facebook page on 7/2/2016:

BREAKING NEWS: baby Braelon has a high fever and was throwing up and his mother had to BEG the workers at her group home to take the baby to the local hospital first and then he was transferred around midnight last night to Children's Hospital because of the severity. After a spinal tap was done white blood cells are high and Spinal Meningitis is suspected.

The negligence on the part of a group that is supposed to

protect children is outrageous! Even though the baby had a dr's appt the day after he was discharged from the hospital it wasn't til TEN DAYS LATER that they took the baby to be checked!!

Please pray for Braelon and his mom. DHR is NOT allowing advocates, any recording devices, video or pictures. They do NOT want this to be shared with the world. PLEASE SHARE!!!

See our original coverage on this story, with links to updates:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

The grandparents of the young mother were reportedly escorted out of Children's Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama, today at 8 p.m. by hospital security, against the wishes of the mother's GAL, who reportedly stated that the grandparents were to stay.

Earlier in the day, DHR allegedly told the grandparents that they are forbidding them to be present with the young mother and the baby at the hospital and threatened to throw them in jail if they did not leave. Now, they are reportedly saying they can come back at 2 p.m. on Sunday, although this leaves the young mother without family support during the intervening hours of this crisis.

Lisa Chasteen, the attorney retained by the family to represent the young mother and her twin brother, has requested that the DHR attorney contact her "to explain why exactly the grandparents cannot be at the hospital

supporting the mother during this crisis.” As of this writing, the DHR attorney has yet to contact her. There have been no orders filed forbidding the family from visiting the young mother.

This allegedly leaves a young 14-year old mother at Children’s Hospital with a sick baby, and no support system.

Her pastor reportedly tried to visit her at the hospital, but DHR reportedly attempted to forbid him as well. The pastor got to see the young mother for about 15 minutes. Her friends from youth group have also been forbidden to come.

Suppressing Freedom of Speech Continues in Alabama

DHR has also reportedly told the family that her advocate Juda Myers, and the journalists who have been reporting her story, are not only not to come to the hospital, but are also not to come to the Shelby County Courthouse unless they are specifically requested to appear for court.

The young mother and her family were allegedly told again today by DHR that they are not permitted to take any pictures of the baby. The mother’s phone was taken by DHR weeks ago, and she has been forbidden to have any type of camera to photograph these early days of her baby’s life. She has not had any photos taken of her baby since the day he was taken from her at Shelby Baptist Medical Center.



Mother and baby happy together before DHR took her baby. Photographed by Juda Myers with mother's permission while neither mother nor baby were in DHR custody.

According to her attorney, Lisa Chasteen, this mother continues to be deprived of her fundamental right to parent her child.

There is reportedly no word on the condition of the baby, but the family is asking several questions:

How much of an impact did the separation of mother and baby for almost 24 hours on the 3rd day of this baby's life have on his immune system? He was an exclusively breastfed

baby who was subsequently given formula after DHR removed him from his breast-feeding mother. He also had the stress of the separation. Experts in [newborn psychology](#) state that this kind of separation can literally cause lifelong damage. There are certainly negative impacts on the baby's immune system.

Once the baby and mother were reunited after almost 24 hours, it was not at their home. How much has the emotional stress and upheaval in their lives weakened the infant's immune system?

Finally, how much of a role in the baby's illness has the environment of the group foster home caused, where Alabama DHR is forcibly keeping both the 14-year old mother and her newborn baby against the wishes of the family?

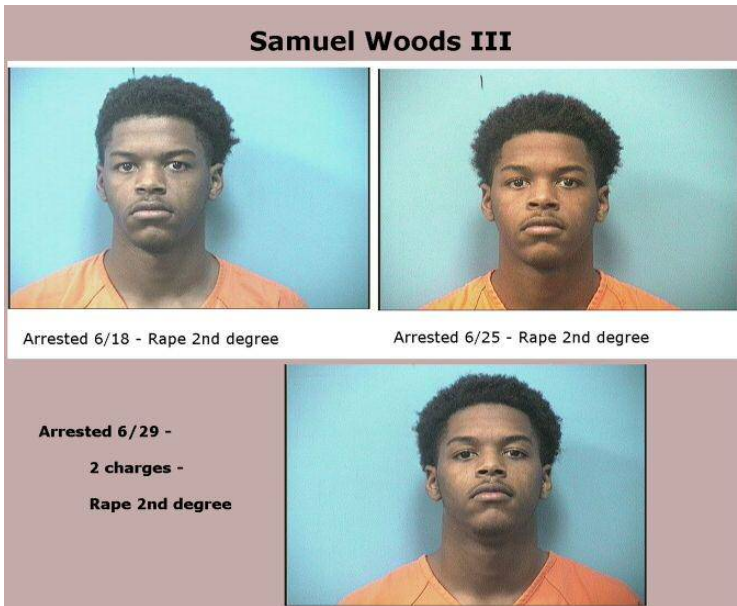
When the mother was taken from her custodial grandparents' home, she and her baby were allegedly placed in a home that contrasted greatly with the clean, lovely home the mother was accustomed to. She has reported seeing bugs on the ceiling and the dresser in the facility, as well as mold in the bathrooms.



Mold in the shower at the group home housing a newborn and newly postpartum mother. Photo source: mother, before her phone was seized, who passed the photo on to the press and asked that it be published.

More Charges against Man Arrested for Rape

The man arrested and charged for rape in the case of the 14-year old mother is currently in the Shelby County jail after being arrested on June 29, 2016, on two additional counts of 2nd degree rape. This follows a second arrest on June 25. Bail on each new charge continues the pattern of being set at \$30,000 each. Source: <http://inmatelisting.shelbyal.com/>



Mug shots source: <http://inmatelisting.shelbyal.com/>

[AL.com is reporting](#) that the man has now been accused of rape by 4 different girls.

Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100 and please politely ask that the governor intervene and reunite this family. He may also be contacted

[here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

The Alabama DHR Commissioner is Nancy Buckner. [Contact her here](#).

Is 14 Year Old Mother Being Held Prisoner and Denied Legal Counsel After DHR Kidnapped her Baby?



Young mother turns to her grandfather for support while still in the hospital, just before DHR took away her baby. Photo by Health Impact News.

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

Baby Braelon is reportedly doing better, but he remains hospitalized. Health Impact News spoke with Lisa Chasteen, the attorney who has been retained by the family to represent Braelon's mother and her twin brother, and Chasteen has some concerns about recent developments in the story, as she attempts to provide legal counsel for the twins.

See our original coverage on this story, with links to updates:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

Denied Right to Counsel, Visitation Restricted

Attorney Lisa Chasteen was retained by the family over the July 4th holiday weekend as counsel for the twins, after they believed that the twins were without representation.

Due to the long holiday weekend, the attorney could not file a notice of appearance with the court until Tuesday, but as of the time of writing this update on Wednesday July 6th, she has still not been able to gain access to the case and meet with the young mother.

She has made it clear that the family is not disclosing any confidential courtroom proceedings, but they have simply been discussing their personal experiences with their family and with DHR, presently and over the years. She states it is her understanding that the juvenile confidentiality laws do not prohibit them from discussing such. She has even

addressed these issues personally in the past before the Governor's DHR task force, and no one present, including DHR commissioner Nancy Buckner, disputed her.

However, when Chasteen attempted to talk with the young mother at the hospital, the DHR attorney reportedly refused to allow her to speak with her, denying the mother her right to counsel. Lisa Chasteen reports:

Counsel for DHR, attorney Jennifer Neumann said that she was not allowed to speak with anyone who had not put in a notice of appearance, but she disclosed several facts:

Number one – she [the mother] has not been prevented from contacting her family. However, her phone and the physical phone in the hospital room has been removed.

The DHR attorney communicated to Chasteen that they are not the ones limiting visitation with the young mother, stating that it is the hospital's policies and procedures which are limiting the visitors. As previously reported, even the pastor tried to visit and was only able to visit for 15 minutes.

Health Impact News phoned the hospital and inquired about the visitation policy. We were told that visitation is from 9 am to 9 pm, but that it may be limited either by the parents, the doctor, or DHR. According to the [Patient's Bill of Rights](#), visitation may be limited "when Children's (Hospital) is aware of an existing court order restricting contact."

There is no such court order, and the family has not restricted visitation. However, the attorney for the twins reports that family and loved ones have been threatened and restricted in visiting and supporting the mother.

Baby Braelon Getting Better but Still in the Hospital

Thousands of people on social media are following the story and have said that they are praying for Braelon and his family. The good news is that the words “spinal meningitis” are apparently no longer being thrown around. On the 4th of July, he was reportedly taken off of oxygen, and he has now been taken off of antibiotics. It was reportedly a viral infection.

Sources close to the family report that, although the baby, now 3 weeks old, was taken to the emergency room on Friday night, the young mother was telling the group home mother since Tuesday that her baby was sick.

Newborn Alabama Baby is Now Sick in the Hospital While Under DHR Care After Being Taken from 14-year Old Mother

Braelon was reportedly vomiting and had diarrhea for several days, was fussy, and developed a fever. The mother’s concerns were apparently ignored, and it was not until Friday evening that she was taken seriously and they were taken to the local hospital. That hospital transferred baby Braelon by ambulance to Children’s Hospital, where he was given IV fluids for dehydration. He was reportedly not moving much on Saturday, had fluid on his lungs, and was struggling to breathe.

Thankfully, he is improving, and his condition has been upgraded to “guarded.”

Illness in a newborn can deteriorate quickly and be life-threatening. [WebMD](#) recommends taking a baby under 3

months of age to the doctor any time a fever reaches 100.4 degrees. [Mayo Clinic](#) recommends calling the doctor for ANY fever in a baby up to 3 months of age. Had the young mother not been insistent that her baby be seen on Friday, this story might have had a much worse ending. By any standard, a mother advocating for her child's health is the mark of good parenting.

Young Mom's Phone Confiscated, but Disposable Camera Permitted

Health Impact News has learned that DHR has, at last, approved that the mother be given a disposable camera so that she can take pictures of her baby. Previously, we reported that the young mother had been denied access to any device for taking pictures, and has had no photos taken of her baby since DHR seized him from Shelby Baptist Medical Center on June 15.

Her phone, which had a camera, was confiscated by DHR 2 weeks ago.

Bottle Feeding being Pushed Over Breastfeeding

The [SAVE Braelon's Family](#) Facebook page reports that "there is a push to put the baby on formula." Jennifer Neumann discussed with Chasteen that social worker Corrine Matt has recommended that the mother pump her milk and feed the baby bottles of milk and formula. There is reportedly concern that the baby is being "overfed" and that may be why he is spitting up. A lactation consultant at the hospital was consulted who recommended reducing the amount of milk fed per feeding, while increasing the number of feedings. They want to monitor the milk intake for the

next 24 to 48 hours or so.

Note: Breastfeeding experts at La Leche League and medical experts such as [Dr. Jack Newman](#) do not recommend pumping and bottle feeding to “see how much milk baby is getting.” That is better gauged by monitoring the number of wet and soiled diapers there are. There is no benefit in feeding breastmilk in a bottle over breastfeeding itself, and the practice can, in fact, be harmful, causing [nipple confusion](#) and lead to sore nipples and reduced breastfeeding. It also reduces the hormonal benefits gained by skin-to-skin breastfeeding. Skin-to-skin also strengthens the immune system of the baby.

Some supporters on the SAVE Braelon’s Family Facebook page have questioned the motives of the DHR worker promoting bottle feeding, saying this will make the baby less dependent upon his mother, and even questioning if adopting the baby out is the purpose for this push.

Mother and Breastfeeding Baby Separated for Several Hours

There was a separation of mother and baby for several hours on Monday afternoon. Reportedly, the young mother has been sore after the birth of her baby, so on Monday, DHR workers decided to send her to a doctor to check her. Oddly enough, they sent her back to Shelby Baptist Medical Center emergency room. Apparently, they did not want to send her, a minor, to the E.R. at Children’s Hospital downstairs, or to UAB hospital, which is literally across the street. DHR chose, instead, to require her to go to Shelby – a 45 minute drive away from the baby.

It is unknown why DHR decided to give attention to the

mother's condition on Monday. When the baby was seized from her, eyewitness accounts testify that the young, first-time mother was given no discharge instructions, no instructions on how to care for her stitches, no peri-bottle or wipes, or any of the standard things given to any other mother as she is discharged from the hospital. She walked out of the hospital, and was not even escorted out of the hospital in a wheelchair, as is standard practice for all patients being discharged from the hospital. The mother has reportedly mentioned that she is sore on a number of occasions, but no one with the ability to do anything seemed to hear her until Monday.

She was separated from her baby and driven to Shelby Baptist Medical Center, where she saw an emergency room doctor that she has never met before. She was diagnosed with a UTI and given antibiotics.

Chasteen reports:

[Neumann] denies that DHR has prevented her from breastfeeding her child even though the lactation specialist has encouraged her to breastfeed more frequently, but they have ordered her to go see about her own personal health... at Shelby Medical Center, which takes her away from her breastfeeding child more than necessary. She was taken away from her breastfeeding baby for 3 and a half hours when she could have been seen by a Children's Hospital doctor. This occurred shortly after the lactation consultant recommended breastfeeding every 2 hours.

Facebook Update

A summary of the weekend's developments was posted late Monday on the [SAVE Braelon's Family](#) Facebook page:

Today's [#FREEDOM](#) in America moment for Braelon's family

Braelon is doing better but his mom had a UTI. The supervisor that guards Brendan refused to allow her to be seen at the hospital she and the baby are in. It was said that she MUST go to see the dr at the hospital she gave birth which is about 45 minutes. She did NOT see that dr but only an ER dr. AND they REMOVED the phone in the room she was in to cut off all communications. UNPLUGGED IT AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE ROOM.

THE PHONE WAS ALSO REMOVED IN THE ROOM SHE IS STAYING AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TOO.

They aren't allowing her to talk to her atty or her counselor. Her Doula was not allowed to even talk to her. They hung up on her Doula AND her atty.

They didn't want to even allow her pastor to visit saying she could have the hospital chaplain! But after persistence she was able to have her pastor visit her.

This poor mom was crying so hard when grandmother arrived at the ER. She was being guarded by a social worker and when grandmother wrote YOU ARE LOVED on the back of this lil mom's hand that worker insisted on knowing what had been written. They are out of control!!! She had not even been given any lunch!

She is treated more like a criminal than any criminal I've ever heard of. They guard her every move not even allowing

her to go outside the room. Grandma brought clean clothes to the mom and the supervisor went searching through everything.

There is a push to put the baby on formula but the GAL for the baby threatened to sue if they did. This 14 yo has so much rich milk that the baby was choking while feeding but after a lactation nurse and grandma showed her how to hold the baby more upright the baby did fantastic!! There is NO need for formula.

Please pray that justice be served for this mom and baby. NO INNOCENT PERSON should be treated this horribly. NO ONE!!!

She is so frightened of the woman supervisor guarding her.

This must come to an end and very soon. WE WILL NOT BE SILENT AS LONG AS THESE CHILDREN ARE BEING HARMED. [#FREEDOMForBraelonsFamily](#)

Rumor About Man Accused of Rape Addressed

A final note: There have been rumors circulating online that the family invited the man accused of raping the young mother up to the hospital room to see her and the baby. However, after the incident when he and his mother came into the room, the family explained to Health Impact News reporter Terri LaPoint that the police investigator told the grandmother to call Samuel Woods' mother after the baby was born to tell her to bring her son to the hospital for a DNA

test. He was at the hospital for the test, but no one invited him to the maternity floor. Everyone was stunned when he came into the young mother's room. On a technicality, the family did invite them to the hospital, but it was not by choice. It was in compliance with a demand by police.

[AL.com is reporting](#) that the man has now been accused of rape by 4 different girls.

Newborn Kidnapped Baby of 14 Year Old Alabama Mother to be Force Circumcised Against Wishes of Family



14 year old Alabama mother with her newborn baby in the hospital before DHR took the baby away from her.

UPDATE 7/11/2016

From the [SAVE Braelon's Family](#) Facebook page:

BREAKING NEWS: DHR has been halted from performing the circumcision by the attorney's petition and order of the court!!! Thank you to everyone!!!

Health Impact News received word that the hospital also apparently refused to do the procedure because of all the publicity.

Newborn Kidnapped Baby of 14 Year Old Alabama Mother to be Force Circumcised Against Wishes of Family

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

Baby Braelon has been scheduled to be circumcised on Tuesday, against his mother's wishes, according to the [Save Braelon's Family Facebook page](#). Social workers are also reportedly demanding that his mother breastfeed him every 2 hours around the clock, and they are waking them up in the middle of the night to do so.

See our original story about how Alabama DHR took away this 14 year old mother's newborn baby, allegedly the result of a rape, while still in the hospital. This story was read by more than 1 million people nationwide in the first 24 hours after it was published:

Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital

In the [lawsuit against Health Impact News](#) and others who have reported the news of DHR taking Baby Braelon from his 14 year old mother, and subsequently seizing the mother and her twin brother from their home, the accusation was made that the actions of those exposing the truth “so shocks the conscience of any reasonable man that it constitutes the tort of outrage.”

However, the actions of DHR perpetrated upon the Alabama baby and his family continue to shock and outrage the public and supporters of the family.

Mother’s Decision Not to Circumcise Challenged

While the young mother was still in Shelby Baptist Medical Center with her baby, Dr. Ashley Duke Gooding allegedly asked the mom about circumcising her baby. After the mother sought information on the pros and cons of the procedure, Dr. Gooding allegedly told her that it was entirely her choice as to whether or not to circumcise Braelon. Staff informed her that it was primarily a cosmetic procedure without medical benefits.

When she informed the staff that she chose not to circumcise her son, Dr. Gooding allegedly praised her, saying that she had made a good decision for her baby.

However, now that both the mother and her son are in DHR care, an appointment has been scheduled for the baby to be

circumcised on Tuesday, July 12, one day before he is a month old.



Pediatrician Tara Mitchell Fales, M.D. [Image source](#).

Health Impact News has learned that Dr. Tara Fales of the Cullman Regional Medical Center has told the mother that if he is not circumcised, he is at increased risk of sexually transmitted diseases, urinary tract infections, and infections. The mother reportedly continues to reject circumcision and the risks of the procedure itself, but DHR workers are apparently pushing for the unwanted, unnecessary procedure.

At one time in the U.S., almost all baby boys were circumcised, but in recent years, the practice has declined greatly in popularity.

The procedure itself is not without risks. There are an estimated 117 deaths per year from the surgery or from

complications from circumcision, such as bleeding or infection, according to researcher Dan Bollinger in the [*Journal of Boyhood Studies*](#). The policy of the American Academy of Pediatrics is that parents have the right to reject the procedure for their sons.

There may be a financial incentive for pushing the procedure. [The Huffington Post](#) reports:

According to a 2012 study, Medicaid policies in 18 states have stopped covering routine infant circumcision in recent years. Another study found that hospitals in states where Medicaid covers circumcision had rates that were 24 percent higher than those in states that did not cover the procedure.

Often babies are circumcised without anesthesia, and they feel intense pain. Dr. David Chamberlain wrote extensively about the pain of the procedure for babies, and their physiological response. (See: [Babies Remember Pain](#)) If a baby is given anesthesia for pain, then the risks of the anesthesia itself are introduced.

It was on Wednesday that the baby was released from Children's Hospital after becoming gravely ill. Yet, less than a week later, DHR wants to subject him to being circumcised. Why?

Poor Breastfeeding Advice from Social Workers Harming Mother and Baby

Health Impact News spoke with a source close to the family who is not under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court or the circuit court. The source expressed concern that the DHR

social workers are reportedly requiring that the young mother breastfeed her baby every 2 hours, around the clock. The source has learned that the baby and mother are being awakened through the night for them to breastfeed. She is then being compelled to pump her milk so that there will be bottles of milk to feed the baby with.

She's exhausted. They are hoping she'll crack, so that they can say she is an unfit mother.

Support from Family Cut Off to Young Mother and Baby

It has already been reported that DHR has removed all of the young mother's support system from her. She is in a group home with no one that she knows, and her phone has been taken from her. Any other new mother in America would have access to call friends and family for support. Many new mothers have their own mother, mother-in-law, sister, or a postpartum doula to stay with them in the early weeks with a new baby, but this mother has been isolated from every person that she would normally call.

She cannot receive visitors who can help with the baby in order for her to rest. She cannot go online and search the myriad of parenting sites that new parents look to for information.

She has none of the usual supports that any other mother would have.

The breastfeeding advice that she has allegedly been given is not in accordance with good research or sound practice. Certainly many babies nurse about every 2 hours, but even then, they generally have 1 or 2 longer periods, where both baby and mother can rest for 5 to 7 hours straight.

Some babies “[cluster-feed](#),” nursing much more frequently for hours on end, then alternating with longer periods without nursing. “Nursing on demand” is what La Leche League and many lactation educators and consultants recommend, following the baby’s cues.

Nowhere is it recommended that a mother breastfeed every 2 hours around the clock. That kind of schedule will quickly lead to exhaustion for both mother and baby, and will weaken the immune system of both.

[Dr. Jack Newman](#) is considered by many to be the leading expert on breastfeeding. He has this to say about nursing times:

For one mother feeding every three hours or so may be often; for another, three hours or so may be a long period between feeds. For one, a feeding that lasts for 30 minutes is a long feeding; for another, it is a short one. There are no rules how often or for how long a baby should breastfeed.

DHR workers have reportedly insisted upon the mother pumping milk and sometimes feeding her baby from a bottle, but this is not what most experts recommend, as they warn of possible nipple confusion.

There is an abundance of good information about breastfeeding available. La Leche League is an organization

well-known for their mother-to-mother support of breastfeeding. Social workers who find themselves in the position of advising mothers about nursing could avail themselves of good counsel by calling 1-877-4La Leche.

Circumcision and breastfeeding are two major choices that new mothers make for their babies. After the young mother investigated both issues, she made the decision to breastfeed and not to circumcise. Now, DHR threatens to take both of those choices away from her.

DHR Abusing Confidentiality Laws to Suppress Freedom of the Speech and 1st Amendment Rights?

Tammi Stefano, host of the National Safe Child Show, recently interviewed an attorney in Alabama to discuss confidentiality laws that DHR is trying to use to suppress information about children they seize from families. DHR and the Dependency Court in Alabama has not been happy that friends and supporters of the family have published this story and pictures of the family.

The Alabama attorney interviewed by Stefano states that DHR is using these laws wrongly to put gag orders on families to prevent them from telling people how DHR is treating them or their children. Stefano asks the attorney if she knows of situations where DHR told parents to take down GoFundMe pages that were published to raise money for their legal fees in fighting DHR. The attorney replies that she has seen this happen “multiple times” where the parents were not allowed to post information to raise funds to pay her legal fees.

Listen to the entire interview:

<https://youtu.be/Cy4r1WbZfZQ>

Kim Mashego of Shelby County DHR may be reached at (205) 669-3000, or contacted [here](#).

Alabama State DHR Commissioner may be reached at (334) 242-1310, or contacted [here](#).

Foster Boy Risks Retaliation: Speaks Out Regarding Abuse and State Kidnapping in Alabama



Trevar Hotaling is 18, but still trapped in Foster Care in Alabama. He risks retaliation to speak out on the abuses of Alabama DHR by posting videos to Facebook and YouTube.

by **Brian Shilhavy**
Editor, Health Impact News

Trevar Hotaling is 18 years old and has allegedly been in the Alabama foster care system, under the control of Alabama DHR (Department of Human Resources) in Shelby County, for over two years.

Trevar posted a video to his Facebook page on July 18th regarding abuses within Alabama DHR, and the video quickly

gained hundreds of viewers. He recorded it at 2:40 a.m. because he has problems sleeping at night. He uploaded it to YouTube, and then did a second video.

https://youtu.be/4uZowd-D5_U

In the first video (above), Trevar states that the reason he is making his “first” video is because there are many kids in Alabama DHR that “do not deserve to be taken from their families.”

“There are kids that are being mentally scarred for something they should not even be involved in. Their families are perfectly fine.”

Trevar then refers to the “[Prince case](#),” a [story](#) Health Impact News originally reported on and published on MedicalKidnap.com. The story had over 1 million readers in the first 24 hours after it was published. See:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

The Prince family is in the same county, Shelby County, as Trevar, and he states: “That is a perfectly fine family. There is nothing wrong with them.”

While acknowledging that there are some children in the system from truly abusive homes, Trevar states that many children do not belong in the system, and that it is part of a “child trafficking” system that is rewarded with massive amounts of funds for each child put into the system.

Trevar states that there are “kids” in the system that are 20 years old and

“(They) have no freedom at all, because the government owns them. They are stuck in foster homes and facilities that they do not deserve to be in.”

“I get treated like a criminal. Kids my age do.”

Trevar then relates the sad story of how he was separated from his sister, who tried to run away and was then put on drugs.

“My sister cried for days.”

He wants everyone to know what is happening not only to him and his sister, but to many children.

“I’m 18 years old, why can’t I live in my house? I want to live in my house. I’m happy in my house.”

“I’d rather be seen at the side of the road with my family, in a ditch, living in a box, than being in a foster home. Because know why, I love my family. Without family there is nothing.”

Trevar explains that while he is a \$500.00 check to his foster parents, that foster parents are not the problem, as there are some good ones. He claims it is the system's fault (DHR), because the State gets massive funding for each child in their care.

He also mentions the high turnover rate of people working in DHR, as the good ones generally do not survive.

This point was raised by Shelby County Sheriff Lee Stockman, in an article he published titled "[Alabama DHR and Due Process Concerns](#)." In this article, he quotes Alabama DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner as saying that there is a "20 to 25 percent turnover ratio for child welfare workers," and that "starting pay for those workers is comparable to that of a prison guard with a GED."

This article was removed from Mr. Stockman's LinkedIn page shortly after we published the [Prince Family story](#), but under the Fair Use doctrine, Health Impact News has [re-published it here](#).

<https://youtu.be/PhME7BItMAk>

Encouraged by the success of his [first video posted on Facebook](#), Trevar recorded a second one (above).

In this second video, he talks about how they put him on drugs, and how antidepressant drugs don't work.

"I tried them. They don't work. Because it's not antidepressants I need. I don't need a drug to make me feel better. You know what my drug is? It's my family. That's what makes me happy."

Trevar admits that he is scared to speak out, like all foster kids, and that he will probably get into trouble for posting the videos.

“It’s worth it. Because if I don’t speak up, who’s going to speak up for these kids?”

“So hopefully somebody will find these videos that can actually help us. Somebody who has the power to stand up for the kids, for the families, for the parents that can’t say nothing or do nothing to change.”

“Just remember every kid is a check. Every kid is a ton of money (for the State).”

How to Help

Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley’s office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

According to the [Alabama Family Rights Association](#), ALFRA:

Alabama has a nine-member task force created to examine the work of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). If you have issues or concerns about DHR services, your best plan of action is to contact the following legislators/lawmakers and committee members:

Mac McCutcheon, State Representative, Task Force chair / 334-242-7705 / 256-655-3764 / email [here](#)

Chris England, State Representative / 334-242-7703 /

205-535-4859 / email [here](#)

Greg Reed, State Senator / 334-242-7894 / email

The complete list of committee Members can be found here:
[Executive Order Number 11.](#)

Alabama DHR Continues to Destroy Family of 14 Year Old Rape Victim



Twins with their grandfather – summer of 2015. Source: Prince family Facebook.

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

“They just make it up as they go along.”

That is what more than one person told Health Impact News about Alabama Shelby County DHR’s treatment of the Prince family. Friends of the family were horrified when [DHR seized the baby of Dee and Rodney Prince’s 14 year old granddaughter](#) in June. While the man accused of raping her

sits in jail accused of raping 3 other underage girls, the young mother and her twin brother have also lost their freedom and remain in DHR custody.

The latest developments have the family reeling. Their older sister Haly and both of the 14 year old twins continue to suffer at the hands of Shelby County's Child Protective Services, under the Department of Human Resources (DHR).

Twin Brother Incarcerated in Foster Home

Once the juvenile system is involved, things can be blown out of proportion very quickly. The 14 year old twin brother of the young mother experienced that first hand this past week. He was taken out of his grandparents' home at the same time his twin sister and her new-born baby were taken into custody.

As previously reported, social workers seized the twins' cell phones 3 days after the teens were taken from their home. The young man has been in a foster home separate from his twin sister, with 2 counties between the county he was placed in and the county where his life, his friends, and his family were. He misses them all very much. The foster family gave him a cell phone to use, but he was only to use it for playing games. Last week, the foster father reportedly found links to porn sites on the phone.

Immediately, social workers stepped in to deal with this. The act which many view as fairly normal curiosity on the part of a normal adolescent boy is apparently being seen by the child protectors as a very big deal, and he was quickly whisked away by DHR for a "psycho-sexual evaluation." According to the [Save Braelon's Family](#) Facebook page, the youth is now "being accused of being a sexual predator

because he accessed pornography on a cell phone!”

This is not a behavior that he has ever exhibited when he lived with his family, because his grandparents, with whom he has lived his whole life, kept a check on what kinds of things the children accessed online and on their phones. Never before has there ever been this type of behavior from him, and he reportedly denies that he was viewing porn at this time.

His explanation is that he knew that he was being watched at the foster home. He reportedly decided to test the new guardians and see just how much they were watching and how much they were monitoring the phone that they let him use. He wants very much to go home. He reportedly told DHR that he did this so that he could get out of foster care and that he never actually watched the porn. He merely accessed the sites, and told them that if this had been about watching porn, he was smart enough to delete his history.

While the family was in court Friday, trying to fight to get the kids back home, the young man was taken for a psychosexual evaluation by Deegan Malone, a therapist whose [resume](#) states that she is contracted with DHR in “over 24 counties.”

In a normal family, an adolescent who is caught looking at pornography may get a lecture about “the talk,” or may get grounded, or lose access to their electronic devices for a period of time. With government stepping into the role of parent, the response is apparently much more drastic. The young man was subjected to a very uncomfortable psychosexual evaluation with disturbing questions that many parents would have problems with their child being asked. His family was not given any voice in him being subjected to such an evaluation.

Taken to New Group Foster Home, Hasn't Been Heard From Since

The young twin has now been allegedly taken to a group home in yet another county late Friday night. He was able to contact home as he arrived, and he said that the place was a “prison for kids.” That was the last time that anyone has heard from him. The family had been told that they would be able to call him, but they have not been able to reach him for several days and they are concerned.

Controversial Sexual Testing

According to [*The Atlantic*](#), the Abel Assessment has very little published research on its effectiveness, and the bulk of the scientific articles written about the usefulness of the test were written either by its creator, Dr. Gene Abel, or those who work directly with him. Abel cautions that the test should not be relied upon too heavily because the test carries with it a number of false positives and false negatives. In other words, the controversial test misses a significant number of actual pedophiles, but it also incorrectly finds a significant number of innocent men and boys to be pedophiles.

The test requires the subject to look at pictures of men, women, boys, and girls, including some very young children, all in various stages of dress or undress. None are completely naked, but some are in their underwear, and some pictures are crude. The first time through, the response time is measured. The longer a subject lingers on a particular photo, the more sexually interested the person being tested is assumed to be to the person in the picture. From the descriptions of the test both from the creator and by critics, it is not difficult to imagine perfectly innocent scenarios in

which one might linger longer on one picture than on another. Perhaps one photo reminds the subject of a friend that has been taken away from him, or in this young man's case, of his twin sister. Could simply missing a loved one and lingering on a photo that reminds him of home contribute to him being labeled a pedophile?

The second phase of the test has subjects rate the pictures from revolting to arousing. InnocentDads.org points out that "A picture of a child in a bathing suit may not be revolting to you, but having a sexual relation with this child is COMPLETELY DIFFERENT." It may be cute, but if the photo is not rated revolting enough, could the test taker be labeled as a predator?

The scoring of the test is proprietary, and the methods of scoring are not publicly known, prompting one judge to declare:

For all we know, they and their components could be mathematically based, founded upon indisputable empirical research, or simply the magic of young Harry Potter's mixing potions at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals Inc. (509 U.S. 579 [1993]). (Source)

The test has been rejected as admissible for evidence in a number of jurisdictions, including the state of Massachusetts.

Therapist Deegan Malone: Conflict of Interest?

The therapist, Deegan Malone, is the same therapist who assessed the 14 year old's older brother Haydn several years ago. Haydn spent years after DHR somehow turned his juvenile popping of his sister's bra strap into all manner of sexual deviance. (See that story [here](#).)

Haydn's recollection of Deegan Malone was that she seemed "weird" and asked many strange questions that made him feel like she was trying to entrap him and get him to confess to being a sexual deviant and admit to things that he didn't do. He was only 12 at the time, and tried to tell her that he didn't do anything besides pop his sister's bra strap, but she wouldn't listen to him.

Now, his little brother is being subjected to the same therapist. The family is frightened for him.

Note: all of the siblings have adamantly insisted to Health Impact News that Haydn has never touched them inappropriately, maintaining that all he ever did was pop his twin sister's bra strap. There have been other allegations over the years, but other than the bra strap incident and the coerced confession to things he didn't do, all of the allegations have been unsubstantiated or "not indicated." These allegations have prompted the family to feel targeted over the years by DHR, that DHR is "making it up as they go along."

The family is very afraid that the younger twin is being set up to be accused of the same kinds of things that Haydn was several years ago. There is fear that he will be diagnosed with various disorders for which unwanted psychotropic drugs

will be prescribed, just as Haydn faced years ago.

Therapist Deegan Malone evaluated Haydn years ago when DHR alleged that he was a sexual offender. Haydn, now 20, was 12 at the time.

Isn't it a conflict of interest for Malone to now be evaluating the younger brother who is being accused of viewing pornography?

If you live in Alabama and have had dealings with Deegan Malone through her association with DHR that you would like to reveal, [please contact us](#).

Youth Pastor: He Is a Good Kid

Health Impact News spoke with the twins' youth pastor, who has known the kids for about 5 years. The family regularly attends church and participates in youth functions.

He reports that he has never seen even a slight sign of sexual deviance or inappropriateness in the teen. When asked if he tended to be flirtatious, the answer was a resounding, "No!"

The youth pastor describes him as a "very nice kid," one who is "honest, trustworthy, and faithful." The accusations that he is hearing do not fit the person that he knows at all.

14 Year Old New Mother Treated Like a Slave in DHR Custody Away from her Family?

Meanwhile, his twin sister and baby Braelon remain in the group home they were taken to after they were seized from their family. Health Impact News has learned that the postpartum care that the young mother received at the

hands of the state was very poor. Since she has been taken from her home, her freedom has been severely limited.

She has been doing chores at the group home since the very day she arrived, which was a mere 4 days after giving birth to her baby. The people over her have reportedly told her that, if she wants to raise a baby like an adult, then she needs to act like an adult and take care of herself like an adult. She has been responsible for fixing her own breakfast and lunch, and has had “kitchen duty” at the home at dinner, cleaning up and sweeping the floor. She has not been permitted to follow the advice that the best experts give to all new moms – “Rest when your baby naps.”

If she had been with her family, her only responsibility for the first few weeks of her baby’s life would have been to take care of her baby. She would have been surrounded by love and a supportive family. Most new mothers have at least a few days of having her mother, mother-in-law, sister, or even a postpartum doula come in to assist in the early days. The job of new mothers is to care for their newborn and to rest and recover.



Resting in the hospital with her baby before he was seized.
Photo credit: Juda Myers

Not so for “Cinderella.” She has been forced to do chores disguised as “life skills.” It was weeks before she got the basic postpartum supplies that she should have had. When DHR and the police seized her from her home, without a

warrant or court order, she was not given time to gather the supplies, so she went without for several weeks.

Normal new moms have friends and loved ones drop by to bring meals and give a hand, but this young mom has been isolated from every support she has ever known.

Her phone calls have allegedly been limited, and the calls she has been able to have are monitored. She has been given no privacy.

She hasn't been to her own kind of church for more than a month. She was compelled to attend the group home's church for the first couple of weeks.

She and her twin brother are supposed to be a part of their own church's annual Kids Rally on Wednesday, July 27 through Friday, July 28. They have never missed a Kids Rally. Their family hopes that DHR will honor their religious preferences and not stop them from attending.

As previously reported, baby Braelon got very sick before those at the group home listened to her maternal instincts and took them to the hospital. Days after her baby was released, DHR worked hard to cause the [newly recovered baby to be circumcised](#) against his mother's wishes. After a petition and an outcry that was heard all around the world, the circumcision was stopped.

All this is supposed to be "in her best interest" and "in the best interest of her baby."

Haly's Appeal for Her Children Denied

Last week, [the twins older sister Haly](#) received the devastating news that her appeal to reverse the termination of her and her husband Anthony's parental rights for their 2 older children was denied. Earlier, they had been told that the Court of Appeals was closed during the month of July, and that it would likely be September or October before they got the verdict. Yet, somehow, their verdict came in the middle of July. Judge Terry Moore has denied the appeal, with "no opinion" cited.

They are hoping to appeal again to a higher court. The family feels that there was never a valid reason for taking her children; they were just caught up in the system because Haly herself was in the system.

Because those children were taken, the couple's youngest baby, born in May, was seized by Shelby County DHR, even though she gave birth in Jefferson County. The baby is being given formula against her mother's wishes. Haly is still pumping her milk for her baby, because she wants her baby to have what is best for her.



Haly and her baby, before she was taken by DHR. Source: Prince family.

Recently, DHR has ordered that she and her husband have separate visits with the baby. They each have 2 hours, 3 times a week. The grandparents have just 1 hour per week to

see her.

Children's Song Racist?

Haly was reported to DHR for singing a “racist” song to her baby during a visitation. Tonya Brancato is a DHR transporter who supervises the visits with her baby, and she recently took issue with Haly singing a beloved children’s song to her daughter, “Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed.”

Haly was floored. It never entered her mind that someone would consider the song racist. She certainly doesn’t consider herself as such – her husband Anthony is black, and her children are half black. These are children that she is fighting for with every breath in her body, the children that she loves dearly. She sounded quite offended that someone would consider her to be racist.

Court Case Continued

There was a hearing on Friday, July 22, but after a long day, nothing was reportedly decided. The cases have been continued. The next hearing is on August 25.

Health Impact News reporter Terri LaPoint was told that Judge Corey Moore has said that she and other journalists are not welcome at his courthouse in Columbiana, Alabama. The family was reportedly instructed not to bring their “media friends” to court any more.

There never was a court order or warrant for taking baby Braelon or the twins. There were never any “exigent circumstances” or immediate danger. As previously reported, Shelby County Officer Edmunson told the family

that DHR did not need a warrant, and that DHR had a “pickup order.” But apparently there never was a “pickup order.”

DHR supervisor Ahzshaka Evans told the young mother shortly before she seized her baby:

There are 2 people who don't need a court order or warrant: the Department of Human Services and law enforcement.

If the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution does not apply to law enforcement or to the governmental agency with the power to seize children from their parents, then who else would it apply to?

4th Amendment

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.



The American Flag and the Constitution of America.

The longer that DHR remains entangled in the family, the more opportunity there is to cause further destruction for this family. Things that would have been handled by the

family become huge deals with DHR. More than anything, they just want to be able to be a family.

The family, as well as now hundreds of thousands of people supporting them all around the country and even from other parts of the world who are following their story, believe that it is time for Shelby County DHR and Judge Corey Moore to do the right thing and send these children home.

Reporter Relates First-hand View of Corruption and Child Kidnapping in Alabama Shelby County Court House



Health Impact News Editor Comments

People in Alabama connected to the Prince family story that Health Impact News has been reporting on since the seizure of the new-born baby born to a 14 year-old alleged rape victim while still in the hospital, have reported to us that everyone they have met has now heard of this story. The stories we have published in regards to Alabama DHR's apparent attempt to destroy the Prince family have been read by hundreds of thousands of people, with the [first story we published](#) having well over 1 million views alone. Given

the population of Alabama, it is safe to assume that the majority of the residents are familiar now with this story. When people walk into retail stores, stop to get gas, etc. – everyone is talking about this story and has heard about it.

And yet, the local media is not reporting it. Many have written to us explaining that they are afraid to do so, such is the perceived reign of terror DHR holds over the population, with their seemingly unlimited power to seize children away from families without even having a court order or warrant.

One person has visited the courthouse in Shelby County themselves to see if these types of allegations are true. Below is a record of what they saw. For obvious reasons, this person wants to remain anonymous.

Observations in a Shelby County Courthouse

by Anonymous Reporter

Friday, I wandered into the Shelby County Courthouse to see what was going on as this has been a hotbed of media excitement as Shelby County DHR has been accused of baby stealing for no reason and unwilling to return the babies because of posts on “social media”.

My first observation was a court official informing a young black man that his judge had seen him in the hall and informed court personnel that his attire was not appropriate in HIS courtroom. As a bystander and reporter for many courthouses across the state, I was perplexed as to the disdain of this clean, respectable young man’s attire. Even at this particular courthouse, I have seen much worse. Clean-

cut, light blue polo shirt, khaki pants while not to the floor, not considered shorts by any means. I watched the family scramble to go find a pair of pants for this young man.

Upon further investigation, the Judge who issued the order that he not appear in HIS courtroom was none other than Judge Corey Moore, the newly appointed, not yet ever elected, judge in Shelby County.

As there was no docket that could be found, I assume that this particular hearing was a confidential Juvenile hearing. I can only assume that this nice-looking, young, quiet, black man was here to fight for his child, or fight to prevent DHR from removing him/her from his care. While parties entered the courtroom, witnesses were left outside, laughing and snickering about the parents in the courtroom. Apparently they were there to be called as witnesses as to every move the parents made, at the request of DHR.

Supervised visitation is nothing more than people hired by DHR watching every move a parent makes, being viewed under a microscope. These DHR paid “supervisors” cannot be viewed as unbiased witnesses, as they know who signs their checks. In small communities, DHR is BIG BUSINESS.

I think of my own small children at home, the mistakes I made and MAKE daily, thinking how I might feel if every move was watched, recorded and reported to an entity who is supposed to protect children and provide parents the services to successfully parent their own children. This doesn't seem to be the goal. This adversarial system which seems to be more concerned with the length of a young man's pants than his true ability and desire to parent his child. While he seems to have a Village of support from family and friends, this observer heard that DHR would not allow any help from family. He had to prove that he could

live alone, work, I am assuming for minimum wage as he is a young man, and jump through whatever hoops DHR and this judge deems appropriate to allow him raise his own flesh and blood.

This reporter will not pen my name to this article as I fear for my own children at home, a late night knock at my door claiming that there was an anonymous call to DHR that I was neglecting my children. “We were told that you are abusing drugs and your children are in danger, if you don’t submit to a drug test right now, we will put your children in foster care tonight.”

That doesn’t happen, you say. Oh yes, it does, too often; and it will continue unless something happens in Alabama changing the abuse of power that DHR deems as appropriate in order to “protect children”. A DHR which has been said to be “out of control” by many in Shelby County Alabama, even those who are paid by the State and will only whisper their disgust “off the record” for fear of retaliation against their own children and grandchildren.

Sadly, this is not a problem specific only to Shelby County, Alabama but has become an epidemic threatening our entire country. As for the man with the new pants, I do not know how his day ended, was he reunited as DHR insists is their goal of children with fit parents? I have no idea as I was not able to stay because I had my own children to pick up from my sitter.

But as I write this, I have a dream, a dream that one day a man is not judged by the length of his pants but by the content of his character.

Alabama Child Protective Services Continues to Harass Alabama Family



Alabama twins at Kids Camp. Contributed by anonymous source

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

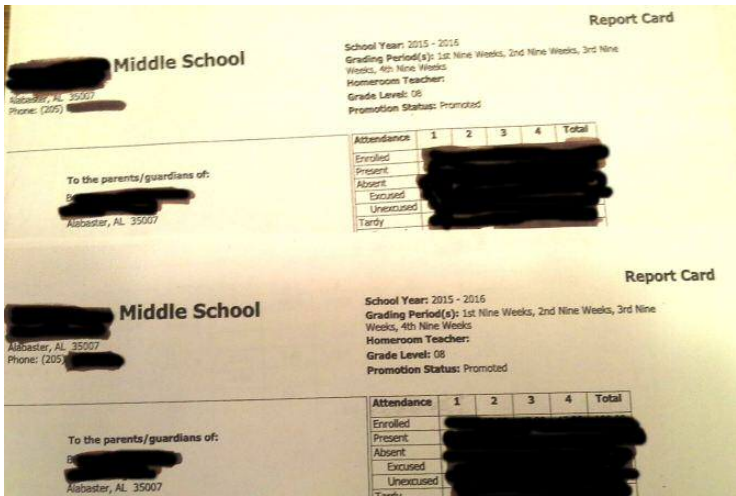
A set of twins seized from their home in June by Shelby County DHR in Alabama may have to repeat the 8th grade, even though both were promoted by their school to the 9th grade. Family and friends are very concerned about the impact that the Department of Human Resources (DHR) will have on the twins' education. There have also been numerous problems with visitation attempts with the twins.

Their family's story has been at the heart of an ongoing series of articles from Health Impact News after one of the twins, a young rape victim, had her baby seized from her at Shelby County Baptist Medical Center on June 15 without a court order, warrant, or emergency circumstances.

See the original story: [Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

The story went viral with almost a million views in the first 24 hours after publication, and public outcry arose. In what many close to the situation believe was an attempt to cover their tracks, DHR seized the 14 year old mother and her twin brother the next evening from their home. The mother was placed in a group home with her baby, and her twin was placed into a foster home. He was recently transferred to a group facility that is 2 hours away from her.

Both twins were told last week by DHR officials that they would be going into the 8th grade when school starts, even though both of them completed the 8th grade in the spring. They were promoted by their school to the 9th grade before they were taken from their home.



Their report cards clearly show that they are “Promoted”

The male twin told friends that the facility he is in got him a uniform last week for the 8th grade. The facility has their own school on campus. His twin sister will reportedly be attending a local public school near her group home.

Both are upset about the prospect of repeating the 8th grade. The 14 year old rape victim managed to pull out mostly A’s and B’s during the school year in which she was raped and became pregnant. Her baby was born shortly after the school year ended.

Her family has been very proud of the twins for their successful completion of Middle School in the midst of all that they experienced through the school year.

DHR supervisor Riane Hinton reportedly told the family that they don’t have the school records, and therefore, the twins will start school in the 8th grade this week, because of their

age. They are 14, but they will be 15 next week, which means that they will then be the same age as the average 9th grader.



Shelby County DHR Supervisor Riane Hinton. Source: [Google](#) +

Health Impact News was able to obtain a copy of their report cards (see above), and we would be happy to share them with Hinton if they cannot otherwise obtain them from the school. She may contact us at this link: <https://medicalkidnap.com/contactus/>

Teacher Grandmother is Concerned

As a teacher herself, the twins' grandmother is concerned about their education. Two of her other grandchildren missed high school credits due to DHR involvement interfering with their schooling. She was able to enroll them into a credit recovery program and they had to do a great deal of extra school work in order to graduate with their class. The family is afraid that DHR is setting the twins up for the same situation.

What kind of educational policy is this for the state to force children to repeat a grade that they have successfully completed, simply because they fail to obtain the proper records? How can the educational system allow this to happen? How is this “in the best interest of the child”?

The twins would like to attend their own school where their friends are. There is concern that DHR may use school as an excuse not to allow the children to go home, because a number of Alabama families have reported that judges don't like to move kids back home in the middle of a school year. The families note that this concern never stopped social workers from moving children OUT of their homes and schools, but is often used as a justification for delaying reunification back into their own homes.

School starts Thursday, August 11, for Shelby County schools. School started Wednesday where the twins are currently being held, but neither attended school on that day. The twins and the family hope that DHR will do the right thing in their best interest and allow them to enter the grade they were promoted to at the end of last school year. There is no legitimate reason for them to repeat the 8th grade.

Visitation Rights being Violated by DHR

Generally when children are removed by child protective services, a visitation plan is put into place. Many parents all over the nation report that the system seems to do everything they can to interfere with the visitation with their children, and the Prince family is no exception. When they do have visits, the workers often hover over them in Gestapo-like fashion.

On Saturday, the twins were supposed to meet with their

family. Supervisor Riane Hinton assured Mrs. Prince that they had 2 visits that weekend. The transporter brought the young mother and her baby to the place for visitation 40 minutes late, and her brother never made it at all. The family was told that there was a problem with the transporter. So his visit never happened that day.

The next visit was to be a visit to support their religious rights. They were to attend their church's annual Back to School Bash, and one of the twins had a role in a presentation. He never made it. Shortly before the event was to occur, he called and told his family that the transporter never showed up. His family attempted to reach the facility, the social worker, and the supervisor. No one answered the phone. Health Impact News attempted to reach each of them as well to inquire why the teen wasn't attending the religious function that had been promised to him, but no one answered any phone calls. The family was later told that the transporter was sick, and that no other arrangements could be made.

Thus, the young man missed both of his visits with his family last week.



Braelon with his uncle and Grandmother at Kids Camp. Photo contributed by anonymous source.

He had a dentist appointment on Monday to get a cavity filled. DHR recently scheduled the appointment after a checkup they took him to revealed the cavity. However, he never made it to the dentist appointment either. His family had requested that he be allowed to have lunch with them before the dentist appointment since the visits didn't happen, but that request was denied.

Instead of taking him to his dentist appointment, reportedly, DHR took him to another psychiatrist for a psychiatric evaluation. His family is fearful that they are trying to put their healthy family member onto psychotropic drugs, a practice which is all too common in foster children.

See:

[Kids in Foster Care 3 Times As Likely To Get Psych Drugs](#)

[California's Crisis: 1 Out of Every 4 Children in California's Foster Care Prescribed Powerful Psychiatric Drugs](#)

Family Locked in at Visits

Most of the visits with the family have been scheduled to take place at Hearthstone Family Services in Cullman, Alabama, which is a facility founded by attorneys who practice juvenile and family law ([Source](#)). According to the Facebook page of the facility:

We provide clients with a warm, inviting space that is comfortable for their children, like visiting a friend's home.

The facility has mirrors and video cameras to monitor the visits, and once, when the twins asked for a drink at Hearthstone, the staff reportedly told them that drinks were only for their staff members.



Source: [Hearthstone Family Services](#) Facebook page

The business is attached to attorneys' offices, and is located across the street from DHR, but perhaps the most concerning thing about Hearthstone for the parents who visit there is that families coming for visitation are locked into the building without a way to escape in case of emergency. Several sources have reported to Health Impact News that the area for visitation is locked with a key, and the only way in or out is for a staff member to open it with a key. Once, family members reportedly waited while a worker fumbled with 5 different keys before he found the right one. The family was alarmed and wondered how anyone would be able to get out in case of a fire. They do not feel that they or the children are safe at Hearthstone.

Supervision of Twins in Public Feels like “Gestapo or the KGB”

The visits with the family are often overly supervised, as reported by several sources and witnessed by a Health Impact News investigator. The twins were permitted to attend the annual Kids Camp at their church two weeks ago – an event they have never missed in their lives. Though they were happy to be in their home church and visit with loved ones and friends, they felt smothered. Some observers felt like the Gestapo or the KGB was present.

On one night of the 3 night event, there were 7 government workers present to supervise the twins and baby Braelon. They supervised far more closely than was necessary or reasonable. The twin brother was allowed more freedom of movement, but the young mother was followed virtually everywhere she went within the church. In the sanctuary, the workers sat by her and wouldn't even let the teenager sit with her family or friends. Once, they even followed her into the ladies room. Workers were observed taking her baby and holding him, which some present felt undermined the young mother.

How many workers are necessary to supervise a foster child? Could they not have observed from a seat across the room? Are foster children not allowed any normal freedom of movement, or is this a special allowance for the young mother? She was the victim of a crime, not the perpetrator, so why does the state of Alabama insist on treating her like a criminal?

Neither she nor her brother have had their cell phones returned since DHR took them from the teens on the 3rd day in their custody.

Newborn Baby Continues to Suffer in State Care

DHR has reportedly contracted with Solace Services to have one or more “sitters” watch the young mother around the clock. Everywhere she goes, in the group home, to her church, to the hospital, even to sleep, one of the hired sitters is right there by her side, watching every move, involved directly in the care of baby Braelon, whether the mother wants it or not.



Baby Braelon at Kids Camp. Photo contributed by anonymous source.

The baby has been taken to the doctor and hospital with stomach pain on several occasions. He is being given gas drops, sometimes as often as every 4 hours. At least 2 doctors have stated that the baby, born on June 13, should not be given any apple or prune juice, because they are too acidic for such a young baby. This is in accordance with the recommendations of many health professionals and breastfeeding educators. Doctors told the mother and the workers that pear or white grape juice may be given once a day.

However, one of the sitters hired by DHR has been feeding the baby straight apple juice. The mother may be only 14, but she continues to demonstrate that she understands more about the proper care of her baby than the adults around her that have been forced into her life by DHR.

How You Can Help

Supporters are encouraged to continue to call attention to the actions of DHR. Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Cam Ward is the Senator for their district. He may be reached at 334-242-7873, or contacted [here](#).

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According to the [Alabama Family Rights Association](#), ALFRA:

Alabama has a nine-member task force created to examine the work of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). If you have issues or concerns about DHR services,

your best plan of action is to contact the following legislators/lawmakers and committee members:

Mac McCutcheon, State Representative, Task Force chair / 334-242-7705 / 256-655-3764 / email [here](#)

Chris England, State Representative / 334-242-7703 / 205-535-4859 / email [here](#)

Greg Reed, State Senator / 334-242-7894

The complete list of committee Members can be found here: [Executive Order Number 11](#)

Shelby County DHS Director Kim Mashego may be reached at (205) 669-3000, or contacted [here](#).

DHR supervisor Riane Hinton may be reached at (205) 669 3093.

Wish the Twins a Happy Birthday

They will turn 15 on August 17. The family has a mailbox set up for anyone who would like to send cards and birthday wishes. The family will make sure that the cards reach the twins.

From the SAVE Braelon's Family Facebook page:

It's the twins birthday on August 17. We want everyone to send birthday cards to "Braelon's Mom" and Braelon's Uncle. Let's make them KNOW they are not forgotten. Violations against them continue everyday!! The supervisor

Sheri Whitehead has resigned!!! Others have resigned too. But still DHR remains hardened against this family! PLEASE WISH THE TWINS A HAPPY BIRTHDAY! It won't be a good one as they are still hostages but knowing YOU care makes a huge difference. Thank you.

P O BOX 2296 Alabaster, AL 35007

Alabama DHR Seizes Newborn Baby with No Court Order, No Trial, and No Evidence



Haly with her newborn in May, before Avyonna was taken away. Photo used with permission from the family.

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

The assumption of the public is that, when a child is removed from his or her parents, the government has a compelling reason to be involved, based on allegations of abuse or neglect. Sometimes, however, that is not the case, and children are literally separated from their families because a social worker thinks a parent MIGHT cause harm in the future, even if there is no current abuse or harm being committed.

This appears to be the case with an Alabama mother whose 3 day old breastfeeding baby was taken from her at the hospital in May. The mom, 20 year old Haly Booth, is an older sister of the 14 year old rape victim whose story of her baby's kidnapping has been heard around the world. Shelby County DHR has seized Haly's newborn baby with no court order, no trial, and no evidence. The reasons they have given in a written letter to the mother are basically that they do not think she is a good mother, and that she might harm her baby in the future. The mother is a former foster child herself, and that is used against her.

Is this what we have come to in the United States of America, where children can be kidnapped by the State so easily? Is any family safe?

Original story of Haly's sister:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

Haly's story:

Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at Hospital

Social workers at the DHR office (Department of Human Resources – Alabama's Child Protective Services) handed Haly a disturbing letter on Monday, August 8, in which the department attempts to justify keeping her baby Avyonna in their custody. The letter contains a number of problematic points, which indicate a couple of things:

1. The conclusions reached by the department reveal a flawed investigation process, and
2. If the conclusions reached are allowed to stand, this shows that DHR has a truly frightening amount of power over the lives of the citizens of the state of Alabama, and their ability to abuse this power must immediately be reigned in by the government.

To summarize the background of why Haly's baby was taken, Haly and her siblings were taken from their grandparents' home when she was 12 years old after her twin brother Haydn popped her bra strap. DHR became involved. The situation was allegedly quickly twisted and Haydn was accused of all kinds of things that everyone in the family says he didn't do. There was absolutely no evidence for the allegations, but a confession was allegedly illegally coerced out of a scared little boy who was locked in a room and interrogated for almost 5 hours. Based on that confession, Haly and all of her siblings were removed from their grandparents' custody. She allegedly left kicking and screaming.

All of the other children eventually returned to their grandparents' home, but Haly became pregnant in foster care. She suffered abuse and was shifted from placement to placement, separated from the rest of her family. She had 2 babies while in foster care. Even so, she graduated high school on time.

Her foster mother died suddenly, and her children were placed in another home, where they were abused in state custody. The babies were born while Haly was a foster child, so the state kept custody of the children. Her rights were terminated in December 2015. She was told that the children had been in custody so long that she wasn't getting them back.

Thus, when she gave birth to another baby in May, DHR came into her hospital room and took the new baby. As appears to be a common practice with Shelby County DHR, social workers removed her baby without a court order or warrant. She, her husband Anthony, and her family have been fighting ever since to get baby Avyonna back. It appears that Shelby County DHR needed no other reason than the fact that they had already taken her other children.

The Letter: One Social Worker Determines Fate of Child

The letter that Haly received states that the preliminary decision is that they believe that child abuse/neglect is "indicated" or true. According to DHR:

An "indicated" finding is used when there is more credible evidence than not, based on the professional judgment of the social worker, that child abuse or neglect has occurred.

Parents often complain to Health Impact News that criminals have more rights than parents do, and from the above statement, that would appear to be the case. One person, who may or may not like the accused, is permitted to make a judgment as to the guilt or innocence of a parent. There is no jury of peers or opportunity to present exonerating evidence. There is no opportunity to face one's accusers. Apparently, guilt or innocence may be decided by a social worker, begging the question: where is due process?

DHR Social Workers Make Unfounded Psychological Diagnoses

The letter reports that Haly is being accused of having the following diagnoses:

- *You were diagnoses (sic) with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Depressive Disorder, NOS and Borderline Intellectual Functioning.*

Haly and her grandparents report that she has never been diagnosed with these things, and they wonder where these diagnoses come from. In all of the paperwork that the family has over the years, there has never been any mention of these things.

Admittedly, there has been trauma in her life from DHR taking her away from her family when she was 12 years old. She suffered abuse in foster care, and she has now had 3 children seized from her. There was certainly trauma, but since she has been back with her family for the past 2 years, she is learning to be victorious and overcome the traumatic things that have happened to her. Oftentimes, Post-

Traumatic Stress is not a “disorder” but a NORMAL response to an ABNORMAL situation. That may well be the case with Haly. It is apparent to those around her that she is an overcomer.

Depressive Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (NOS) is a condition in which a person has symptoms of depression, but not enough to qualify for a clinical diagnosis (and therefore drugs to treat it). The NOS designation appears to allow doctors to have a diagnosis in order to prescribe medications for people in a mild or temporary, situational depressive state. Despite the depressing reality of having 3 children taken from her, Haly has never been diagnosed with depression.



Baby Avyonna. Source: Facebook.

The allegation of Borderline Intellectual Functioning is something that Haly finds, frankly, to be insulting. Her record speaks for itself. Despite having 2 babies and suffering abuse in foster care, she still managed to graduate from high school on time with mostly A's and B's, with the

occasional C in higher math. She took regular classes, never special ed. She is a hard worker with a quick wit. She has worked in her current job since March, and was recently promoted to a managerial position. This is not something that she would have accomplished if she had “Borderline Intellectual Functioning,” which is a term which has replaced the term “mental retardation.”

Shouldn't she be applauded, and not insulted?

DHR Accuses Mother to Have “Characteristics” of a Child Abuser

The next statement in the letter from DHR states that:

- *You have an increased risk of physical child abuse and personal interpersonal characteristics that are similar to characteristics of known physical child abuser. (sic)*

So now Child Protective Services can take away someone's children because they have traits that are similar to someone who has abused a child? What if someone has some traits in common with a thief or murderer? Are we going to lock them up because those traits mean they might commit a crime? And how does anyone defend themselves against such an accusation? Where does individual choice and responsibility fit into this?

It used to be that when someone grew up in difficult circumstances and they made choices to overcome their background, we praised such accomplishments. Hollywood and the Olympics are full of stories of triumphant people who share characteristics with people who don't do so well

in life.

Did Haly lose the ability to rise above her circumstances simply because DHR is involved? Her family and friends do not think so, and they report that she has come a long way in the 2 years that she has been back with her family and church.

False “Sex Abuser” Accusation Still Being Used by DHR

The department asserts that:

- *In addition, you currently live in the home with a sexual offender.*

No, she doesn't.

A simple investigation into the facts show this to be patently false. This statement is presumably referring to Haly's twin brother – the one who popped her bra strap when they were 12. The whole ordeal is explained in detail [here](#), and a document from 2011 clearly states:

He is not charged with a juvenile criminal sex offense and was therefore not assigned a risk of re-offense level.

Numerous documents over the years have stated that DHR has not believed him to be a threat.

Health Impact News searched sex offender databases and no

one in Haly's family comes up in the search.

Finally, on that point, even if this were truly a concern, it wouldn't apply to Haly anyway. She doesn't live at her grandparents' home any more. She and her husband Anthony live in their own apartment. Neither of them have ever been accused of being any kind of sexual offender.

Does Child Protective Services Own All Subsequent Children Born to a Previous Foster Child?

Many parents around the nation have reported to Health Impact News that Child Protective Services workers often operate under the assumption that they have the right to any subsequent children borne by a mother who has ever had any child taken by the system. Apparently, Shelby County DHR follows this philosophy as well, as their letter to Haly indicates:

- Further, your rights have been terminated on your older children.

The family continues to maintain that there was never a valid reason for the state to keep her older children in their custody. Haly's appeal of the TPR was denied in July, but she still hopes to appeal to a higher court.

Dee Prince, Haly's grandmother, has said many times to Health Impact News that DHR never gave Haly the opportunity to be a mother to her children.



Haly at her baby shower. She was so excited about her baby, and then she was taken away by DHR. Source: Facebook

Potential Future Adverse Events Used to Keep Baby: Could be Applied to ANY Family

In perhaps the most ironic statement in the entire letter, DHR reasons that, because harm COULD occur in the parents' custody, they have the right to remove the child from her family. This statement shows an apparent blindness to the documented governmental statistics that a child in Child Protective Custody is at least 6 times more likely to suffer abuse, rape, molestation, or even death while in foster care than they would if they had been left in their own home, even if that home is less than ideal.

See:

The U.S. Foster Care System: Modern Day Slavery and Child Trafficking

The letter states:

- *Serious harm has not yet occurred, but a child has been placed in a situation that can result in significant physical injury; sexual abuse; severe impairment in the child's behavioral and/or cognitive functioning; permanent disability or disfigurement; or death.*

Even though nothing has happened to Haly's children in her care, DHR social workers believe that something might happen in the future, so the state feels justified in keeping her baby.

How frightening.

If DHR has the power to do this to Haly, what is to stop them from saying this to any other family in the state?

Further, harm has, in fact, happened to Haly's older children in foster care, who have suffered abuse while in foster care. Her nephew, baby Braelon, allegedly almost died a few weeks ago because the foster carers did not listen to Braelon's mother and get him care when he was sick until it was almost too late. (See [story](#).)

Haly and her siblings suffered abuse while they were in foster care. Is it somehow more acceptable to have a risk of abuse at the state's hands than it is at the parents' hands?

How can a parent defend against an accusation that they MIGHT do something in the future? How can there be evidence either for or against such an allegation?

Guilty without Trial

According to DHR, the allegations outlined in the letter have resulted in an "indicated disposition for Other Risk or Serious Harm" being applied to the accusations. This will apparently not be the subject of a court hearing, as the letter states that she has 10 days in which to request a review, to be conducted by a panel of other DHR employees not involved with the case.

Shelby County DHR Furious that they are Exposed via the Alternative Media

From what Health Impact News has gathered from various sources, none of the court hearings involving Haly, the twins, or baby Braelon have actually addressed the accusations against the family or the lack of a court order or

warrant to seize the children. Instead, we are told that the judge and DHR continue to be very upset that this story is in the media. Because they are busy addressing their desire to make this go away in the media, they apparently are not focusing on issues involving the children.

If negative press is what the officials in Shelby County want to avoid, the solution is simple – follow the law and the Constitution, and do the right thing. Honor the family's due process rights, and return any children who should not have been removed from their family. This should not be about anyone's ego; it should be about the children.

Foster Children Represent Big Money for the State

Mounds of evidence show that children need their families, and that children thrive best in environments where they are loved. There is a biological, psychological, and spiritual need for children to be with their families.

The harsh reality is that children taken by the Child Protective System represent huge amounts of money to the state, and decisions are not made based upon what is best for the child, but upon how best to maximize the funding the state can get for taking a child. Corruption within the system is rampant.

The task of media, according to the Founding Fathers, is to hold government officials accountable. Indeed, the Supreme Court emphatically upheld that role of the press in a 1971 case of the [New York Times Co. vs United States](#):

In the First Amendment, the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors. The Government's power to censor the press was abolished so that the press would remain forever free to censure the Government. The press was protected so that it could bare the secrets of government and inform the people. Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government.

Perhaps it is time for the Shelby County Court and DHR to stop focusing on media exposure of their deeds, and instead focus on how they can make things right for Haly Boothe, the 14 year old twins, the Prince family, and the rest of the constituency that they serve.

How You Can Help

Supporters are encouraged to continue to call attention to the actions of DHR. Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

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Shelby County DHS Director Kim Mashego may be reached at (205) 669-3000, or contacted [here](#).

Alabama 14 Year Old Rape Victim Released from State Custody with her Baby



Now that the young mother is with family again, perhaps her smile will return. Photo source: Juda Myers.

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

Baby Braelon and his young mother have been released to the custody of a family member, according to a source close to the Prince family. The mother's twin brother remains in a group home, but the source, who asked not to be named, reports that the judge in the case, Judge Corey Moore, appears to finally be listening to the evidence in the case. If this continues to happen, there is hope that the brother will be returned to his grandparents' home soon.

The Princes are not disclosing any information at this time, under advice from an attorney. The source told Health Impact News that they know that many people have been advocating and praying for the family, and they believe they have a right to know the latest news. They believe that prayer has made a difference.

The twins and baby Braelon were removed by Child Protective Services (DHR) from their family in June without a court order, warrant, or exigent circumstances. Up until the hearing on Thursday, much of the court proceedings have allegedly focused on the fact that the story has remained in the media, something that the judge and DHR appeared to adamantly oppose. That focus has meant that the court was not looking at the evidence, or lack thereof, in the case.

See original story:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

The family has maintained all along that if the courts would look at the evidence and if the law were followed, there

would be no case. They never asked for special favors, only for those involved to do the right thing. This is the case for every family whose story has been covered by Health Impact News. Truth stands for itself, but in order for that to happen, the truth has to be presented in court, and a judge must be willing to make just decisions. Too few families find this to be the case in family court.



Prince twins with their grandfather, when they were all still together. Photo source: Facebook

Our own investigation into stacks of documents and years of DHR involvement revealed a pattern of apparent harassment of the Prince family, with countless unsubstantiated allegations over the years. The only substantiated allegation was one in which a confession was illegally coerced from a scared 12 year old boy who popped the bra strap of his sister. ([Source](#)) That case was dismissed in 2013.

It appears that Judge Moore is, at last, looking at the facts of the case over all of the smoke and mirrors by DHR. After seeing evidence that DHR presented false information to the court, the unnamed source reports that the judge ordered

that the young mother and baby Braelon be released from the Childhaven group home and be returned that afternoon to a family member.

No more will she be under the watchful guard of the 24 hour sitters. No more will she be isolated from her support system and everyone she cares about. When she attends church, she will be able to sit with family and friends instead of social workers. She won't be followed into the bathroom. She will be living in a much cleaner environment. Her phone conversations with family members will not be monitored. She will be able to breastfeed her baby on demand and meet his needs, without being coerced to follow poor decisions for his care made by sitters, social workers, and group home mothers. If he needs to go to the doctor, she will be able to get him seen without having to beg for days.

In short, the young mother will no longer be treated like a prisoner.

Her twin brother remains in a group home in Montgomery, but the family is reportedly guardedly optimistic that the judge may now look objectively at the evidence in his case.

Since evidence of DHR's deception against this family is now being brought to light, there is hope that Judge Corey Moore will be open to hearing the evidence in the defense of the twins' older sister Haly, whose children were taken from her without real grounds.



Haly with her newborn in May, before DHR seized the baby without a court order or warrant. Photo source: family

See Haly's story:

Alabama DHR Seizes Newborn Baby with No Court Order, No Trial, and No Evidence

It is apparent that the judge in this case, just like family court judges all over the country, has been presented with inaccurate information from social workers. Many families have brought evidence to Health Impact News of social workers lying about them and their case, and this family is no exception. One of our investigative reporters was present for some of the events which have transpired, and she witnessed the deception of DHR firsthand.

It is hoped that family court judges across the country will reevaluate the practice of accepting the word of social workers without evidence. Child Protective Services is a government entity funded by taxpayers. As such, it needs to be accountable to the people. This story has demonstrated that DHR can and does abuse its power and needs to be held in check.

The twins turned 15 on August 17. They have communicated time and again that they want to be home with their family and that they never should have been taken away. The young mother is now reunited with family members. How much longer will her twin brother or Haly's children have to wait before they come home?

Corruption in Alabama: Abuse of Family Rights Continues - Retaliation Against Media Exposure



Haly and her baby at visitation.

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

Haly Boothe, a young Shelby County, Alabama mother whose 3 day old baby was seized by DHR without a court order, warrant, or evidence of wrongdoing, is still fighting to get her children back. Meanwhile, her nephew Baby Braelon, Braelon's mother, and her twin brother have been returned to a family member. Many who are close to the family have expressed that they are appalled at what they say is injustice in the family court system.

Haly recently sent a lengthy letter to Alabama legislators and others describing what she calls "a lifetime of attacks" by DHR. She posed numerous questions challenging many of the actions of DHR personnel, including those of her children's Guardian ad litem, Erin Welborn, which she has described as "unfair." As of the writing of this article, none of her concerns have been addressed. She wrote:

I am tired of being ignored, seeing my children abused, and being denied the basic rights of an American citizen to live my life free from government abuse. There has never been any legitimate reason for my children to be taken from me. My life was almost destroyed by your false accusations against my brother, Haydn. I spent too many years in the care of people who actually did abuse me and my children. Now you are using your control to ruin the lives of my children and the rest of my family.

Her parental rights to her other two children were terminated, even though her family maintains that the state has never produced any evidence of wrongdoing by Haly. They believe that she lost her children because she was in the foster care system herself when she had her first two

children at age 15 and 16. Her children were kept by DHR when Haly aged out of the system at age 19. She was not permitted to take her children with her.

Before her newest baby, Avyonna, was born in May, Haly was told by social workers and attorneys alike that they were not going to take her baby when she was born. In one email exchange on February 24 between Haly and the court-appointed attorneys for Haly and her husband Anthony, she asked:

Since I don't have any rights [to first two children] does that mean I don't have any rights to any other children I bare ? Like when I have my other baby in a couple of months can they come to the hospital and take it ??

Anthony's attorney Ann Derzis replied:

No sweetie you have rights to your unborn child- now it will not surprise me if they file an immediate safety plan but I don't know.

However, Baby Avyonna was seized by Shelby County DHR at only 3 days old in May from a Jefferson County hospital. The social worker reportedly told her that it was because DHR already had the other children in their custody.

Haly is now married. She and her husband have a stable job and their own apartment. She says they are working hard to prove that they can care for their child, but they have been discouraged by the fact that Avyonna is still in foster care. Haly is broken-hearted:

I need my baby back by Thanksgiving.

She says that the thought of facing the holiday season without any of her babies is very hard for her to think about.



Haly and her new baby while she still had custody. Photo used with permission from the family.

See Haly's story here:

[Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at Hospital](#)

Haly and Anthony Arrested Outside of Court

Haly and Anthony report that they have done everything that DHR has asked them to do. Sources close to the family continue to report that court hearings do not address concerns about the children. Instead, social workers and DHR attorneys allegedly continue to focus on media attention.

After a recent court hearing in October, sources close to the family report that Haly and Anthony were harassed by court security guards. Her estranged ex-step-grandfather works as court security, and he reportedly made a sarcastic comment to the couple as they walked out of the courthouse after the hearing. Anthony reportedly said:

Ok. Ima let that slide.

When they got outside, Haly says she told her husband:

If that's the case, then the majority of these people shouldn't have these kids.

When the guard asked what she said, she was silent. Haly says that he then snatched her by her arm, and then

slammed Anthony against a metal pole. They were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and spent the night in jail.

When her grandmother Dee Prince first spoke with Health Impact News, she reported that, out of everyone in the family who has suffered at the hands of DHR, Haly has suffered the most. She said that Haly was taken from her family at age 12, based on false allegations. She then spent the next several years in foster care, where she was allegedly abused and alienated from her family. Haly then gave birth to two children while in foster care, only to have them kept by DHR once she aged out of the system, then her newborn was seized at three days old.

Her grandparents have asked if it is any wonder that she would be angry at the system and frustrated with the people involved? Yet, Health Impact News has witnessed Haly, as well as her grandmother Dee, choose to pray for the very people whom they say have hurt their family. Through everything they have been through, they have consciously decided to praise God and trust in Him.



Dee Prince sings praise to the Lord, in spite of everything that her family is going through. Photo source: Health Impact News

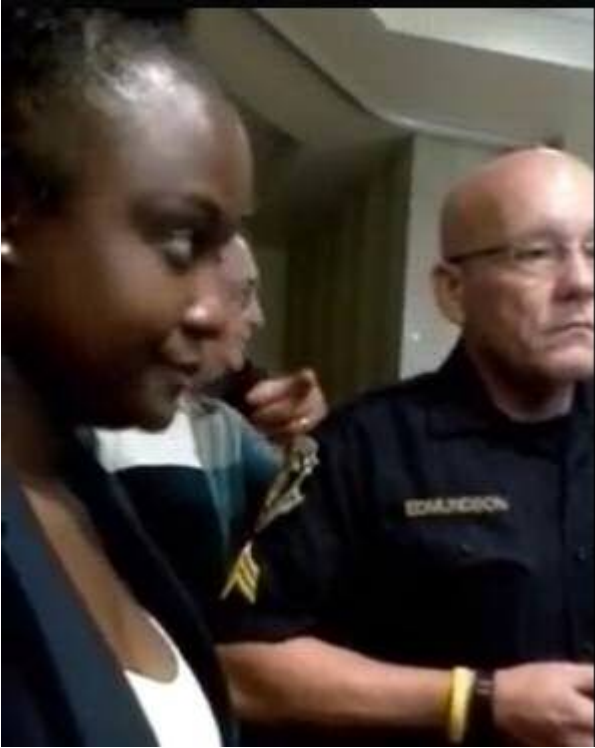
“Safety Concerns” Finally Identified, But Based on Untruths

When Baby Braelon (Haly’s nephew) was seized, social workers cited unidentified “safety concerns” which were the basis for their removal of the 2-day old breastfeeding baby

from his young mother at Shelby County Medical Center. Despite repeated requests from the family, advocate Juda Myers, and Health Impact News's reporter, no one elaborated on what those "safety concerns" were. Those concerns were cited, though not defined, when police and DHR social workers showed up the following day at the Prince residence to seize the baby's mother and her twin brother without a court order, warrant, or exigent circumstances required by the 4th Amendment to the Constitution.

Those concerns were not relevant to Haly's case.

After months, Health Impact News learned that the safety concerns were that the Princes showed poor judgment by allegedly inviting Samuel Woods III to the hospital. Woods is the man accused of, and later arrested for, the rape of their granddaughter, and at least 3 other rapes of underage girls. (See [source](#).) He has been accused by at least 3 additional girls. However, police and social workers reportedly instructed Dee Prince to call Woods' mother to meet police at the hospital when the baby arrived, so that they could swab for DNA evidence. Dee maintains that she did not "invite" him; she simply followed instructions.



DHR supervisor Ahzshaka Evans with Officer Edmunson. Photo by Health Impact News.

Both grandparents were accused of allowing Woods into the hospital room, but that is a misrepresentation of the events as witnessed by advocate Juda Myers of Choices4Life and Health Impact News reporter Terri LaPoint, who were present when Woods and his mother came into the room without permission. The story of that bizarre encounter is detailed [here](#), as well as in affidavits submitted to the attorneys. Rodney Prince was not at the hospital at the time.

This is allegedly the basis of DHR’s “safety concerns”- that

the grandparents “let” Woods into the hospital room. Despite evidence and testimony to the contrary, those allegations have subsequently been founded, or substantiated, by DHR, and Dee Prince is at serious risk of losing her job as a school teacher. They have not given up on fighting DHR’s findings, and they are hoping that they will be exonerated.

Twins with Family, Grandparents Denied Visits

Health Impact News previously reported that Baby Braelon’s mother and her twin brother were both seized from Dee and Rodney Prince, their custodial grandparents, and placed in foster care and group homes less than 24 hours after Baby Braelon was taken from the hospital, in what the family believes may be retaliation for the media coverage of the baby’s seizure by DHR. Both twins and the baby have now been placed with their biological mother – a move that the family sees as certainly better than where they were. Some observers close to the family have expressed concern that DHR is trying to set the family up for failure.

The grandparents report that they have not been allowed to see the twins or baby Braelon since they were returned to their mother, even though the Princes have been the twins’ legal guardians since their infancy. A court order states that they are to have 2 visits a month, but this hasn’t happened. When Dee Prince asked why, Erin Welborn wrote:

It is up to you to contact Safe Havens and do the intake process with Brandi Welton, the Program Director. Had you shown up to court, this could have been explained to you.

Because of her job as a school teacher, Dee Prince was unable to attend the hearing in person, but she was reportedly present by phone. However, during the phone call, she says no one explained that she needed to set up the visits. As of the writing of this article, there have still not been any visits scheduled, despite repeated efforts by the Princes to schedule the visits. It is unclear why these visits are being denied.

GAL Removed from Lawsuit Against Media, Lawsuit Still Not Dismissed

In June GAL Erin Welborn filed a lawsuit against Health Impact News and other media personnel on behalf of Baby Braelon, who was a week old at the time, alleging violations of privacy by exposing his seizure from the hospital by DHR. See story [here](#). The lawsuit also named numerous family members, including the baby's aunt Haly, whose children Welborn also represents as GAL.

Attorneys for the family and Health Impact News have filed for dismissal of the lawsuit. There has been one court hearing on the lawsuit, in which the court found that Welborn did not have standing to file the suit on behalf of the baby. She was removed from the lawsuit, but the case has yet to be dismissed, because the judge reportedly wants to make sure that the baby's rights are being preserved.

Haly's Letter to Alabama Legislators and Governor

Following is a letter that Haly sent to various legislators, the governor of Alabama, and to several in media. (Some names have been redacted), outlining questions that she has been asking all along.

Since the writing of the letter, her court-appointed attorney wrote that he felt that he had no choice but to withdraw from her case. Haly is now without legal representation. Her family is concerned that there are no attorneys left in Shelby County with the ethics and courage to stand up for her. They hope to find an attorney in Alabama who is not a part of the network of Shelby County attorneys.

Questions to the Court, SCDHR, and the Attorneys that Represent Me (Haly Boothe)

Alabama Dept. of Human Resources Code says in

Chapter 660-1-2 (d) Aid in the preservation, rehabilitation and reuniting of families

DHR has failed to demonstrate any evidence of this code for my family for years.

I am tired of being ignored, seeing my children abused, and being denied the basic rights of an American citizen to live my life free from government abuse. There has never been any legitimate reason for my children to be taken from me. My life was almost destroyed by your false accusations against my brother, Haydn. I spent too many years in the care of people who actually did abuse me and my children. Now you are using your control to ruin the lives of my children and the rest of my family.

“The Federal baseline statement for abuse is: Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or an act or failure to act, which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.”

SCDHR [Shelby County Department of Human Resources], you think you know what I might do in the future, but how do you know what I will do? You do not know me! SCDHR you have been proven to be abusive to children in your care over and over again for years. In my family, it's been a lifetime of attacks and tearing our family apart with lies and no real protection from the abuse SCDHR has allowed. My sister's baby, Braelon, almost died from medical neglect, but SCDHR returned Brendan and Braelon back to the same abusive, mold infested facility at Child Haven in Cullman. You allowed the staff at Child Haven to lie on my grandmother. My grandmother never told Brendan not to eat or not go to school. In case you do not know it, my grandmother is an educator, so school is important. Also, my grandmother makes sure we have plenty to eat. My grandmother was upset because Brendan told us that she was not getting anything to eat when she was being transported for visits. Two different times Child Haven neglected medical attention for Braelon, but my sister and her baby were returned to Child Haven both times. Yall caused emotional damage to me, Haydn, Braedan, Jonna, and Brendan. I was abused while in foster care. I was told was that I could have as many babies as I wanted because my foster mom would take care of them. I witnessed my own children being hit when we were with [foster mother], but no one stopped the abuse. I even threatened to call the police because [foster mother] was hitting me and my son, Haydn. [Foster mother] said "Now, who are they going to believe, me or you?" Now two of my children have been given to strangers with the plan for them to be adopted, and your plans are that they never know that I am their mother. NO child should ever have to endure the trauma SCDHR does to children but yall continue to say that we (my family) are the problem. I want justice to be served.

I have listed the questions I have been asking for years, but

no one seems to want to answer me. My questions are:

1. *Erin, you were the GAL for my son Haydn ... and my daughter Ka'myia ... since they were born in 2012 and 2013. I had both of these children while I was in foster care (I was 16 and 17 years old when they were born) because DHR accused my grandparents Dee & Rodney Prince of abusing us. Erin, you are also the GAL for my daughter Avyonna, my nephew Braelon, and you requested to be the GAL for my sister, Brendan (you had Patrick Kennedy removed as her GAL). You never brought diapers for my children or gave me money for my children while I was in foster care before [former foster mother] died. You never came to Monroeville to check on me or my children. The only time I saw you was at court. You never gave me anything for my birthday.*
2. *Erin, why did you have Patrick Kennedy removed from Brendan's case. But he is still the GAL for my brother Braedan's case. Patrick Kennedy has been the Gal for me and my siblings. He does not return calls, and he never came or called to check on any of us while we were in foster care.*
3. *I want to know why my grandparents continue to be harassed and accused of abusing my siblings by SCDHR. All they have ever done is take care of me and my siblings. Why does DHR leave us alone for a few years, but then yall come back and say you have a report of abuse? My grandparents have had to hire an attorney many times over the years. They have been investigated and every time these investigations were reported as non-founded and my siblings were returned to my grandparents. I did not return to my*

grandparents until after I was made to leave the system because I did not want to leave my children in foster care.

- 4. How can you accuse my grandparents of abusing us for over 20 years, but still allow children to live with them if they have done what yall said? The reason is because yall know yall lied on my grandparents just like yall are lying on me! Now, SCDHR is accusing me of abusing Avyonna. How can I abuse a child I have never been allowed to be alone with, except when she was born?*
- 5. How can yall say I might abuse Avyonna, so that is the reason yall refuse to return her to me? She was 3 days old when SCDHR took her from the hospital. I never got to bring her home!*
- 6. I want to know why DHR worker Erica Robinson from Shelby County and a worker from Jefferson County came to the hospital at UAB to take Avyonna and my sister Jonna's baby on May 10, 2016. Jonna and I both had our babies the same day, May 9, 2016 at the same hospital if you have not targeted my family to kidnap our babies.*
- 7. Since I had my baby in Jefferson County, how was Adrianna Carter from Shelby County DHR able to come to that hospital on May 12, 2016 and take my baby? SCDHR worker Felicia Cooper found out I was pregnant with Avyonna when I had my last visit with Haydn and Ka'myia in December 2015 before yall terminated my rights.*

8. Erin, how is it that you take diapers to my sister Brendan for her baby Braelon and you gave her and my brother Braedan money for their birthday in August 2016 of this year? You never gave me money for my birthday and you were on my case since Haydn was born in 2012.

9. Erin, why have you told Suzhan and Brendan that you are not suing our family? I have the lawsuit that names me, my mother-Suzhan, my uncle, Jeremy Collins, my grandparents Dee & Rodney Prince, and the people who have told the truth about what SCDHR is doing to our family. Juda Myers- Choices4life, Terri Lapoint, Medickidnap.com, and Meko Haze- TheDailyHaze.com.

10. Erin why did you say you would drop the lawsuit against my family, but you were going to continue to sue Ms. Terri, Ms. Juda, and Meko?

11. Yall need to know that Ms. Terri, and Ms. Juda was at the hospital with my family when DHR showed up to take Braelon. They are reporting the truth about how DHR steals babies. I wish they had been at the hospital when SCDHR kidnapped Avyonna.

12. Erin, why have you told my sister that you were going to sue Choices4life and give her the money so she can raise Braelon instead of paying her attorney? Aren't you appointed by the court, so you and Bill get paid anyway, right? My grandparents should not have to hire all these attorneys to dispute all these lies SCDHR is telling against my family.

13. *Why did you tell Brendan that she cannot see my grandparents, or talk to my grandmother? Do you not care how much you are upsetting my family? Brendan is begging to see our grandmother, but yall won't allow her to. Brendan calls me and asks me how Nanna is doing.*

14. *Do you know that I had a visit with Avyonna at my grandparent's house on June 15, 2016? This was the same day SCDHR came to the hospital and took Braelon. After he was taken, the visits were changed to my apartment and my grandparents were allowed to visit too.*

15. *Why can't my grandparents see my baby Avyonna. Everything was fine with them visiting my baby until Tonya lied and said my grandmother said stuff she did not say. Tonya also lied on me and said I did stuff I did not do. Tonya would not allow me to do anything for my baby without always correcting me or telling me how I needed to hold her, feed, her, or change her. I know that yall are going to believe your workers over me, but the purpose of this letter is so somebody will listen and answer my questions. I am tired of being ignored. I am tired of not being with my children. I am tired of watching my grandmother cry because she can't see her grandchildren. The last time my grandparents saw Avyonna was July 19, 2016 when Tonya brought the baby to Jack's in Alabaster.*

16. *Why did yall make my family go to Hearthstone in Cullman for visits with the twins and my nephew? Why do they lock us in this building and the only way we can get out is if someone has a key. While I was at*

Hearthstone visiting Brendan and Braedan, it took a worker trying 5 different keys before he could get the door opened. What happens to a family that is locked in this building if a fire happens? I can tell you what will happen, everyone will die because they cannot get out. Yall do not need to lock families in these buildings. We are not criminals.

- 17. Erin, you have been to my mother's house (Suzhan Pettus) and her partner Martha ... several times before Brendan and Braelon were released from Child Haven to Suzhan. I know you have been there several times since they have been at Suzhan's. You claim you have been to my house, but you have not.*

- 18. Erin how come you offer to buy curtains, hang doors, hire someone from your church to fix Suzhan's bathroom, help clean out the bedroom by moving stuff to the storage building so Braedan will have a bedroom, but you never seem to have the time to even come to my apartment in Alabaster to see how I have everything set up for Avyonna?*

- 19. Why has DHR been able to change the visits that were set up in an ISP for Avyonna to be brought to my grandmother's house or my apartment? I want to know why me and Anthony have to go to Columbiana and Erin's office for our visits, and there was not an ISP to make these changes.*

- 20. Erin what are you doing to have my baby returned to me and Anthony? DHR has not offered us any services at all to reunite me and Anthony with our baby.*

[Social worker] Riane Hinton refuses to give us gas vouchers, but she offers transportation for Suzhan and Brendan.

- 21. Why have yall denied my grandparents and me visits with Haydn, Ka'myia, and now Avyonna? Why have yall denied my grandparents visits with Brendan and Braelon? Why do yall make our family come to SCDHR for visits?*
- 22. If yall are working to reunite our family, then why can't Avyonna spend week-ends with me and Anthony?*
- 23. Erin, how much money have you spent to help my sister- Brendan and her baby-Braelon, but you have ignored me and my baby-Avyonna?*
- 24. Erin, how come when Suzhan filed a petition to have custody to my two children (Haydn & Ka'myia), she was not good enough for my babies, but now she's good enough to have my sister and her baby? Since my mother was denied to have custody of my children, my parental rights have been terminated and I can no longer see my children, and yall are placing them for adoption without giving me a chance to be a mother. I spent 7 years in the system from the age of 12 until I was 19. Why have yall not offered to help me get an apartment and get my children? I have done everything I was instructed to do by SCDHR, and I still don't have my baby. [Social worker] Star Pope told me I had to get a job. I have worked since before I graduated high school. Star*

Pope said me and Anthony had to have our own place. We could not live in the mother-in-law apartment at my grandparent's house. We have our own apartment at [name redacted]. We both work (we both recently earned a promotion), and we have a car. Anthony has passed the drug tests he took, but yall still make excuses not to return my baby.

- 25. Erin, I want to know why Anthony is being made to color code for drug test when he has passed all of them? ... my mother's partner has not been made to drug test, but Brendan and Braelon are allowed to live there. ... has a long history of drug abuse, but I am sure yall already know that and you chose to ignore it. Now yall are planning to release Braedan from Brantwood and send him to Suzhan too.*

- 26. Have yall forgotten that Suzhan has never raised any of her five children? She did not want us. She wanted all of us placed for adoption. That is why all five of us were raised by our grandparents! Our grandparents taught us right from wrong, but we did not always do what they said. We made wrong decisions. How can you hold my grandparents responsible for our mistakes? Do yall hold your parents responsible for every decision you made that you knew was against what you were taught? My grandparents raised us in church. When I was in foster care, I was not allowed to attend church in all of the foster homes I was in. I was allowed to go occasionally.*

- 27. Yall refuse to bring us to our home church. Braedan wants to attend church at Alabaster, but Riane Hinton will only allow him to attend the 1stand 3rd Sunday of*

each month, but yall bring him to visit my mother and sister every Sunday afternoon. Why can't he attend church if he is already here? Why can't Avyonna be brought to church anymore? Tonya brought her to church and attended the service with us. I want my baby to attend church with me and my husband.

28. The mention of foster homes reminds me that I was in 9 placements over the years. 1. Mountain View-Gadsden, 2. [name redacted]-Tuscaloosa, 3. [name redacted]- Tuscaloosa, 4. [name redacted]-Tuscaloosa, 5. [name redacted]-Tuscaloosa, 6. [name redacted] (***I was abused here***), 7. Three Springs-Huntsville (found out I was pregnant with Haydn), 8. [name redacted]- Monroeville, 9. - Monroeville. ***I was forced to leave the ...s without my children. I was reported as a run-away when I was made to leave. DHR knew that I was with Anthony, but yall would not allow me and Anthony to have our children.***
29. Does anyone notice that I was placed several hours from my grandparents that live in Alabaster, Alabama every time I was moved? By the way, when my other siblings were in foster care, we were not allowed to see each other, and they were hours away from home too. My grandparents drove to Tuscaloosa many times to pick me up for week-end visits. They picked Jonna up for week-end visits too when she was in Talladega and Enterprise. They drove all over the state to visit Haydn when he was not allowed to come home. They have continued to drive to Cullman and SCDHR every week since yall took my siblings just to visit with them. My grandparents provide meals for

all of us when we have visits. My grandmother made chicken and dumplings and an apple cobbler. She took her crock pot to Hearthstone in Cullman because she wanted to make sure we ate together as a family. DHR has tried to destroy our love for each other as a family. I hope yall know that is not possible because we were raised to love each other while we were with our grandparents.

30. *I was raised in foster care, but yall say I am an unfit mother, then what does that say about the foster care system that has failed me and my children?*

31. *When Blakely Moore removed me from my grandparent's home against my will, I was strapped to a gurney and placed in the back of an ambulance. I did not want to go with DHR. I tried to tell them we were not abused by our grandparents. I was screaming for them to release me! I was begging for my grandmother to help me and not let them take me. She could not get to me because of the police officers DHR brought with them. I was taken to Mountain View in Gadsden. I was terrified to be strapped down and I could not move. The solution yall had was to give me drugs to calm me down. I did not need drugs, I needed my family!*

32. *What about all the drugs like Abilify and Respidol DHR was allowed to give me against my will? They also drugged my twin brother Haydn and my sister Jonna while they were in facilities too. We all are dealing with side effects of medications yall forced us to take. My brother still complains of his joints and chest aching.*

33. *Why is DHR allowed to take me and my siblings to have a psychological evaluation and claim we are depressed and we need medication? Did anybody ever stop to think I was depressed because I missed my family? Rather than allow children to be raised by loving grandparents yall ripped me and my siblings from our grandparent's home and because we were depressed you chose to drug us instead of complying with your own code to **Aid in the preservation, rehabilitation and reuniting of families.***
34. *When I refused to take the medication, I was accused of being defiant!*
35. *Why were both of my brothers taken to [therapist] Deegan Malone to have a psycho sexual evaluation without anyone knowing what was going on?*
36. *I want to know how my twin brother Haydn Boothe was sent to Deegan Malone when he was 12 years old and he was accused of being a sexual predator. My brother never did anything to any of us. All he did was hold me down and pop my bra strap. We wrestled all the time. I have stated many times he did not rape me or my sisters, but yall accused him of raping me.*
37. *If you thought my brother Haydn raped me or my sisters, then why didn't yall do a rape kit on us? Yall have no evidence against my brother, but yall managed to ruin his life with your lies! NO one did medical tests on me to prove he did anything. NO one believed me when I said he did NOT rape me. DHR interrogated my brother for almost 5 hours until he*

broke. He actually said “what ever yall said I did, I did it”. He did not have an attorney present nor were my grandparents allowed to be with him. Questioning kids alone seems to be something SCDHR enjoys doing.

38. I want to know how Deegan Malone is the only person yall have to do these evaluations.
<http://healthysexualsolutions.com/1CREDENTIALS.htm>
39. <https://considerthissite.wordpress.com/2016/08/04/a-l-dhrbest-interests-not-for-children/>
40. Now my younger brother, Braedan is being sent to Deegan and now he is accused of being a sexual pervert too. He has never done anything either, but now yall want to put him on medications too and ruin his life! Braedan has had a cell phone since he was 12. He has never accessed anything on it but dancers and Christian artists because my grandmother checked his phone randomly so he never knew when she'd ask him for it. My brother is being accused of putting porn on a phone given to him by foster parents, [name redacted]. How do we know they didn't put the porn on that phone to trap him? Yall continue to keep us separated and traumatize my family.
41. How come [social worker] Sherry Whitehead took my 14 year old brother Braedan on July 22, 2016 while we were in court to Deegan Malone for a psycho-sexual evaluation?
42. I want to know why SCDHR did not have a placement

for Braedan on July 22, 2016 when he was removed from the ...'s home in Cullman. He had to stay with Sherry Whitehead at SCDHR until almost 10 P.M. to wait on someone to transport him.

43. *How come my brother Haydn was released in 2013 to live with my grandparents? Yall knew Brendan and Braedan lived there too. Someone please tell me why SCDHR released Haydn to come back to our grandparent's house if yall say he cannot be with young children. Yall knew there was nothing to worry about from the beginning, but treated yall him like a criminal without any representation or proof! In the U.S. we have rights but yall have consistently taken our constitutional rights away.*

44. *Yall said Braedan cannot be with other children under the age of 14 either. Then can someone please tell me why he is being sent to our mother's house? I will tell you why! He is not guilty of doing anything wrong and yall know it.*

45. *How come all the charges yall had against my brother Haydn were dropped when he came back to live with my grandparents in 2013? My brother completed all yalls programs for being a sex pervert, but yall still want him to spend more money and stay on probation. He should not be on probation at all and the reason is because yall know he did not do anything wrong, but yall have destroyed my brother's life with yalls lies! We were 12 years old when yall took us from my grandparents. Haydn spent 5 years in Hill Crest, Mt. Meigs, Vacca, Safety Net, and Tri Will because yall wanted him in the system so you can get*

money. Now yall are trying to do the same thing to my brother Braedan. Why can't yall leave my family alone and let us be a family?

46. *How come everything was fine for Brendan and Braedan to live with my grandparents with Haydn until Braelon was born? Why did SCDHR think they needed to take my nephew when he was 2 days old on June 15, 2016 and the only reason yall gave was safety concerns? I'll tell you why. Yall kidnapped my nephew and my brother and sister so you can get more money.*

47. *Why did SCDHR wait until the next day to come to my grandparent's house if yall were concerned for their safety to get my sister and brother- Brendan & Braedan on June 16, 2016? I was there at my grandparent's house when yall came to get the twins. I am the one that made the video of yall lying to my siblings when they were told they would not be split up. There were several police officers that came with DHR and one of those officers threatened to use a tazer on Braedan because he did the same thing I did. He refused to go with DHR. My grandmother begged him to go peacefully, so they would not hurt him like they did me when I was removed against my will.*

48. *I was at the hospital when Sam came in to see Braelon. My grandparents did not invite him there. My grandmother followed the instructions the police gave her to call Sam's mother and bring him to the hospital for the DNA test. My grandfather was not there when Sam got there. So why are yall accusing my grandparents of abusing Brendan for allowing the*

rapist to come to the hospital? The only reason I know of is so yall can tear our family apart and tell more lies on us. The police should have escorted Sam and his mother out of the hospital. Detective Ray should never have told my grandmother to call Sam's mother. The hospital staff should not have allowed them to come into Brendan's room. Why didn't THEY protect her? Everyone else in the room had to sign in but NOT Sam and his mother? As a matter of fact, we had all 5 of the badges in the room with us. We are still trying to figure out how they gained access to Brendan's room.

- 49. No one but SCDHR and the police knew Sam was a[n alleged] rapist until after my sister's story went on the internet. SCDHR keeps telling my grandparents that the twins cannot come back to their house because of all the media stories.*
- 50. Sam [allegedly] raped a girl in June of 2015. Her family reported the rape just like my family did when he raped my sister. Sam was never arrested for the rape until my sister's story hit the internet. If yall had done your job, he would have been in jail and he would not have been able to rape Brendan.*
- 51. There was no media coverage when SCDHR came to UAB WEST and took Avyonna. The only people there was me and Anthony. If yall are saying the twins can't come home to my grandparent's house because of the media coverage, then why can't I have Avyonna back since yall taking my baby was not in the media?*

52. *[Court appointed attorney]Bill, why did you and [attorney] Bubba Green call my grandmother and offer to represent Brendan when she needed an attorney after SCDHR took Braelon?*
53. *Bill, why did you tell my grandmother that I dug my own grave and that is why I lost my children? My grandmother had you on speaker phone and I heard everything you said. If I dug my own grave, weren't you supposed to dig me out if you are my attorney? Instead, you pushed me in the grave and threw the dirt on top of me.*
54. *Bill, why did you allow DHR to terminate my parental rights on Haydn and Ka'myia? You knew I did not abandon my children or do what I was accused of, but you did not represent my interests to keep my children.*
55. *Bill, have you filed the motion you promised to appeal the termination of parental rights for my children?*
56. *When I aged out of the system and emancipated myself at 19 in 2015, why was I not allowed to take my children with me?*
57. *Bill, have you filed the petition you promised to have Avyonna returned to me since you admitted that you know SCDHR took her illegally?*
58. *Why did Erica Robinson tell me that they were taking*

Avyonna because I had an open case with SCDHR? I know my Constitutional Rights have been violated. I want my baby returned to me. I want another hearing to have Haydn and Ka'myia returned to me as well. I do not want my children adopted or remain in foster care!

59. *How much longer do I have to wait to get my baby back? She is almost 5 months old! Our next court date is set for October 5, 2016. I want this date to be about returning my baby, not my sister's case and her baby, or my brother. It seems every time I have a court date, all yall want to talk about is my sister's case and the media coverage. My baby was taken a month before my sister's baby was born. We all know that if Brendan's story was not made public our family would be separated from Braelon too and he would be in a foster home somewhere just like my children. I do not want to continue to visit my baby at SCDHR, I want my baby returned to me and my husband.*

60. *There are so many laws that have been broken by SCDHR employees, Bessemer Police Department, and the Alabaster Police Department because they assisted SCDHR in kidnaping our babies when they did not have a warrant or a court order to remove Avyonna, Braelon, Brendan, or Braedan.*

61. *Yall know that none of you would want to endure any of the trauma that me and my family has gone through for over 20 years. All anyone has to do is look at all the evidence against SCDHR for harassing my family and kidnaping our children. The trafficking of innocent children that is taking place in Alabama*

needs to stop and hopefully, there will be enough honest people look at our case and help us get our children returned. I look forward to having justice prevail and hearing your response.

Sincerely,

Haly Boothe

How You Can Help

There is a Facebook page that has been set up to support the family, called [SAVE Braelon's Family](#). Supporters may encourage Haly and the rest of the family at this page as well.



Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Cam Ward is the Senator for their district. He may be reached at 334-242-7873, or contacted [here](#).

Representative April Weaver represents their district. She may be reached at 334-242-7731, or contacted [here](#).

According to the [Alabama Family Rights Association](#), ALFRA:

Alabama has a nine-member task force created to examine the work of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). If you have issues or concerns about DHR services, your best plan of action is to contact the following legislators/lawmakers and committee members:

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The complete list of committee Members can be found here: [Executive Order Number 11](#)

Shelby County DHS Director Kim Mashego at http://dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county_results.aspx?id=Shelby

Newborn Baby Kidnapped from Alabama Hospital After Parents Decline Birth Certificate and SSN



Christian and Danielle Holm – on a mountaintop in 2015.
Photo source: [Christian Holm's Facebook page](#).

UPDATE 12/22/2016

Baby of Parents Who Declined Birth Certificate Still Not Returned in Alabama

UPDATE 12/13/2016

#freebabyholm Awareness Event

Supporters will be holding a #freebabyholm Awareness Event in front of the Cleburne County Courthouse in Heflin, Alabama, beginning at 7:30 am central time on Wednesday, December 13. The Holms have court at 8:30 am. The courthouse is located at 120 Vickery St, Heflin, Alabama 36264.

According to the [event page](#) on Facebook:

We are hosting an event to raise awareness of the situation that [Christian Holm](#) and Danielle Holm have unexpectedly been thrust into. They are in the middle of the battle of their lives and have a custody hearing scheduled for Dec 14th at 8:30am. Speakers will be present to give presentations of the corruption within DHR and shed light on many similar cases. Please join us in support of this loving and caring family!!! I have been personally assured by Probate Judge Ryan Robertson that as long as the event remains respectful to public property, everyone's 1st amendment right will be upheld!!!

Baby Given Shots Despite Parents' Denial of Consent

Supporters have learned that “merely an hour after taking their baby,” vaccines were ordered at the Anniston Regional Medical Center for vaccines. This is despite the fact that Danielle and Christian Holm declined all vaccinations and “even signed a waiver form to deny consent of vaccination.”

The parents were reportedly heartbroken when they obtained paperwork showing the order for the shots that they had refused. Danielle has 3 bachelors degrees, including one in biology and another in psychology. She has researched vaccines and the Vitamin K shot in depth. She understands the physical risks of vaccination as well as the psychological impact of pain on the newborn. For these reasons, she and her husband made the decision to decline the injections.

Alabama law does not mandate either vaccinations or Vitamin K for newborns, so the parents are within their legal rights to refuse.

Update 12/8/2016

FBI Investigates Baby Kidnapped from Couple in Alabama Who Declined Birth Certificate and SSN

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

Theirs was a spiritual journey of getting back to nature and rejecting the materialism that they felt held them in bondage. Christian and Danielle Holm began their journey

together in early 2016 as itinerant missionaries, traveling across the country and speaking to churches as they sought to live simply and biblically.

The last thing that they expected was for Child Protective Services to seize their 1 day old baby literally off of his mother's breast in an Alabama hospital. What started out as an apparent case of mistaken identity has turned into a nightmare that the family cannot wake up from. They don't understand why their baby was taken from them, or why he still remains in state custody in foster care while social workers continue to challenge their religious beliefs.

According to a close family friend who contacted *Health Impact News*, the couple are grieving.

The most sacred thing to Danielle and Christian is the bond of male and female coming together and giving life with God. This bonding process in the beginning of a baby's life has been stolen from them.

There was never any reason for their baby to be taken from them to begin with, and even now, they have adequate housing and anything else that could ever be needed and they still don't have their baby back.

Story Reported in Local Media

[The Anniston Star](#) first reported their story on October 13, 2016, just days after the couple's baby was born on Monday, October 10. Excerpt:

Just out of Regional Medical Center, Danielle has a belly still

swollen from a pregnancy that ended Monday with the birth of a healthy baby boy.

Her arms, however, are empty. Her son was taken from her the day after he was born and is in the custody of the Cleburne County Department of Human Resources pending a hearing at Cleburne County Courthouse this morning.

“We told them that we were going to do whatever we could,” she said as tears ran down her face. “I’m his mother. I’m supposed to be nourishing and bonding with him right now and I can’t.”

Judge Issues Gag Order, Family Friend Contacts Health Impact News

Shortly after the story was reported, District Judge Melody Walker of the Cleburne County Circuit Court [issued a gag order](#) on the couple, forbidding them to speak about their case.

Since that time, *Health Impact News* was contacted by a close family friend who talked to us about the couple and their story. The source, who asked not to be named, made it clear that the information that she gave us was from conversations which occurred before the gag order was placed on Danielle and Christian Holm.

She communicated that the Holms want to cooperate with DHR to do everything that they can to get their baby back. They are heartbroken, and they are scared. The source is concerned that the couple may have unwittingly stumbled into a great deal of corruption, and their baby could be an innocent victim of some sort of trafficking ring.

Couple Chooses to Leave Materialism Behind, Pursue Spirituality

Though their simple lifestyle of hiking and backpacking through state parks may suggest otherwise, the Holms come from a background of means and education. 32 year old Danielle holds a triple bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, and biology. She has worked as a nurse, chiropractic assistant, child and adolescent mental health counselor, personal trainer, and was a group leader for Special Needs children at a youth center. Her husband Christian, 35, comes from a very well-off, politically connected family. He spent several years caring for his ailing grandparents before their deaths.

They met and fell in love after finding common ground online. They decided to make a life together in August of 2015 and moved to New Hampshire together. Both increasingly felt that possessions and materialism were holding them in bondage. After they married in February, they made the conscious decision to give away their possessions to charity and live simply, traveling as itinerant missionaries and getting closer to nature.

Excerpt from *The Anniston Star*:

The process of surrendering is difficult, though. It took them until May to start travelling, and even then they were driving, he said. They only recently left their car in a storage unit in Montgomery and started walking.

They found the journey amazing; people they met along the way would give them money, food and water to keep going, they said. On the way they stopped at probably 30 churches

to talk with people and minister to them, Christian said.

They travelled about five miles a day and ended up camping at Cheaha State Park a few days ago, Christian said.



Pulpit Rock at Cheaha State Park. Photo Source: [Alabama State Parks](#)

They Wanted as Close to Natural Birth as Possible

The expectant couple reportedly sought prenatal care and preparation along the way from midwives, doulas, ob-gyns, and lactation consultants. They researched and read and asked questions.

They considered seeking a midwife in Alabama, since they expected to be in the state when the baby was born, but they found information that told them that midwifery is illegal in Alabama. However, the only reference in the Alabama code to non-nurse-midwifery is in the section governing nurse-midwives, Al Code 34-19-3 (b):

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be construed as to prevent lay midwives holding valid health department permits from engaging in the practice of lay midwifery as heretofore provided until such time as the permit may be revoked by the county board of health.

There is no definition of lay or other non-nurse midwives, such as traditional midwives, in the Alabama statutes. Because of conflicting information in the media and online, the Holms did not know that having a traditional midwife was an option open to them. Instead, they prepared for an unassisted, husband-coached, natural lotus birth, planning to birth as closely to nature as possible.

When Danielle went into labor, they had been camping for several days at Cheaha State Park in Cleburne County, Alabama. After 2 days of labor, they reportedly became concerned about some bleeding and decided to call an ambulance, which took them to Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center (RMC). Danielle gave birth to a baby boy the next morning, and he was “perfectly healthy” according to a family friend.

Simple Lifestyle Conflicts with Standard Protocols

The couple wished to adhere to their religious beliefs and remain as natural as possible, declining any unnecessary hospital interventions. They agreed to allow eye ointment in their baby’s eyes, but declined the other typical interventions, including the hospital security band on the baby’s leg. They reasoned that, since there was never a need for the baby to be out of his parents’ sight while he was at the hospital, there was no need for the hospital security

band. Danielle chose to breastfeed her baby.

The couple were able to bask briefly in the beauty of their new son, but their joy was short-lived.



Danielle with her new baby at the hospital. Photo source: [Christian Holm's Facebook page](#).

The source close to the family reports that Danielle and

Christian sensed that the hospital staff got a bit nervous when the parents declined a birth certificate and social security number for their baby.

There were 2 reasons for their declining the documents. Christian and Danielle felt that the naming of their baby is a spiritual experience. They wanted to wait to decide on a name for their baby until they first had time to bond with and get to know their baby to see what name would be the most appropriate. They also believed that the decision as to whether or not to have a social security number was one that should be left up to the child to make when he is older.

Because they sensed that the hospital staff was uncomfortable with their philosophy, which is rooted in their spiritual beliefs, the family friend states that Christian pro-actively decided to approach the hospital social worker “on his own terms,” to ensure that there were no issues and that they would be in compliance with applicable laws.

Instead of answering, the social worker reportedly left to seek more information. A short time later, she returned to their room with an intern from DHR, the Department of Human Resources, Alabama’s Child Protective Services. The DHR representative reportedly questioned the couple about their religious beliefs. The Holms reportedly stated that they wanted to “live as close to nature as possible, just like their native American ancestors.”

When Christian asked, “What is the most simple way we can live without being harassed?” the DHR worker reportedly told him she had never been asked that before, and that she would consult her supervisor.

Baby Snatched from Mother's Nursing Breast



Danielle and Christian loved the simple life. This photo was taken atop Mt. Percival. Photo source: [Christian Holm's Facebook page](#).

The family friend explained that Christian has a house in his

name, but it is currently tied up in a family trust. Despite their journey of walking through nature, camping wherever they found themselves, the couple has been in process of trying to move into the house, but there have been complications, causing those plans to fall through. The friend reported that Christian had hoped to discuss this with the social worker, but he did not get the opportunity, because the hospital social worker and the DHR intern returned to the hospital room with 4 police officers, a detective from the sheriff's department, and a hospital security guard.

After Christian was escorted to another room, Danielle was shocked when the sheriff's detective allegedly reached down and pulled the baby literally off of his mother's breast where he was latched on.

As she cried out, asking, "Why?" and telling them she has done nothing wrong, the detective told her that they had reason to believe that they were not who they said they were. He reportedly told her that the baby was now in state custody.

Case of Mistaken Identity Has Devastating Consequences

The detective reportedly began a barrage of questions aimed at the confused new mother, demanding "her real name." Danielle thought that the confusion could be from her previous married name. Her ex-husband was Holmes, and her current husband is Holm, so she simply deleted 2 letters from her last name. That was apparently not the source of the confusion.

The detective asked Danielle if she was really Daniela Ruiz,

and asked her about her involvement in human and drug trafficking in Arizona. She asked if she had ever been arrested in Arizona, and when she had crossed the border into Mexico.

None of this reportedly made any sense to Danielle, who had spent a short amount of time in Arizona as she and Christian were on their journey, but she had never been to Mexico, never been arrested, and had never been in any trouble at all. The name Daniela Ruiz meant nothing to her.

They asked if Christian had ever gone by another name, which he had. His middle name is Clarke, and that is the name he went by growing up.

Both Danielle and Christian readily showed the detective their IDs. In addition to her New Hampshire drivers license, she showed her social security card and her passport, which did not show any trips to Mexico. Christian reportedly showed his New Hampshire drivers license, social security card, and a federal ID.

It was not enough. DHR took their baby into custody, and they were only able to see their baby once more before they left the hospital, and that visit was under the watchful eyes of a nurse and a police officer.

Christian Holm later posted an article on his [Facebook](#) page that he found about the criminals that the Cleburne County officials apparently thought they were. Though the comment has since been deleted, Christian had this to say:

So this is who the investigating officer said that my wife and I are after giving her three forms of identification from both of us showing that we are not these people. She was not

satisfied with that and told me that these can be faked. They really need an oops button in these situations when an infant and or innocence is involved to give child back. Swallow the pride and stop destroying lives for your view on life. We are children of God being attacked by the ones influenced by the devil. They know not what they do.

The criminals arrested in Arizona were Daniela Ruiz of Tuscon, Arizona, and Richard Christian Holm of Nogales, Arizona. There are several news stories which appear to originate from the same source which simply describe 2 separate incidents in the same article, such as this article that Christian Clarke Holm found:

2 arrested in drug smuggling attempt at border

Though both people arrested have similar names to the couple traveling in Alabama, the Arizona duo do not appear to be connected even to each other. They were arrested on 2 different days in 2 separate incidents.

Is Violation of the 4th Amendment Standard Practice in Alabama?

According to the Holms' friend, there was no court order or warrant to seize the baby, nor was there an emergency situation. This is consistent with what other Alabama parents have reported to *Health Impact News*. Earlier this year, Shelby County DHR social worker Ahzshaka Evans told a 14 year old rape victim:

There are two people who don't need a court order or a warrant: the Department of Human Resources and law enforcement. (See [story](#).)

Shelby County police officer Edmunson told the Prince family in June that DHR didn't need a court order or warrant to take a child. All they needed was a pickup order from DHR.

Haly Boothe's 3 day old baby was taken in May from a Birmingham hospital without a court order or warrant. (See [story](#).)

Several parents have reported being told that the state legislature has given authority to DHR to seize children with only a "DHR pickup order," which may apparently be merely verbal, not necessarily written. Parents are told that the court hearing within 72 hours meets the standard of search and seizure laws.

However, this practice stand in direct conflict with the 4th Amendment of the Constitution:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

New Mother Denied Basic Care After Baby Seized

In another disturbing similarity between the Holms' story and others of mothers whose newborn babies are taken from them at the hospital, basic medical care was reportedly withheld from Danielle after her baby was seized by DHR. She was given no discharge instructions. There was no counsel or handout given about what signs of infection to watch for or how to care for her stitches, even though she was a first-time mother.

Ordinarily, all patients checking out of hospitals are escorted out in a wheelchair. Not so with many mothers whose babies are taken from them by the state. Despite their pain and grief, they are singled out to walk out of the hospital on their own strength.

Orders Given to Put Baby on Formula Against the Wish of Parents

The family member reports that Danielle is still pumping her milk for her baby, even though the *Anniston Star* reports that the Holms have no idea whether or not their baby is receiving the breastmilk, and that there were orders given at the hospital for the baby to be given formula.

This is especially hard for mothers to deal with who know the myriad of benefits of breastfeeding and the multitude of health risks that formula-feeding carries. Feeding their baby his mother's own milk in the natural way that God designed was a very important value to Danielle and Christian Holm, according to their friend, and knowing that their baby is being fed formula from the hands of a stranger is yet another tragic aspect of their baby's kidnapping.

The couple are also reportedly very concerned about the emotional and psychological well-being of their baby, because they understand that separation of mother and baby, especially in the early weeks and months, can have a devastating psychological impact on the growing baby.



Danielle celebrated freedom on Mt. Washington. Where is that freedom now? Photo source: [Christian Holm's Facebook page](#).

Gag Order Issued

The Anniston Star reported that the Holms were issued a gag order after the publication brought the story to public attention. In their article dated October 18, some important considerations are raised.

Gag order ensures privacy, but at a cost, experts say

Excerpts:

Courts can use gag orders to protect the interests of children or victims, but some attorneys say the instrument does so at the cost of other constitutional rights.

Gag orders are not a black-and-white issue, though, and they can be challenged, said Andy Olree, professor of law at Faulkner Law in Montgomery.

Gag orders can be an infringement on constitutional rights, Olree said. The first amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects citizens' right to express themselves and the public's right to hear discussions of issues of value to them, but that right is not absolute, Olree said.

DHR has questioned the intelligence of ordinary citizens with regard to understanding the meaning of confidentiality. According to the *Anniston Star*:

All juvenile dependency cases, those in which a child's custody is decided, are confidential cases by state law,

Cleburne County Judge Melody Walker said Monday.

Tony Hamlin, attorney for the Department of Human Resources, said a judge could issue a gag order because lay people don't always understand what confidential means.

Alabama Attorney – Confidentiality Laws Not Designed to Silence Parents

Birmingham-area attorney Lisa Chasteen disagrees. She told *Health Impact News* that the Alabama law regarding confidentiality of juvenile cases is often misused by the system to tell parents that they cannot talk about their own cases, but that is not the way the law is written. Alabama Code § 12-15-133(g) states:

*Except for the purposes permitted and in the manner provided by this section, whoever discloses or makes use of or knowingly permits the use of information identifying a child, or the family of a child, who is or was under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, **where this information is directly or indirectly derived from the records of the juvenile court or acquired in the course of official duties**, [emphasis added] upon conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and also may be subject to civil sanctions. Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise limit counsel from disclosing confidential information obtained from the juvenile court file of the child as needed to investigate the case of the client or prepare a defense for that client, provided that the disclosure is in furtherance of counsel's representation of the party.*

Chasteen asserts that the confidentiality laws were designed to protect the family from the people working on their case disclosing information to the public. They do not apply to the families themselves talking about their case with friends, family, or the media.

Attorneys, GALs, social workers, or any other agent working for the state could “acquire” information about the case “in the course of official duties,” and are thus bound by confidentiality laws, but the family members are not.

She cites [KR v. LAUDERDALE COUNTY DEPT. OF HUMAN, 133 So. 3d 396 – Ala: Court of Civil Appeals 2013](#), which clarifies that the information that law 12-15-133 refers to is that which is “derived from the records of the juvenile court.” The findings of the Appeals Court further state that “§ 12-15-133 is intended to protect the identity of juveniles, not DHR employees, guardians ad litem, or juvenile-court judges....”

Though this law is often cited to parents simply as the “confidentiality law” and is often used in the attempt to bully and silence parents from discussing their case with the media, attorney Lisa Chasteen maintains that this was not the intent of the law at all. The family has the right to discuss their story with whomever they wish. She made these points in a meeting last year with other attorneys and DHR state commissioner Nancy Buckner, and reports that no one refuted her that day.

Law Professor Jenny Carroll notes issues of concern with gag orders, reports the *Anniston Star*:

An additional problem with a gag order in the Holmeses’ case is that the public has no information about what steps the

state is taking to protect the child and if the parents' rights are being protected through the proceedings, said University of Alabama School of Law Professor Jenny Carroll. It is, she noted, the parental rights that are in question in the case.

"The public has a right to check if actions being taken in our names are in fact correct," Carroll said.

The courts are public forums, she said. If they are insulated to the point that the public is excluded it makes it very difficult to know that everyone involved is being treated fairly. That's not how our courts are supposed to work, she said.

Land of the Free?

Because of the gag orders and threats about confidentiality, Danielle and Christian Holms are reportedly afraid to speak out about the injustices that their friend says are happening to them. The lifestyle they are leading appears to be similar to that of John the Baptist or some of the Old Testament prophets. Many of the patriarchs of the Judeo-Christian faiths, such as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, lived relatively nomadic lifestyles. While Jesus told his disciples to "Follow Me," He also said:

Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. (Luke 9:58, NIV)

The Holms' friend doesn't understand how America, "the land of the free," can take someone's newborn baby away from them for choosing to follow their religious beliefs and living a life that is not like the mainstream. Yet, Danielle and

Christian Holm are stuck in a state they were simply passing through, engaged in the fight of their lives for their baby.

How You Can Help the Holms

Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Gerald Dial is the Senator for Cleburne County. He may be reached at 334-242-7874, or contacted [here](#).

Representative Richard Lindsay represents their district. He may be reached at 334-242-7713, or contacted [here](#).

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Executive Order Number 11

FBI Investigates Baby Kidnapped from Couple in Alabama Who Declined Birth Certificate and SSN



Free-spirited Christian and Danielle Holm on Mt. Washington in 2015. Source: [Christian Holm's Facebook page](#).

UPDATE 12/22/2016

Baby of Parents Who Declined Birth Certificate Still Not Returned in Alabama

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We are hosting an event to raise awareness of the situation that [Christian Holm](#) and Danielle Holm have unexpectedly been thrust into. They are in the middle of the battle of their lives and have a custody hearing scheduled for Dec 14th at 8:30am. Speakers will be present to give presentations of the corruption within DHR and shed light on many similar cases. Please join us in support of this loving and caring family!!! I have been personally assured by Probate Judge Ryan Robertson that as long as the event remains respectful to public property, everyone's 1st amendment right will be upheld!!!

Baby Given Shots Despite Parents' Denial of Consent

Supporters have learned that “merely an hour after taking their baby,” vaccines were ordered at the Anniston Regional Medical Center for vaccines. This is despite the fact that Danielle and Christian Holm declined all vaccinations and “even signed a waiver form to deny consent of vaccination.”

The parents were reportedly heartbroken when they obtained paperwork showing the order for the shots that they had refused. Danielle has 3 bachelors degrees, including one in biology and another in psychology. She has researched vaccines and the Vitamin K shot in depth. She understands the physical risks of vaccination as well as the psychological impact of pain on the newborn. For these reasons, she and her husband made the decision to decline the injections.

Alabama law does not mandate either vaccinations or Vitamin K for newborns, so the parents are within their legal rights to refuse.

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

It has been almost 2 months since itinerant missionaries Christian and Danielle Holm’s newborn baby was ripped from his mother’s breast in an Alabama hospital by the Department of Human Resources (DHR). Social workers called in hospital security, police, and a sheriff’s detective after the couple declined a social security card and birth certificate for their baby. There was a case of mistaken identity, but that was easily and quickly demonstrated to be false. There was no abuse and no neglect, but that didn’t stop DHR from seizing the 1 day old infant from his parents,

allegedly without a warrant, court order, or emergency circumstances.

Their baby is reportedly still in foster care.

Now, the FBI is allegedly stepping in. A source close to the family, who asked not to be identified, told *Health Impact News* that Wednesday, December 7, was:

A monumental day for the Holms family! The FBI has officially opened their case and are in the beginning stages of gathering evidence against DHR and all parties involved in the kidnapping of baby Holm. The main factors in the case are civil rights violations, religious persecution, and charges of operating under color of law! It seems as though some light may be shone on the corruption of all parties involved in the unjust kidnapping of baby Holm barely 24 hrs after birth!

According to the [FBI website](#), the mission of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, established in 1909, includes upholding and enforcing the criminal laws of the United States. There are 10 major priorities of the agency, and the kidnapping of the Holm's baby involves three of these priorities:

- *Combat public corruption at all levels;*
- *Protect civil rights;*
- *Combat major white-collar crime*

Unconstitutional Gag Order, Sources Fear Retaliation

Since a gag order was placed upon Christian and Danielle Holm demanding that they not speak to the media about their case, multiple sources who are supporting the couple have contacted *Health Impact News* to report the injustice that they say is happening in the case, which was originally reported by the [Anniston Star](#).

See their original story published on [MedicalKidnap.com](#):

Newborn Baby Kidnapped from Alabama Hospital After Parents Decline Birth Certificate and SSN

The sources asked not to be named. One source said that they did not trust DHR or other government officials not to retaliate against them, because what they have seen thus far with the Holms indicates to them that the people operating under color of law in Cleburne and Calhoun County have no regard for the law or for the civil rights of the people. They do not trust DHR not to retaliate against anyone attempting to expose the corruption.

Parents Fight Back

Even though there is a gag order in place, the Holms are fighting back. Sources report that the couple have been joined by others as they have held peaceful protests in the town of Heflin, Alabama.



Protesters hold up signs in Heflin, Alabama.

According to one source who contacted us, DHR is “finding out quickly that people are rallying behind their cause.” The source believes that DHR thought that the couple traveling through the state on their missionary journey were an “easy target,” and that they could quietly steal their baby, gag them, and nothing would be done about it.

They thought they were going to roll over. They thought that they had no resources or family to fight the system. They thought that they would take their kid and be done with it.

They were wrong.

Contact Between Parents and Baby Cut Off After Letter Sent

The source reported that the Holms experienced retaliation recently from DHR. As of 3 1/2 weeks ago, all visitation

between the baby and his parents was halted. It has been nearly a month since they have seen their baby. He will be two months old on Saturday, and his parents don't know where he is or how he is doing.

The visits ceased without warning after the Holms sent a lengthy certified letter to multiple people involved with the taking of their baby, with copies of the letter sent to Alabama Senators Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby, as well as to Congressman Mike Rogers. The 25 page letter lists the laws allegedly broken and Constitutional rights allegedly violated by DHR, the sheriffs department, Anniston Regional Medical Hospital, and other parties who participated in or enabled the actions against the family.

An anonymous source sent a copy of the letter to *Health Impact News*, and it has been verified as the second notice which was sent to multiple individuals and entities on November 28.

The notice began with a reminder from the Holms that “the Creator of the Universe YHVH is watching and recording everything you do,” and that they will one day give an account for their actions before God. There was also a reminder that all who hold any type of office or position with any governmental entity are sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Alabama Constitution.

Points 6 and 7 state:

6. Therefore, you are all put on full, timely, lawful notice that you have individually and collectively committed the criminal act of kidnapping in an organized crime ring, you have assented to the criminal act of kidnapping, you have

agreed, cooperated in, aided, abetted, ratified, validated, concealed, assisted, financially benefitted [sic] in, joined, supported, cooperated, with, covered for, protected, shielded, and conspired with each other in:

The kidnapping of our live, healthy, baby boy, by force of arms, in the presence of visibly armed officers using color of office, acting under color of law,

Absent lawful, judicial capacity court order,

Absent warrant of arrest,

Absent probable cause of criminal act(s) having been committed,

Absent reasonable articulable suspicion of ongoing or even pending criminal act(s),

Absent voluntary permission, assent, consent or acquiescence from us, and

Absent lawful authority under God,

Absent lawful authority under the United States Constitution,

Absent lawful authority under the Alabama Constitution,

And absent lawful authority under the unoverturned holdings of the United States Supreme Court.

7. Your acts and omissions have damaged me, Christian Holm, have damaged my wife, Danielle Holm, and have damaged our yet-unnamed child, who:

Was not in any medical neglect;

Was not in any medical duress;

Was not in any potential of criminal harm;

Was not in any emergency;

Was not under lawful seizure warrant issued in writing by any lawfully acting judge in their lawful judicial power, supported by any sworn affidavit of probable cause of any credible person claiming any potential neglect or harm;

Was not taken from us under any probable cause of crime having already been committed by us;

Was not taken from us under any reasonable articulable suspicion that crimes were about to be committed by us against him;

And therefor, you all had no lawful right to remove said child from us and yet, AND YET he was ripped from Danielle's arms and forcibly kidnapped from our custody, control, care and parental ownership thereof.

The letter addressed the concerns that the parents did not get a social security card for the baby at the hospital, pointing out existing law regarding the "Enumeration at Birth" program of the Social Security Administration. This is the program under which parents may apply for a social security card at the time of birth, before leaving the hospital, if they choose to do so. It is not a law or requirement, but an available option for parents, as the Holms point out:

Kindly note that the following excerpt is locatable by most semi-intelligent people with a computer and internet connection, by entering:

“[SSA POMS NSF R.M. 10205.505](#)” into any working search engine.

According to the Social Security Administration website:

NOTE: *EAB is voluntary for parents and hospitals....*

EAB is a convenient service option for parents who need an SSN for their child....

State vital records agencies should not submit SSN applications when parents elect not to participate in EAB....

Even though many individuals, including some social workers and law enforcement, mistakenly believe that a parent is required by law to get a social security number, or even a birth certificate, for that matter, no such law exists. Point 16 of the letter states:

You have therefore unlawfully kidnapped our live, healthy child for us not participating in a clearly voluntary system.



Danielle and her baby. It has now been almost a month since she has seen her baby. Source: [Fundrazr page](#).

The Holms continue in the letter to point out that no such law exists requiring that a baby be named at the hospital, or even during the first 60 days of life. The letter cites the case of former U.S. Olympic Gold Medal downhill skier Picabo Street, whose parents did not name her for several years, allowing her to pick out her own name at 3 or 4 years of age,

So stop trying to make up laws in your bureaucratic mind any longer and try to coerce us, oppress us, or place us under any more duress or any more threats of harm, like you have already done to us, or to our live healthy baby, and just give

him back to us now....

You, one and all, have therefore violated our rights by constructing laws in your mind that do not even exist and have kidnapped our live, healthy child for not obeying these two imaginary laws that apparently exist only in your individual and collective brains.

The letter accuses those involved with the kidnapping of denying their baby the benefits of his mother's milk and normal family bonding time, then addresses the violation of their free speech rights:

You have violated our First Amendment rights to contact the media about your kidnapping our live, healthy, baby boy without probable cause of crime, without warrant and without medical duress, and as such, have caused irreparable harm of libel and slander to us and our right standing in the community as loving, Christian parents, in violation of 18 USC 242 individually and 18 USC 241 collectively.



Photo source: [#FreeBabyHolm Facebook page](#).

The Holms point out that their monthly support provides

“more than enough for our shelter, clothing, and food.” They then address a complaint common to virtually every family who has ever contacted *Health Impact News* about the medical or legal kidnapping of their child/children:

[The] extreme amounts of coercion that if we do not jump through or over whatever imaginary hoops, hurdles, inspections, criteria or qualifications, that you can dream up and place upon us, either now or in the future, that you will then attempt to consider that “failure” to be a waiver of our parental rights, or that it would then “show” or “be evidence” of our being unfit parents, when no law allows you to create such a false construct against us in the first place.

47. Laws mandating or prohibiting behaviors are to be written only by Congress and the State Legislators.

The next portion of the letter addresses many of those “hoops” that parents are often demanded to jump through by social workers. Child Protective Services often calls these things “services” or items on the “safety plan.”

Christian and Danielle see it differently. They refer to them as “hostage demands,” which many would say is a much more accurate description. Some of the hostage demands to which they will not submit include:

- *psychological testing, as we are already sane, loving, caring parents.*
- *home visits from any of your agents, because there is no law in existence, either federal or state, that requires us to submit to such intrusive actions.*

- *parenting classes, because there is no probable cause documented by any credible, third party who has stated in any sworn affidavit, signed under the penalties of perjury, to show their documented belief that we are already unfit parents.*
- *follow up meetings with our baby boy for you to poke, prod, stab, weigh, inspect or evaluate, because there is no federal or state law requiring such, when the baby was removed from care, custody, and ownership under the above described unlawful parameters.*

Numerous federal statutes are listed that are alleged to be broken by those participating in the seizure of the Holm's baby, including:

- ***Misprision of felony – 18 U.S.C. § 4***
- ***operating a Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise – 18 U.S.C. § 225***
- ***collectively operating a Conspiracy against Rights – 18 U.S.C. § 241***
- ***Deprivation of Rights under Color of Law – 18 U.S.C. § 242***
- ***Conspiracy to kidnap – 18 U.S.C. § 371***
- ***Extortion by Officers or Employees of the United States ... – 18 U.S.C. § 872***
- ***Receiving the proceeds of extortion by making us pay for unwanted, un-needed and unlawful services, classes, testing, meetings, hearings, appointments, visits and more, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 880***

- ***Falsification of Material Facts – 18 U.S.C.§ 1001***
- ***Official certificates or writings*** by filing knowingly false documents in writing against us and/or against our live, healthy, baby boy in violation of ***18 U.S.C.§ 1018***
- committing ***Frauds and Swindles – 18 U.S.C.§ 1341***
- ***Attempt and Conspiracy – 18 U.S.C.§1349***
- ***Peonage***, by unlawfully participating in the taking of the human body of our live, healthy baby boy against our will, and absent lawful court order (kidnapping) and attempting to place him into a lifetime of bondage, servitude and labor to a voluntary system in violation of ***18 U.S.C.§ 1581***
- ***And FINALLY, for Engaging in monetary transactions in “property,” treating our live, healthy, baby boy as if he were mere “chattel” or “natural resource material” and then attempting to ENUMERATE him in a VOLUNTARY SYSTEM, derived from specified unlawful activity of kidnapping him from us, in violation of 18 U.S.C.§ 1957.***

The letter enumerates various Alabama statutes that were violated as well. The Holms are demanding that their baby be returned immediately to them, and they are demanding damages of one billion dollars:

Per ALABAMA CIVIL STATUTE 6-5-271; if a \$200 watch has been stolen, a \$200 damage has been done; if a \$1000 cash robbery has occurred, if a \$50,000 sports car has been stolen

*and chopped, then a \$50,000 damage has occurred, and if a priceless baby has been kidnapped absent probable cause, then an inestimable and priceless damage has occurred, according to the gift of life that the Originator and Creator of Life YHVH has embodied therein, and so we, the PARENTS, Christian and Danielle Holm are thus being FORCED BY YOU to PICK and ASSIGN the value of that damage done by the kidnapping, and to expedite the righting of the wrongs, which is hereby declared to be no less than ONE BILLION DOLLARS CASH, **but that will continue to grow daily if unpaid.***

The other way or means for us to determine the value of a kidnapped child, is if we were told to pay all that we owned for the safe and immediate return of our kidnapped child, and the maximum that we owned was ONE BILLION DOLLARS CASH, we would have no problem paying that entire amount in ransom for his safe and immediate return, and start again penniless.

As of the time of this article, one insurance company representing one of the entities addressed in the letter has responded, saying that they are “looking into it.” No one else has responded. However, it was right after the letter was first sent out that DHR stopped all visitation with their baby.

Court Continued Until December 14

There was a court hearing for the Holms family on Monday, December 5, and supporters rallied before the hearing. One source said that they had never seen so many police officers and state troopers as there were that day at the courthouse. At one point, all of those at the rally disappeared into the courthouse. Ordinarily, family court is closed to the public,

but apparently it was open to supporters on this day.

One supporter expressed his concerns with the proceedings on Facebook:

There are a few things that happened during the trial that raised questions for me regarding the legality of Judge Melody Walkers decisions.

1st: The decision to prolong the trial was done against the parents wishes due to witnesses testifying on behalf of DHR not being present. (if one of the parents witnesses weren't present I doubt the trial would have been prolonged)

2nd: Evidence in the form of paperwork was trying to be admitted into evidence on behalf of DHR that wasn't certified. That was objected to on the grounds that the documentation wasn't certified and was denied as admissible by the Judge. At the next hearing I'm guessing this paperwork will now be certified and try to be admitted then by DHR. If the trial was finished on the 5th then this paperwork would have never had a chance to be admitted in the first place. (It is my thinking this is part of the reason for prolonging the trial)

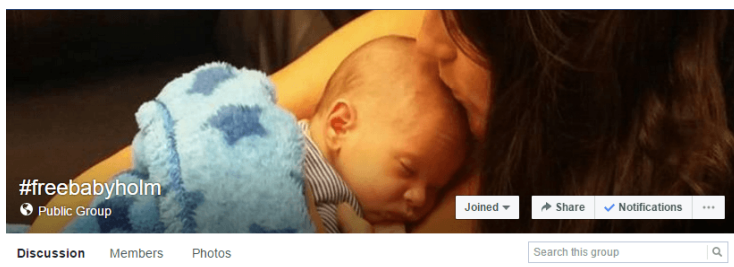
3rd: Counsel on behalf of DHR (prosecutors), Judge Melody Walker, and the baby's attorney entered an outside room and denied Christian Holm access to the meeting to see what was being discussed. I'm no lawyer, but these actions seem biased and one-sided toward the parents and seem to lean toward siding with DHR.

One source who contacted *Health Impact News* reported that DHR appears to be “grasping at straws” in order to try to

justify taking the Holms' baby. He said that they really don't have a case, and he suspects that is why they have continued the case until December 14 in order to give DHR more time to attempt to build a case.

How You Can Help

Supporters have set up a Facebook page called [#FreeBabyHolm](#), where people may follow the story and offer support.



Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Gerald Dial is the Senator for Cleburne County. He may be reached at 334-242-7874, or contacted [here](#).

Representative Richard Lindsay represents their district. He may be reached at 334-242-7713, or contacted [here](#).

Nancy Buckner is the Commissioner of Alabama DHR. She may be reached at 334-242-1310.

According to the [Alabama Family Rights Association](#), ALFRA:

Alabama has a nine-member task force created to examine the work of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). If you have issues or concerns about DHR services, your best plan of action is to contact the following legislators/lawmakers and committee members:

Connie Rowe, State Representative, has replaced Mac McCutcheon as the Task Force Chair / 334-242-7600/ email [here](#).

Chris England, State Representative / 334-242-7703 / 205-535-4859 / email [here](#).

Greg Reed, State Senator / 334-242-7894 / he is on [Facebook](#).

The complete list of committee Members can be found here: [Executive Order Number 11](#)

Baby of Parents Who Declined Birth Certificate Still Not Returned in Alabama



Exhausted and broken-hearted, Danielle and Christian Holms did not leave court with their baby. Photo taken after court on Dec. 15. Source: Facebook.

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

Missionaries Christian and Danielle Holm were devastated Tuesday when it became clear that their baby was not coming home with them that day. It has been more than 2 months since Alabama social workers and sheriffs ripped their newborn baby from his mother's arms and placed him into foster care, even though the parents have broken no laws and have not harmed their child.

Judge Melody Brooks Walker was due to render a judgement

in their case on Tuesday, December 20, after hearing the case on Wednesday and Thursday of the previous week.

That didn't happen.

The Holms and several supporters came to the courthouse before the scheduled 4 pm hearing, hoping for answers. They received word Tuesday afternoon that Judge Walker had recused herself from their case that morning. This was reportedly done "to avoid the appearance of impropriety." They were told that there will not be another hearing or a decision on the case until a new judge is appointed. They don't know when that will be.

Tears flowed freely in the parking lot as Danielle learned that the judge would not be issuing any judgement, and that she would not be getting her baby back that day.

I can't keep going home without my baby.

Christian Holm sought to understand what was happening.

This is inhumane to torture our little baby and us like this.

A number of supporters were visibly shaken. They told *Health Impact News* that they could not comprehend how DHR and the court could continue to do what they are doing to such loving people as the Holms.

Janet Baber, a supporter who has stood alongside the couple throughout their ordeal, addressed Judge Walker's comment about impropriety:

Kidnapping is improper!

She and others were adamant that the parents have done nothing to deserve having their baby taken from them. They don't understand why there continues to be delays in the Holms' baby coming home. They told *Health Impact News* that there is no evidence of any wrongdoing on the part of Danielle or Christian Holm, and that there is no reason for their baby to have been taken.



Danielle and Christian were back in court on Dec. 20 for a hearing that did not take place. Photo source: Health Impact News.

See original story:

[Newborn Baby Kidnapped from Alabama Hospital After Parents Decline Birth Certificate and SSN](#)

Forced Unwanted Medical Treatment from Strangers Prior to Going to the Hospital

The series of events leading up to the taking of the still-unnamed Baby Holm contain too many “coincidences” for the family’s supporters to believe are mere happenstance. There are many questions regarding what is going on with Cleburne County, Cheaha State Park, and Anniston’s Regional Medical Center.

Danielle and Christian Holm had been traveling across the country, camping out in various state parks and spreading their message of getting back to nature and rejecting the materialism that has consumed much of modern society. They loved mountains and the freedom that they found in embracing nature. They were expecting their first baby with excitement and anticipation as their travels brought them to Mt. Cheaha State Park in Alabama.

Along their travels, they met with midwives and doulas, and even had an ultrasound done about 2 months before the birth of their baby. They left their car behind in Montgomery and had been at Mt. Cheaha for about 2 weeks before Danielle went into early labor on October 8, 2016.

Their camp was set up in a recreational area that was away from the other campers, a place where they were told was not a site normally used by campers. The weather was mild, and there had been no rain for weeks. The state was in an extreme drought, and a burn ban was in effect. They had met Tammy Power, the superintendent of Cheaha State Park. Despite the burn ban, she allegedly gave them permission to build a fire at their campsite.

During the day on Sunday, there were some other visitors

who, for unknown reasons, reportedly set up camp near their site. Tammy Power allegedly went to the Holms' camp to let them know that she had given the visitors permission to build a fire to cook some some meat and vegetables. There was also a couple who came to the ordinarily isolated area of the park apparently to take pictures of some children.

By early evening the other visitors were reportedly gone, and Danielle's labor grew more intense. She and Christian became concerned when they saw some bleeding occurring with her contractions. Even though they had prepared for an unassisted birth, they recognized they probably needed to go to the hospital.

Christian called 911. He recalled that Tammy Power had told him earlier that, if he needed to call for help, he should tell the 911 operator that they were in Cleburne County, and that the dispatcher needed to contact her.

Later, supporters who visited the campsite said that it was in Clay County, not Cleburne County. Cheaha State Park covers 2,799 acres in both Clay and Cleburne Counties. They question why Ms. Power was making a point that the couple should state that they were in Cleburne County.

Shortly after Christian made the 911 call, park security official Sandlin arrived on the scene, and radioed Tammy Power. She and her niece allegedly arrived shortly after with about 6 other civilians in black SUVs. At the time, they reportedly told Christian that the additional people happened to be at the park's restaurant and "heard about" Danielle being in labor.

Tammy Power later reportedly told a different version – that she saw them driving on the way down. They asked what was

going on, and then decided to join Tammy when they learned that there was a woman in labor.

At any rate, the strangers were brought, uninvited, to the Holms' campsite by the park superintendent.

Conveniently, Power's niece, Amber Smith, and two of the strangers happened to be nurses. Conveniently, they happened to have gloves and other medical equipment with them.

Danielle's labor was getting very painful and she was standing and leaning on her husband when the unexpected and unwanted visitors arrived. The park superintendent reportedly pushed Christian away from his wife and took over his spot, as one of the new arrivals told Christian that they "used to work" as emergency room nurses and they were ready to help. He even had a little medical kit with him.

One of the nurses told Danielle that they needed to check her vitals, but Danielle allegedly told them that she didn't ask for that.

It was at this time that things allegedly got very strange. Ms. Power insisted that Danielle hold onto her, while the female nurse who was not her niece, began pushing Danielle's legs apart, insisting:

I have to check. I have to check to make sure the baby is OK. You have to let me in there. Your baby is not going to be healthy if you don't let me in there.

Besides the inappropriate nature of the methods the alleged nurse was using, this stranger on the scene did not have

Danielle's permission to touch her.

Danielle was trying to focus on her intense labor and was not really in a position to fight the gloved woman, but she told her repeatedly:

Please don't touch me. Please don't.

She screamed, "No!" when the woman shoved a hand up inside her in the middle of a contraction. The woman called out to her companions that Danielle was dilated 3, maybe 4, centimeters and that the baby was breech.

It is unclear how the woman decided that the baby was breech at 3 centimeters dilation. She allegedly did not palpate, or feel the outside of Danielle's belly, to try to determine the position of the baby.

Health Impact News consulted a couple of homebirth midwives who stated that it would be very unlikely for even a skilled practitioner to determine that a baby was breech based solely on an internal exam.

Doctors generally rely on ultrasound to tell the position of the baby, while midwives use their hands to palpate the baby through the mother's belly. Had the nurse listened to the baby's heart rate, that could have given a good indication of the baby's position, but that allegedly didn't happen.

This mother was reportedly resisting the assault to her body, which would make it difficult to determine any useful information from the unwelcome vaginal exam.

The midwives we consulted said that there is no way that a vaginal exam or lack thereof has any ability to ensure a healthy baby. That is not the way that information about the health of the baby is gleaned. The nurse didn't attempt to listen to the baby with a doppler or fetoscope, which would have shown the baby's heart rate and could have given a trained attendant information about the status of the baby.



Christian and Danielle in much happier times, before coming to Mt. Cheaha. They had everything they needed. Source: Holm family.

Neither Danielle nor Christian recognized either of the alleged nurses. The female nurse is described as being a heavy set woman with short blondish hair. The male nurse was older, possibly late 50s, with white hair.

Neither worked with the ambulance company.

Legally, it is considered assault for medical personnel to do anything to a patient over their objections, and that applies whether the patient is on the side of the road in an accident or in an emergency room.

Oddly enough, there was another person in the group that Christian recognized. One of the men had been near their campsite earlier in the day. He was one of the pair that were given permission by Tammy Power to have a fire and cook meat and vegetables.

Shortly after this, Christian was able to get his wife to Tammy's truck so they could drive to the place where they met the ambulance. When they arrived at the rendezvous point, there were reportedly 3 or 4 more cars full of people, even though the park had been all but abandoned earlier in the evening. The couple wondered where all the people came from. It was like there were people and headlights everywhere.

About 15 minutes after Christian called 911, someone else called 911, reporting a pregnant girl at the state park with complications. The Holms don't know who made that call. No one knew about any problems with the labor until he had called and the gang arrived on the scene.

Interestingly, the records from dispatch only show the 2nd 911 call, not the one that Christian made. The record of that phone call seems to have disappeared from state records.

Supporters say that it all seemed like there were too many coincidences to be logical.

Park Superintendent Barges Into Hospital Delivery Room Against Desires of Parents



Image from [Tammy Power Facebook Page](#).

They transported to Anniston Regional Medical Center. Immediately upon arrival, doctors performed an ultrasound

and found the baby to be in the proper, head-down position. He was not breech.

One of the documents that the Holms were asked to sign asked who they wanted to allow into the delivery room. They signed stating that they didn't want any visitors at all. They view birth as a sacred and private event, and wanted to keep it that way as much as possible, even though they now were in the hospital.

Shortly after, a nurse came into the room saying that the park superintendent Tammy Power was at the hospital and wanted to come up to the room. Danielle and Christian said no. They had already made their wishes clear.

About 20 minutes later, Tammy Power allegedly came into the delivery room anyway. It is unclear how she got past the hospital's security protocols, or if they even had such protocols in place. Even though her presence made it very uncomfortable for the couple, they were polite to her and didn't kick her out immediately. However, she tried to convince Christian to leave the room, telling him that he needed to go get something to eat.

He had no intention of leaving his wife who was in labor. Danielle was between 9 and 10 centimeters at that point. No father who wants to maintain a relationship with the mother in the future would dare leave her side at that time.

The Holms say that Ms. Power's behavior was very disturbing to them. She kept repeating, "We're family."

They weren't. They barely knew her. They were nice to her for a little while, but Christian finally asked her to leave. It was their sacred family time.

Their baby was born in perfect health on the morning of October 10.



Baby Holm with his mother at a brief 45 minute visit last week, the first in a month. Source: [#freebabyholm Facebook page](#).

Parents Originally Falsely Accused as Drug Smugglers

Our original story states that police originally came into the hospital alleging that Danielle and Christian were other people who were drug traffickers from Arizona. Supporters have since learned how that came about. Hospital security guards testified that a nurse at the hospital Googled Christian Holm and found news articles out of Arizona about a man with a similar name who had been arrested for drug smuggling. The articles linked him to a woman named Daniela.

In another context, this could have played out like a comedy of errors in an entertaining sitcom. However, in the hospital that touts itself as the first Baby-Friendly hospital in the state of Alabama, the nurse's poor analysis of his Google search had devastating consequences.

- The missionary dad is Christian Clarke Holm. The man arrested in Arizona was Richard Christian Holm.
- The missionary mother is Danielle Holm. The woman arrested in Arizona was Daniela Ruiz. Different last name, and one "l."
- The 2 criminals were arrested on 2 different days, for 2 different crimes, and 2 different places on the Arizona border. The articles clearly state that it was "two separate incidents."
- There is no indication that the two criminals in Arizona even knew each other. The ONLY connection revealed by an in-depth Google search is the fact that both appear in the same articles. The articles all appear to originate from the same source, which simply lists a couple of crimes occurring around the

same time period.

See: [2 arrested in drug smuggling attempt at border](#)

Even though the mistaken identity was easily cleared up, DHR still kept the baby, faulting the parents for refusing a birth certificate and social security number. Christian Holm has presented documentation to everyone involved with the case that these are not crimes, and that there is no law compelling them to obtain these for their baby.

See:

FBI Investigates Baby Kidnapped from Couple in Alabama Who Declined Birth Certificate and SSN

One supporter asked how Anniston Regional Medical Center could be considered “[Baby-friendly](#)” when breastfeeding newborns are taken from their mothers’ breasts without evidence of abuse. The most baby-friendly act would be to keep mother and baby together. The first 3 months of a baby’s life are considered by many experts to be the “Fourth Trimester.” Babies are quite immature when they are born, and close mother-baby contact is vital to their well-being. Being snatched from their mothers by overzealous social workers is anything but “baby-friendly.”



From the front page of the Anniston Regional Medical Center [website](#).

This is the same hospital where Sabrina Cartee gave birth to her youngest baby, who was taken from her at 2 days old, simply because DHR had custody of her other children. Judge Melody Walker and Cleburne County DHR were involved with their case as well. Like the Holms, the Cartees were also under an unconstitutional gag order. After a very long, hard-fought battle, the Cartee children are home. The baby spent most of her first 2 years in foster care.

See:

[Alabama Seizes 7 Children from Family After Child with Autism Wandered to Neighbors](#)

Forged Documents Support State Kidnapping?

There are alleged discrepancies between documents filed at the courthouse and records from the hospital. Some documents that should match don't. Some dates are not lining up.

There is one hospital document where social worker Kristen Alex Martin signed as the mother of the baby, certifying by her signature that the mother received her baby and checked the hospital band on the mother and on the baby. The false signature was allegedly witnessed by a nurse at RMC.

I CERTIFY that during the discharge procedure I received my baby, examined it and determined that it was mine. I checked the Ident-A-Band® parts sealed on the baby and on me and found that they were identically numbered 09718 and contained correct identifying information.

Shelia M Cain RN Witness (Hospital Representative) K Alex Martin Signature of Mother

Date 10/12/16 Time 12:00 Date 10/12/16 Time 12:00

PROB Rev 4/02, 05/16 NEWBORN IDENTIFICATION

A paralegal advocate from another state who has been working with the family drove to Alabama in order to help the Holms. He came out of the courthouse shortly after the hearing began on December 14, saying that Judge Melody Walker asked him to leave because he is not an attorney:

I don't think it's proper.

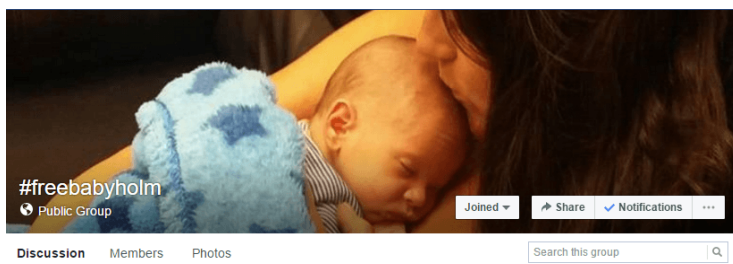
Yet, the foster parents were allowed to stay. They are strangers to the family, whose only connection to them is the baby that came into their care at 24 hours of age. This makes no sense to the Holms' supporters.

What is really going on in Cleburne County, Alabama? The FBI has allegedly said that they are investigating.

How You Can Help

Supporters have set up a Facebook page called

[#FreeBabyHolm](#), where people may follow the story and offer support.



Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Gerald Dial is the Senator for Cleburne County. He may be reached at 334-242-7874, or contacted [here](#).

Representative Richard Lindsay represents their district. He may be reached at 334-242-7713, or contacted [here](#).

According to the [Alabama Family Rights Association](#), ALFRA:

Alabama has a nine-member task force created to examine the work of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). If you have issues or concerns about DHR services, your best plan of action is to contact the following legislators/lawmakers and committee members:

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[Executive Order Number 11](#)

Should Foster Children who Become Parents as Adults Automatically Have Their Children Seized? Alabama Mother Fights to Get Children Back



Haly with her baby at a visit. Photo courtesy of the family.

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

A young Alabama mother is fighting to maintain hope that she can get her children back. Haly Boothe was a minor in foster care herself when she gave birth to her first two children. When she aged out of the system, her foster mother and DHR refused to let her take her children with her. She got a job, got married, and had another baby. DHR took that baby from her at the hospital at 3 days old, simply because DHR already had her other two children.

See her story:

[Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at Hospital](#)

Haly and her husband Anthony love their children and desperately want to have their children home. Haly's grandmother, Dee Prince, says that she never even had the chance to be a mother. They feel that the system has been doing everything that they can to keep the children away from their family, even though they have done nothing to deserve losing them. They believe that Haly is the victim of a cruel system, and no matter what she does, it doesn't seem to be enough.

In October, Haly sent a letter out to DHR, legislators, media, and the governor of Alabama, Robert Bentley, outlining many issues that she has seen with the handling of her case.

The full letter is included here:

Corruption in Alabama: Abuse of Family Rights Continues – Retaliation Against Media Exposure

As a result of the letter, Judge Corey Moore recused himself, and her court-appointed attorney withdrew from her case. The new judge is Daniel Crowson.

The family followed up the letter by filing a bar complaint in November against the children's Guardian ad litem (GAL) Erin Bell Welborn, listing substantial allegations regarding her representation of their case.

These allegations include a conflict of interest because Welborn filed a lawsuit on behalf of Haly's infant nephew against Haly and other family members and members of the media, including a reporter for Medical Kidnap, while at the same time representing Haly's children as GAL.

See story about lawsuit:

Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping

As GAL for the children, she never visited them while they were in foster care with Haly, which is allegedly in violation of protocols. When Haly was 18 years old, her foster mother died suddenly, which was emotionally difficult for Haly, but Erin Welborn never used her role as GAL to advocate for any kind of counseling for Haly or her children, but instead recommended that her babies be taken from the grieving young mother.

Additionally, the bar complaint alleges that the court hearings since Haly's sister's baby was taken by DHR in June have not addressed the issues regarding her case, but have

instead focused primarily upon the fact that the media has reported their story publicly.

Neither Haly, nor her family members who have spoken with Health Impact News, have believed that the GAL has shown any concern about the baby having the right to be raised by her own family. There appears to have been no effort allegedly made on the part of the GAL to reunite the family.

There is no word yet of any response to the bar complaint. Erin Welborn has been removed from the lawsuit, as she was found to have no standing to file the suit.

Since that time, a new GAL has been assigned to Haly's children, but the family has not met them yet. According to [Alabama Code 12-15-304\(b\)](#), GALs are required by law to meet with the children prior to the court hearings, and to conduct their own "thorough and independent investigation" of the case. The family hopes that the new GAL will abide by the requirements of the statutes and investigate, and not simply rubber stamp the reports of the social workers that they believe simply do not like the family.



Haly with newborn baby before she was taken from her at the hospital. Photo courtesy of the family.

Mom Forced to Pay Child Support Even Though No Parental Rights

Suddenly, Haly is being required to pay child support, even for the children for whom her rights have been terminated. This began without notice. In December, she discovered that DHR started garnishing her wages. By the time taxes, deductions, and child support is taken out, her take-home pay is less than half of her earnings. She never received notice about the wage garnishment. There was, apparently, a notice sent out, but it went to a wrong address, even though DHR has always known her current address.

She doesn't understand how she can be required to pay child support all of a sudden without any kind of hearing, especially on the two children where her rights were involuntarily terminated. Her family believes that this could be a retaliatory move designed to make life more difficult for her, so that social workers can report back to the court that she is not in compliance with the requirements they have deemed necessary for her to get her baby back.

Visitation Allowed by Alabama Law

No one in the family has seen the two older children since the TPR (termination of parental rights) in December of 2015. One of the children has reportedly been asking to see his mommy. Alabama state law states that children still have the right to visit their parents. This right applies even if parental rights have been terminated, according to [Alabama Administrative Code 660-5-50.05b](#):

Children retain the right to visit with their parents and families even when the rights of the parents have been

terminated. Visiting may be restricted when it places the child's safety at risk; substantially inhibits attainment of the goals of the safety plan or the permanency goal of the ISP; or subjects the child to intimidation regarding investigative statements or court testimony.

The code makes it clear that legislators recognize “the need for family attachments,” and as such, visits are not to be used as either rewards or punishments. According to 660-5-50.02(4):

Visits are to be viewed as valuable in and of themselves and as strategies in meeting the child's developmental and permanency needs.

Thus, the law addresses the concern that many have expressed that children have a right to and a need for family connection and to know who they are and where they come from. The practice, however, of DHR in this case, and in many others, does not appear to reflect this priority.

Reunification or TPR?

At the time that the newborn baby was taken from the hospital, social worker Star Pope reportedly told Haly and her husband Anthony that they would talk about reunification if they would move out of Haly's grandparents' home and get their own place, and have a job and a car.

At the time of that conversation, Haly had been working for several months, and, in fact, got a promotion shortly after.

All this was reportedly to prove to the state that the 20 year olds were capable of providing for their child all by themselves. Even though parents all around the world are allowed to have help from grandparents and other family members, Pope made it clear that this is not acceptable to DHR. At the time the baby was taken, Haly and Anthony lived in a mother-in-law apartment at Haly's grandparents' home, which was very separate from the rest of the home. However, they moved into their own apartment, per DHR request.

Pope also wanted Haly to get her GED. She did not need to get her GED, because she already had a high school diploma. She had graduated high school – on time, while in foster care, with 2 small children, a fact that the social worker seemed unaware of.

Both Haly and Anthony are working, and they have a vehicle. They have met all the requirements originally set forth by the social worker. They have taken parenting classes as well. But the baby is still not home.

Their fear is that DHR is trying to drag out the case to keep the baby in foster care for a year, so that they can then have reason to terminate parental rights and adopt her out. She will be a year old on May 9.

Parents Simply Want the Opportunity to Be Parents

The baby is now crawling and beginning to talk. Haly and Anthony, and the rest of the family, have missed many of their daughter's milestones. She is now 8 months old and has never spent a day in her own home, since she went straight from the hospital to foster care.



Haly's baby at a visit. Photo courtesy of the family.

Even though they have missed much, there is nothing in the world that Haly and Anthony want more than to have their baby girl, and her two older siblings, home with them. They struggle to understand how a system that says that it is about protecting children can rip a family apart for no other

reason than the fact that their mother was in foster care herself. Isn't that an indictment on the system if social workers believe that the foster care system doesn't prepare children adequately to parent their own children when they grow up?

If they had abused or neglected their children, if they had ever done anything to bring harm to any of their children, then they could understand the involvement of DHR. But that didn't happen. They maintain that the state had no legitimate reason to take their children.

Rally on February 3 at the Shelby County Courthouse

Haly and Anthony have a hearing on the baby's case on Friday, February 3, at 9am with the new judge. They are hoping that the new judge will look at what has happened in their case, and will rule fairly and return their children.

Supporters are planning a peaceful rally at 8:30am on February 3 in front of the Shelby County Courthouse at 112 North Main Street, Columbiana, Alabama. The public is invited to attend.



Shelby County Courthouse, Columbiana, Alabama. Photo [source](#).

Funds Needed for Legal Help

The family is in need of funds to hire an attorney to fight for them. They have been disappointed in the court-appointed attorneys that they have had in the past, and would like to hire an attorney. Medical Kidnap has [set up a fundraiser](#) to help them with the initial retainer fee.

To donate, [go here](#).

They still maintain hope that somehow, things will turn around for them and that they will get the children back. They are never giving up.

Who to Call:

Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Cam Ward is the Senator for their district. He may be reached at 334-242-7873, or contacted [here](#).

Representative April Weaver represents their district. She may be reached at 334-242-7731, or contacted [here](#).

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More on Haly's story:

Alabama DHR Seizes Newborn Baby with No Court Order, No Trial, and No Evidence

Alabama Grandparents of 14 Year Old Rape Victim and Baby Still Not Allowed Contact with Own Grandchildren Raised in Their Home



Top left: Young mother with Grandfather – Top Right: Twin brother with Grandmother and Baby Braelon – Bottom: twin siblings with Grandfather. The grandparents no longer have any contact with their grandchildren (whom they raised) nor their great grandson.

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

The story of the 14 year old Alabama mother whose newborn baby was taken away from her by Child Protective Services last summer quickly went viral, and inspired outrage all over the world. That outrage translated into action, with many phone calls, emails, and letters calling upon state legislators to “do something” about the situation.

Local courts and social workers tried to silence the media, and squelch the negative attention that the actions of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) was receiving. But the public refused to back down in their fight for this family, and because of the calls for action, things changed for this family. There is also new legislation pending in the state of Alabama which arose from their case.

Those close to the situation have always believed that, had it not been for the story going viral, baby Braelon’s mother would never have gotten her baby back. Instead of the baby simply being returned to his mother, in the care of her grandparents who had raised her, DHR intervened less than 24 hours after the baby was taken, removing the young mother and her twin brother from their home.

Fortunately, the baby was eventually returned to his mother, but he and his mother were taken to Childhaven, a group home in Cullman, Alabama. Her twin brother was placed in a foster home originally, and then into a group home 2 hours away from his sister. After much public attention, all three children were placed with a relative, but not returned to the grandparents’ home where they grew up.

Since that time, the relative has declined to speak with media. However, Health Impact News has been able to

confirm that the children appear to be safe and baby Braelon appears to be thriving, now that they are out of the group home setting.

Our reporter Terri LaPoint was present with [Choices4Life](#) founder Juda Myers at Shelby County Medical Center up to the minutes when the baby was seized from his mother's arms. When it had become clear that DHR was going to take her baby, the mother turned to LaPoint and Myers and asked them to tell her story, and help get her baby back. That is why the story was reported, despite the young age of the mother.

Exclusive Video of the Day Baby Braelon Was Taken

The events of the day were traumatic and emotional. There were several hours during which the family was very calm, simply asking when they could go home. Their questions were evaded at every turn. Late in the afternoon on June 15, 2016, DHR supervisor Ahzshaka Evans entered the hospital room, accompanied by Alabaster police officer Edmunson and 2 other officers, 2 security guards, and several hospital staff, including hospital Risk Management director Ashley Cole-Tyson, saying that they were there to take the baby.

Already present in the room were the young mother, who was breastfeeding her baby at the time, her grandparents Dee and Rodney Prince, reporter Terri LaPoint, and advocate Juda Myers. Big sister Haly Boothe was present also. Her newborn baby had been seized by Shelby County DHR just six weeks prior, simply because they already had her other 2 children, who had been born while she was in foster care.

See Haly's story:

Should Foster Children who Become Parents as Adults Automatically Have Their Children Seized? Alabama Mother Fights to Get Children Back

Watch the encounter in the hospital room:

<https://youtu.be/7tXWnfLAoHI>

In this second video clip, it is difficult to hear Shelby County supervisor Ahzshaka Evans' words over the rest of the conversation in the room. She leaned down and quietly explained to the young mother:

We have one where we can summary remove, which means that we don't have to have a court order. Only two people are allowed to do that: the Department of Human Resources of the state of Alabama and law enforcement. Those two people have the right to remove without a court order.

The problem is that that is not what the 4th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States says. If the 4th Amendment doesn't apply to DHR/CPS or to law enforcement, who else would it possibly apply to?

Watch here:

<https://youtu.be/aBSsMORoHhQ>

Months Later, "Safety Concerns" Identified – They Were Based on a Lie

During the previous hours leading up to the seizure of the baby, the only reason given for DHR wanting to take baby

Braelon was “safety concerns.” The family asked repeatedly what those safety concerns were, but no one would tell them. Officer Edmunson told our reporter that DHR does not require a court order to take the baby. He explained to the family that DHR had a pickup order, and stated that, “they obviously have a reason to do it [to take the baby].”

It was months later before the family learned what those “safety concerns” were. DHR alleged that the grandparents, Dee and Rodney Prince, invited the alleged rapist to the hospital and allowed him to come into the room.

However, that is not at all what happened. Our reporter witnessed Samuel Woods III and his mother coming into the room, and described the incident:

Accused Man Arrested in Alabama Rape Mother Story - Allowed to Enter Hospital Room to See Baby Before His Arrest

The family described the incident in detail to DHR prior to the seizure of the baby. They knew what had happened, but apparently chose to blame the grandparents anyway.

The hospital did not follow their own protocols when Woods was allowed onto the maternity floor without a security badge from the family. The family did not invite him or his mother; he came in on his own accord, facing a roomful of shocked family members. Grandmother Dee Prince had already given out all of the security badges to people the family wanted there. Grandfather Rodney Prince was not even at the hospital when the disturbing incident occurred.

Yet, this incident formed the entire basis for the “safety concerns” upon which DHR took a newborn baby from his

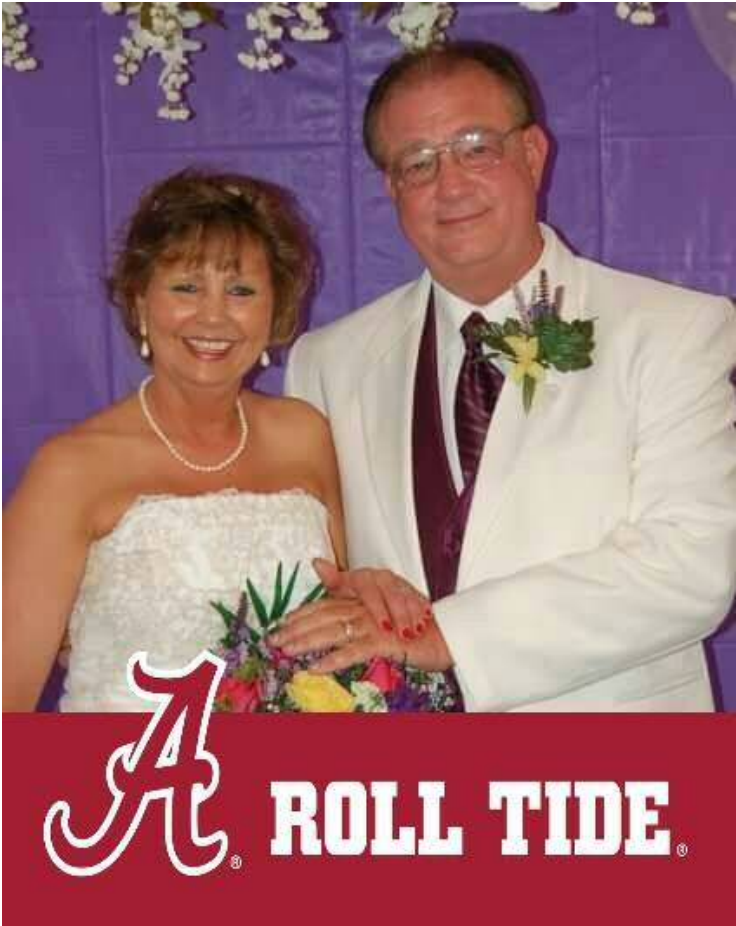
grieving mother's arms.

There was never any imminent danger to the baby, nor to his mother and her twin, who were seized from their home the following day.

Familial Alienation by DHR

DHR appears to still hold this imaginary safety threat against the grandparents, because they are forbidden by DHR to see the twins or baby Braelon at all. The alienation of the Princes by DHR extends not only to the twins, but to their granddaughter Haly Boothe's baby Avyonna as well. DHR forbids any contact with Dee and Rodney Prince to 2 of their great-grandchildren as well as to the twins whom they have raised since infancy. The week before baby Braelon was taken, a Shelby County DHR social worker had approved the Prince's home in a home study for baby Avyonna.

What changed?



Dee and Rodney Prince – loving grandparents, denied contact with some of their family. Photo source: Facebook.

This past Christmas was difficult for the Princes. They took Christmas presents for the twins and the baby and left them on the doorstep, much like Santa Claus – delivering gifts with no contact with the children. They wanted to make sure that, no matter what the children are being told, they would see that their grandparents have not abandoned them, and

that they will always love them. It is not by choice that they do not see their grandchildren. They are abiding by court orders.

Lawsuit Still Not Dismissed

The court case for the twins, who are now 15, and the baby has been moved out of Shelby County and is now in Jefferson County. However, 2 major players in the Shelby County case remain involved. Jennifer Newman is reportedly still on the case as DHR counsel, and Erin Bell Welborn remains as the guardian ad litem for the the young mother and her baby.

Welborn is no longer involved in the lawsuit that she filed against Health Impact News and reporter Terri LaPoint and others.

See article about the lawsuit:

[Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping](#)

However, the lawsuit remains. Erin Welborn had filed the lawsuit in the name of the then 1-week old baby Braelon against Health Impact News, Choices4Life, and the Daily Haze, as well as the reporters and advocates, and against numerous family members, for exposing the kidnapping of baby Braelon in Shelby County, Alabama. A judge has ruled that Erin Welborn had no standing to file the lawsuit, and she was removed from the suit. However, the judge has not yet dismissed the lawsuit, stating that he wants to ensure that the rights of the baby are retained. There has been no further activity on the suit since that hearing last year.



Shelby County Courthouse, Columbiana, Alabama.

Haly Boothe, baby Braelon’s aunt, is one of the defendants named in the lawsuit. In November, Haly filed a bar complaint against Erin Welborn. One of the issues cited in the complaint was a conflict of interest: Welborn represented Haly’s 3 children as their GAL, while at the same time she filed a lawsuit against the children’s mother.

Baby Braelon Case Inspires New Bill

One of the initial complaints about DHR’s handling of the baby Braelon case was that the baby was separated from his mother, who was also a minor. Before anyone outside of DHR knew what the “safety concerns” were, some argued that, if the home wasn’t safe for the baby, how could it be safe for his mother, since she herself was a minor as well. DHR answered that concern by seizing the mother as well as her twin brother.

Again, this was done without a court order, warrant, or emergency circumstance.

In the call to action on the original story, supporters were encouraged to call legislators. It is apparent that the calls were heard, because Representative April Weaver, who represents the Prince family's district, recently pre-filed a bill ahead of Alabama's upcoming legislative session that would have required that the minor mother and baby be placed together in foster care. [AL HB21](#) would amend existing state code to add:

“The department shall make every effort to place an infant of a dependent minor mother together with the minor mother in foster care.”

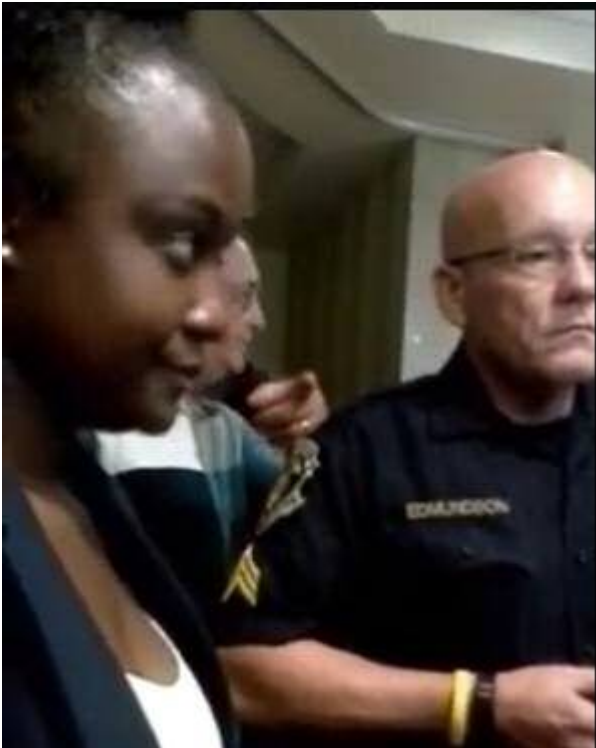
While this is certainly a step in the right direction, it is a small step. Out of all the cases that Health Impact News has written about since it began in October 2014, a bill such as this would have impacted only one case, this one, and that for only the initial first day until the mother was seized by DHR the following day after her baby was taken.

Additional Protection for Families Needed

This bill does nothing to address the greater problems facing families dealing with DHR. As late Arizona Representative Laura Knaperek once told Health Impact News:

What good does it do to pass laws if social workers aren't going to follow them anyway?

Families already have existing protections in the state laws as well as the U.S. Constitution, but as this story shows, that often doesn't mean anything to social workers or even law enforcement. While our reporter was at the hospital with the family, National Safe Child advocate [Tammi Stefano](#) was on a speaker phone reading aloud to Officer Edmunson portions of Alabama state law that he and others in the room were allegedly in the process of breaking at the time. The appeal to law had no effect.



Officer Edmunson with DHR supervisor Ahzshaka Evans.
Photo by Health Impact News.

The 4th Amendment to the Constitution states:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Yet, there are apparently many in DHR and in law enforcement who believe that this amendment may be set aside if DHR has a verbal pick-up order from a supervisor. One social worker told a parent that, because a shelter care hearing must be held within 72 hours of a child being picked up, the requirements of the 4th Amendment are satisfied. How can this be, when that is not how the Bill of Rights reads?

The 14th Amendment addresses the right to Due Process and states in part:

No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Yet, on a regular basis, parents report that they are denied due process in family court.

Additionally, it has become clear that children are taken from their homes in Alabama, and all across the United

States and Canada, without any actual evidence of harm, abuse, or neglect. Hearsay is often admitted as evidence, and social workers routinely lie, in their reports, in talking with parents, and in court.

A panel at the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently ruled that social workers do NOT have the right to lie about parents, and that they do not have immunity from being sued if they do.

Watch judges respond to arguments that social workers should be allowed to lie about parents:

<https://youtu.be/nZaoLxmFTkI>

Additionally, transparency in the child protective system needs to be addressed. Confidentiality laws and gag orders, as well as bullying tactics by social workers and others within the system, serve to hide corruption behind a shroud of secrecy. There can be egregious violations of civil and constitutional rights, but victims are powerless to do anything about it. That is surely not what the Founding Fathers envisioned.

Transparency helps to ensure integrity. Child abuse is a horrible crime, and no rational person wants to see children abused. However, when children are seized from innocent parents, the system itself becomes the abuser, causing untold damage to the very children it is charged with protecting.

Elected officials need to address these concerns. What happened to baby Braelon and his family was described by many observers as horrific and tyrannical. How can legislators protect the people against the abuses of power

that occurred in Shelby County, Alabama, last June, and that happen all across the country?

Legislative Session Starts Soon

The next legislative session in Alabama begins on Tuesday, February 7. Legislators need to hear the concerns that citizens have regarding DHR. A DHR task force has been conducting meetings to address some of the issues regarding DHR. The next meeting is scheduled for Wed., February 1, at the State House in Montgomery at 1 pm. These meetings are open to the public.

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Alabama DHR Destroys Another Family: Baby Taken Away Because Young Mom was a Foster Child Kidnapped from Loving Parents



Shanley and son. Source: [Bring Ashton Home Facebook page](#).

UPDATE:

[Uprising in Alabama? Public Educates DHR Board Member on Facebook Regarding Child Welfare Horrors](#)

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

All that Shanley wanted for her 20th birthday on February 22 was to get her son back from DHR, and to no longer be considered a foster child herself. Ashton was born while Shanley was in foster care, and when she was kicked out of her foster home last summer at the age of 19, she was not permitted to take her son with her. Alabama social workers tell her that she cannot get him back at this time because they still consider her a foster child, even though she is legally an adult, living on her own with both a job and an apartment.

Shanley is not accused of any kind of neglect or abuse, so it doesn't make sense to her that Walker County Department of Human Resources (DHR) refuses to allow her to have her son with her.

She has worked hard and thought that once she proved herself by holding down a job and passing a home inspection, Ashton could come home with her. It was a devastating blow at her most recent ISP meeting to learn that DHR still considers her a foster child, and that this is the reason they give for keeping her son in her previous foster home.

Shanley entered the foster care system when social workers accused her parents, Chuck and Ramona Devlin, of "inadequate supervision of a minor" because Shanley

became pregnant at the age of 14. *Health Impact News* questioned the Devlins about the circumstances surrounding the allegation. There was no doubt in Shanley's mind about the date she became pregnant. As she said the date, any accusation of wrong-doing by the parents fell by the wayside.

It is a date that most in the south will never forget – April 27, 2011.

The April 27th Tornado Outbreak

That was the day that Meteorologist [James Spann](#) call the “generational” tornado outbreak, the kind of tornado event that only happens about once every 40 years. 252 people lost their lives in the 62 tornadoes across the state of Alabama that day. In [Walker County](#), where the Devlins lived, there were 9 tornadoes, including 3 category 4 twisters. There were 1629 injuries and 84 deaths just in Walker County.

The Devlins had opened their home to friends and neighbors during the day that James Spann had warned would be a very serious day. Shanley's boyfriend and his family were among the guests who packed into the sturdy home of the Devlins. In just about every home across the state, normal parenting tasks were ignored in favor of the more important parental responsibility of watching ABC 33/40 and James Spann's coverage of the severe weather, so we would know when to direct everyone to take cover in the safest place in the house. Kids across the south who were old enough to do so were expected to entertain themselves while their parents were glued to the TV screens. It was a very serious day, and everyone knew it.



Meteorologist James Spann on ABC 33/40 – the man Alabama looks to in severe weather. Screenshot from more than 8 hours of [continuous coverage](#) of the April 27th tornadoes.

It was a frightening day, following a difficult season in the Devlin family. The month before, Shanley watched her aunt die. An ambulance had taken a wrong turn and didn't get there in time. Then, Shanley's sister had a miscarriage. Shanley was struggling to deal with it all, and she found comfort in the arms of her boyfriend during the storms.

Her parents told *Health Impact News* they can't figure out how in the world their daughter managed to get pregnant with so many people in the house that day. Yet somehow, DHR social worker Judy Kitchens saw her pregnancy under such conditions to be a case of neglectful and inadequate supervision by her parents.

The social worker was already involved with some relatives

of Shanley, but the cases did not involve either Shanley or her parents. It was through an unfortunate chance encounter with the relatives that the social worker learned of Shanley's pregnancy and she got on DHR's radar.

Once that happened, intervention was swift. Kitchens reportedly came to the Devlin home and told Shanley:

If you want to keep your baby, you have to go live at Childhaven and leave your parents.

The Devlins' protests fell on deaf ears. Their 16 year old son was still at home at the time, but DHR never tried to remove him from the home. Shanley has not been home since. Her parents were never accused of any kind of abuse or any other type of neglect.



Ramona at a visit with little Ashton. Source: Shanley

Their only crime was “inadequate supervision,” allowing their daughter to become pregnant during the April 27th tornado outbreak. Instead of allowing the family to deal with the prospect of the new baby together, Shanley was taken away from them to face her pregnancy without any family support. There were other family members willing to care for Shanley, but DHR refused to consider placement with them.

How is it possible that a family can be torn apart under such circumstances? Yet, a social worker and a judge allowed this to happen.

Childhaven Group Home – Not Exactly a “Haven”

That very day of Kitchens’ visit, when Shanley was about 12 weeks pregnant, she was placed into [Childhaven](#), a non-profit Church of Christ group home in Cullman, Alabama, that works with social services to serve abused and neglected children.

Childhaven is where [Baby Braelon](#) and his young mother, a [14 year old rape victim](#), were placed after he was seized from Shelby County Medical Center. After their story broke last summer, Shanley recognized photos posted online that were taken of the home by the young mother. At the time Shanley contacted *Health Impact News*, the group home had not been identified by name.

See:

[Newborn Alabama Baby is Now Sick in the Hospital While Under DHR Care After Being Taken from 14-year Old Mother](#)

Shanley's family was only allowed to visit with her once a week. When doctors at Cullman Regional Medical Center induced her labor early, Shanley says that she fought to have her mother by her side for the birth. Ashton was born on January 16, and weighed 8 lbs 1 oz.



Healthy baby boy! Source: [Bring Ashton Home Facebook page](#).

Shanley chose to breastfeed her baby. He received all the recommended vaccines, and he was circumcised. She was not told about any risks of circumcision. When she asked for

information about the procedure, she says that Dr. Short told her that it was “routine” and that “everybody did it.”

After Ashton’s birth on Monday, Shanley and her baby were taken back to Childhaven on Wednesday. She reports that her chores at the group home resumed that very night. She says she could barely walk but was required to wash dishes Wednesday night.

She had court the next day in Walker County. They had to leave before breakfast, and she remembers a long walk to the courthouse during which she had to carry the baby in his car seat to court – which experts say is too much weight for a newly postpartum mother to be carrying. Midwife Jill McDanal says that a new mother should not carry anything heavier than her baby for the first 6 weeks after birth. After court, workers reportedly refused to get her anything to eat until they returned to Childhaven, more than an hour drive away.

Because there were times that Shanley cried about her situation, she says they told her she was depressed and made her take pills for depression. She got into trouble for refusing to take depression medication, and reports that she was once grounded for not taking postpartum pain medication.

Beating the Odds: Graduating from Highschool as a Teen Mother in Foster Care

She and her baby were moved around to a couple of other placements, until they ended up in the foster home where her son remains to this day. Despite all the challenges, she was able to graduate on time from high school in May of 2016.



Beating the odds as a foster child with a child of her own, Shanley proudly graduated high school. Source: [Bring Ashton Home Facebook page](#).

She received a few cards of congratulations for her graduation. Shanley reports that her foster parents opened the cards and took out all the money contained within “right in front of me” and handed her the empty cards. To this day, she has never seen her graduation money, sent to her by people who care about her.

When she went into the foster care system, her family had been receiving a disability check every month for her. Shanley's father had been in a car accident in 2001, where he was hit by a drunk driver. After Shanley went into DHR custody, social workers allegedly told her that the \$731 per month disability check would go into an account for her to get when she turned 19. To date she has never seen a dime of that money. At one point a social worker reportedly laughed and told her that check is what was keeping her in foster care.

Kicked Out of Foster Home

During all the time that Shanley was in foster care with her son, she took care of him. She helped care for other children in the homes as well, cooking nutritious meals as much as possible, and helping with nap time and other caretaking tasks.

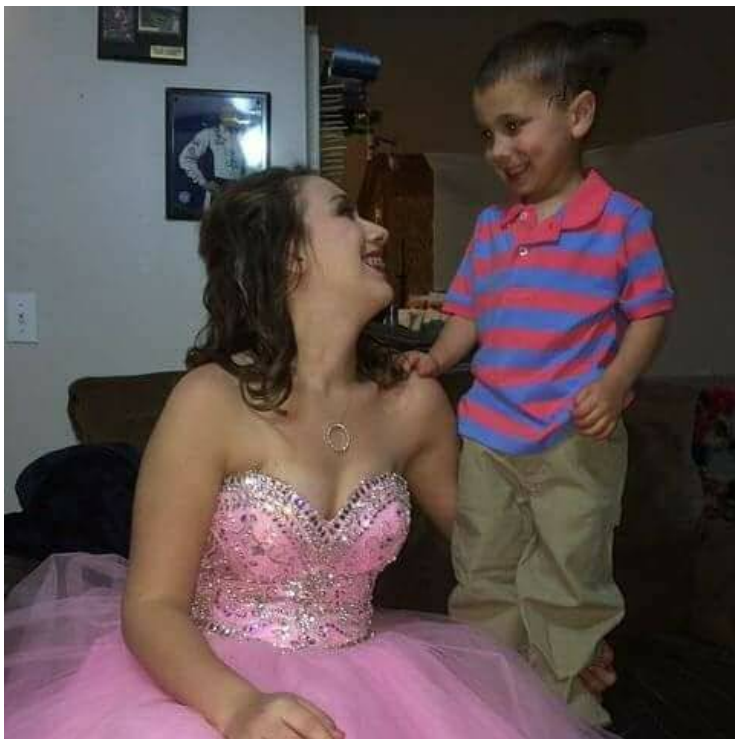
She reports that one day last summer her son was cranky and tired and asked to lay down. She says that the foster mother told him it was too early for a nap. Shanley became frustrated that the foster mother wouldn't let her be the mom to her son and trust her instincts that he wasn't feeling well.

The foster mother reportedly then told her to spend the night with a friend. Later that day the foster mom texted her that she didn't need to come back. Shanley says:

If I would have known this, I would have never left.

She was now homeless, without her son, on July 17, 2016, with only her backpack. Her foster mother wouldn't give her

son or any of her things to her. It was not until a month ago, in January 2017, that she has finally been given some of her possessions. She says she still does not have her tablet, prom dress, suitcases, or any of her papers.



Shanley in her prom dress with her son. Source: [Bring Ashton Home Facebook page](#).

Social worker Kristie Alexander allegedly told her that she was considered to be on runaway status, even though she was legally an adult according to Alabama state law. There was a time when she was not even allowed to see her son.

Since she has been out of the foster home, Shanley has secured a job, her own apartment, and she pays her own bills. But that hasn't changed her status with DHR. In a court hearing in November, she requested to be released from foster care, but they refused.

Medical Neglect by DHR?

She also asked for DHR to fulfill their obligation to pay for her braces. Social worker Kristie Alexander allegedly signed the contract agreement back in December 2015 for her to get braces. Shanley states that because no payments were made to the orthodontists, she was unable to get her braces adjusted last year. She writes:

Therefore, I was being refused treatment, and had wires cutting my jaw and my mouth was extremely sore and Walker County DHR refused to do anything!

After a judge ruled in September that DHR must pay for her braces, Shanley scheduled another appointment to get her braces adjusted. One payment was finally made by DHR in October, but nothing since then.



Ashton gives his mommy kisses. Source: Shanley.

Shanley Still Forbidden to See Biological Family

Shanley has grown up quickly, without help from her biological family or her foster family. Her social worker has told her and her family that they are forbidden to see each other.

However, in separate conversations with *Health Impact News*, both Shanley and her parents told us that they have never been given a reason why. Shanley wrote a letter that she has sent to [DHR commissioner Nancy Buckner](#), Senator Cam Ward, and Representative Mac McCutcheon, former chair of the DHR Task Force. She has not received a reply to the letter in which she wrote:

Alexander told me that if I contacted my biological family for any reason, that I will never have my son with me again.

“They’re not giving me a reason,” she says, but they have told her that Ashton is not allowed to see his grandparents. She wants to know how talking to her parents could possibly endanger her child.



A rare treat – Chuck Devlin ran into his grandson at the courthouse. Source: [Bring Ashton Home Facebook page](#).

Will They Ever Let Her Go?

In January, Shanley became hopeful that she and her son would be reunited soon. She reports that she passed the

home study with flying colors. During an ISP meeting on January 13, DHR told her that she would be out of foster care within a week and her son would be home soon.

However, that didn't happen.

Shanley said that in a recent ISP meeting, DHR's Jessica Hamilton told her that her son cannot come home because she is in foster care. Shanley recently emailed us, saying:

As of February 1, 2017, they have refused to let me out until court which is in March, and they said they can keep me till I am 21, and as long as they have me, they have my child! This is not right! I am an amazing mother and deserve to have my child home where he belongs!

Son Being Drugged in Foster Care

Shanley is concerned for her son's well-being in foster care. He was diagnosed by DHR's psychiatrists as being ADHD, and is now on psychotropic medication. She says that she and others who have observed him do not believe that he is actually ADHD. She believes that he is being drugged for being a normal boy who talks a lot and asks, "Why?"

Shanley prefers that he not be on such risky medications, but when she protested, she was told that, if he didn't get on the medications, he would always be a "bad child," and would never succeed in school.

She recognizes that it could do more harm than good for her to refuse to give him the medications during his weekend visits with him, so she gives him the medication.

The foster mother reportedly gives the weekend doses of the medication in a ziplock baggie to Shanley, who has repeatedly asked for them to be in the bottle, as the law requires. When Shanley picked up her son after the January 13th ISP meeting, her court-appointed attorney witnessed the foster mother hand her the ziplock baggie. Shanley hoped that her attorney would speak up for her, but she reportedly told her later that she cannot force the foster mother to give her the pill bottle. Instead, Shanley says that the attorney said:

I'm going to turn around because this is against the law.

She says that the foster mother “just handed the baggie to me and walked off.” In frustration, she told her attorney that she had better not end up in jail for having her son’s medication in a baggie.

Nothing has been done, even though Shanley has complained about this to the DHR social worker, the supervisor, her court-appointed attorney, Ashton’s Guardian ad Litem, and the foster mother. This has been happening since November 4. Shanley has suggested that the foster mother at least use an old pill bottle that had her son’s information on it, but that hasn’t happened, either.



Ashton at a recent visit with Shanley. Source: [Bring Ashton Home Facebook page](#).

The foster mother reportedly has Ashton on 10 mg of melatonin every night, which is concerning to Shanley. Even among experts, there is mixed information about its safety for children. As a mother, she would rather the risks not be taken with her son, but her objection has been ignored.

Ashton recently told his mother that they are going to do dental surgery on him soon to put him to sleep and put caps on all his teeth.

When she was in the foster home, Shanley recalls the children being spanked with switches and fly swatters. Sometimes her son had accidents at night, and would be spanked. When she would complain that her son shouldn't

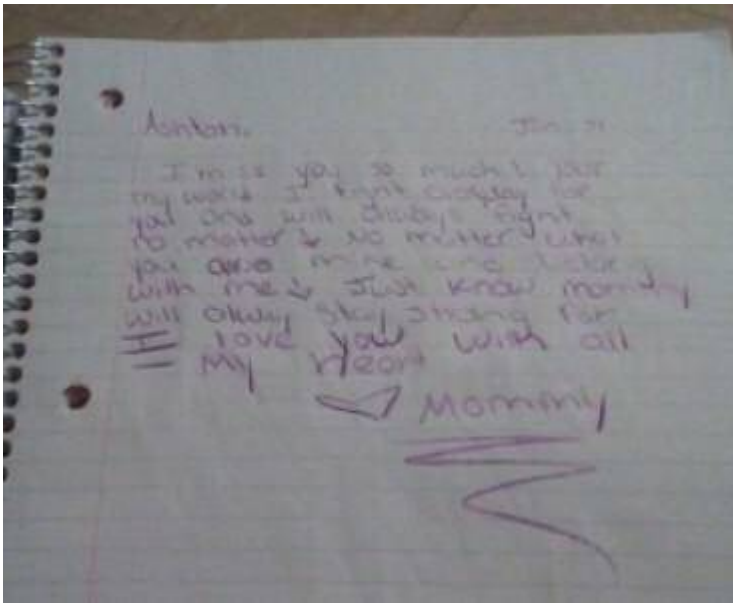
be spanked for that, she says she was told that she didn't know anything about how to be a mom. When Shanley reported the spankings to the social worker, she said that since the social worker didn't witness them, there was nothing she could do about it.

They Just Want to Be Out of the System

There is no apparent reason for either Shanley or her son to be in the foster care system. Shanley told us that:

The only thing I want for my birthday is not to be a foster kid and for my son to come home. That would be the best birthday present ever.

She writes a letter every day to her little boy, and keeps a journal of everything that has happened to her and her family. Here is a recent letter:



Daily letter to Ashton from January 31.

As of February 22, 2017, Shanley is 20 years old – legally an adult, with her own apartment and means to support her son. She no longer has a GAL, because she is over 18.

Yet, she cannot have her son back because she is still considered a minor in the foster care system.

On February 15, Shanley called DHR to request documents on her case, because they have never given her paperwork on any of her case. They told her that she was not allowed to have them because she is a minor.

How can DHR define her status as a minor or not a minor depending on what they want to do? Is the definition of a minor an arbitrary thing, situationally defined by DHR to suit

the needs of the moment?

How You Can Help

Supporters have set up a Facebook page called [Bring Ashton Home](#), and are using Twitter hashtags #BringAshtonHome and #DevlinStrong.



Shanley goes back to court on March 1 at 8:30 am at the Walker County Courthouse at 219 19th St W, Jasper, AL 35501.

(Note: This is a date change from the original story. Shanley learned on Monday morning that court has been changed from Thursday, March 2, to Wednesday, March 1. Same time and place.)

She would love supporters to stand with her. She wants people to know that she refuses to give up:

It's not just hurting me; it's hurting my baby.

Shanley's father Chuck Devlin says that all the family wants is:

for Shanley to get her son, and for DHR to leave her alone

and let her be a mommy and stay out of her life. Anyone who knows her knows she puts her son first.

Ramona, Shanley's mother, has prayed for years for her family to be restored. She wants to know:

Where is justice? Where are family values?

Supporters may call the following:

Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Connie Rowe, who chairs the DHR Task Force, is the Senator representing the Devlins' district. She may be reached at (334) 242-7600, or contacted [here](#).

Representative Greg Reed represents the Devlins' district in Walker County. He is also a member of the DHR Task Force. He may be reached at (334) 242-7894, or contacted [here](#).

Uprising in Alabama? Public Educates DHR Board Member on Facebook Regarding Child Welfare Horrors



Commissioner Nancy Buckner, Alabama DHR.

by **Brian Shilhavy**
Editor, Health Impact News

Last week (February 2017) we published the story of Shanley Devlin of Walker County, Alabama, and how her family was torn apart by the Department of Human Resources (DHR). Shanley was removed from the custody of her parents at the age of 14 after she became pregnant during the April 27, 2011, tornadoes. Her parents were housing many people from the neighborhood during the storms.

In spite of the fact that the family wanted to raise the baby in their home, Alabama DHR allegedly charged the parents with “inadequate supervision,” and both their daughter and grandson were placed in foster care. Their daughter Shanley is now 20 years old holding a steady job and has place to live, but because she grew up in foster care, DHR will not allow her son to live with her.



Shanley and son. Source: [Bring Ashton Home Facebook page](#).

Read the full story here:

[Alabama DHR Destroys Another Family: Baby Taken Away Because Young Mom was a Foster Child Kidnapped from Loving Parents](#)

[Alabama DHR Board Member Tries to Discredit MedicalKidnap.com on Facebook](#)



Margaret Morgan Silbernagel – Image from [Facebook](#).

When we posted Shanley’s story on our [Facebook Page](#), the story quickly went viral with many people in Alabama sharing their own horror stories with DHR in Alabama on our Facebook Page.

Someone [posting as Margaret Morgan Silbernagel](#) and claiming to be “a member of the Esc. Co. DHR Board,” apparently decided (or was appointed) to stand up for DHR and asserted:

This story cannot be accurate.

When pressed as to whether Ms. Silbernagel had first hand knowledge of the story we reported on, which was in a county several hours away from the county she was claiming where she served on a DHR board, she admitted she did not, and simply posted her belief that DHR would never do such actions as we were reporting in our story:

Our regulations and goals do not allow us to remove a child from a home without proper cause. That cause must meet criteria. There is more to this story than is being shared with you.

The DHR's goal is to always place children within their own biological family, if possible.

Since Ms. Silbernagel may not have actually read the story at MedicalKidnap.com, she was asked why Shanley and her baby could not have been placed with her parents since they wanted to raise them? We asked Ms. Silbernagel:

Does DHR look at the national statistics regarding outcomes for children in foster care, as opposed to children left in homes with their biological parents, even if those are "troubled" homes?

But she did not reply to this question, but instead gave a reply similar to what we hear all across the country when misconduct, corruption, or failure to do one's job is mentioned with social workers employed to "protect"

children:

There is such a large need for foster homes, it is overwhelming. It is not the desire for DHR to remove any child from their biological home unless the child is at risk of physical harm. I can assure you, our regulations require we work with families to get them to the point where they are able to get their children back. In the cases where the parents are in jail/prison, active drug addicts, have records of abusive behavior, the judge does not release a child back into that home, until it has been deemed those parents are no longer a threat.

However, we take issue with such a response, after covering social service agencies removing children from loving parents all across the country, where no abuse exists. In a [recent report in Connecticut](#), for example, it was revealed that social services targets poor families, and that 90% of the children taken out of their homes are NOT for reasons of abuse, but instead “neglect.”

So we addressed this question to Ms. Silbernagel, asking why Shanley was taken out of her home, when no danger of “physical harm” was present, and neither her nor her parents requested it?

If the child is not in danger, as clearly was the case in this situation, why take the child to begin with? If the parents are truly abusive, that is a law enforcement issue. The abusive parent in that case should be the one removed, not the victim. DHR has it backwards. The goal should be to not take the children to begin with. But too often the child is taken right away, which initiates state and federal funding, and

then reunification is worked out (sometimes). But as we have reported, in many of these families neither the parents nor the child wanted to be removed, as is the case in this story. DHR has too much power, and they abuse it.

Ms. Silbernagel then gave what we consider is the prevailing view among government officials employed to “protect” children: basically some people are “decent” and some are not, and it is the government’s job to decide who is a good parent and who is not, even if no abuse exists, and the parents are never convicted of a crime:

We are swimming up stream in a river of human misery. The State, DHR, not even Donald Trump is responsible for the fact that some parents are not providing a safe environment for their children or their parents. The blame belongs to those who have lost sight of human decency.

Our reply to Ms. Silbernagel, and to all social workers who believe that it is their job to decide who are good parents and who are not, is the same:

Your agency is out of control. You have no oversight or accountability, and everything you do is cloaked in secrecy. Who gave you the right to end “human misery” as you define it? If neither the parents nor the child want your intervention, then you are clearly violating their human rights. No family is perfect.

Many other parents who believe they are victims of the state who wrongfully removed their children also spoke up and

addressed Ms. Silbernagel, and at one point Ms. Silbernagel admitted:

This conversation has certainly been an eye opener. I do not do what I do for recognition or for any of your approvals. I do this for the children and elderly people in our communities who have no one to protect them or speak up for them.

Ms. Silbernagel clearly states that she does her job the way she sees fit whether the public approves of it or not. She claimed she receives no pay for her services.

I am one of many who are not paid, but work diligently for the good of the families in our county.

Former DHR County Worker Disagrees with Alabama Board Member's Accusations

One person posting on our [Facebook Page](#) regarding this story Carol Waldrop Stewart apparently was not in agreement with Ms. Silbernagel and identified herself as a former DHR county worker:

This is so sad!! I worked for Dekalb County DHR and I will tell you they do A LOT OF THINGS THAT ARE NOT RIGHT. It's about time something is being done about it too. And I will tell you it has to a lot with money under the table. You got the money you will get a baby. Crooked court system and Judges too.

Former Alleged Mother-in-law of Social Worker's Daughter in Shanley's Story Speaks Out on Alleged Drug Abuse in Social Worker's Home

One of the residents of Alabama who responded to Ms. Silbernagel's defense of DHR identified herself as "the former mother-in-law" of the DHR social worker Judy Kitchens' daughter. Judy Kitchens is mentioned in [our story](#) as the social worker that removed Shanley and her baby from her parents home. Linda Motes Pullins stated that she did not think Judy Kitchens should be a social worker given the problems she alleges exist in Judy's own family:

I am the former mother-in-law of this social worker's daughter. I know the social worker that started all this. I took care of Judy Kitchens' daughter when Judy just basically abandoned her daughter Katrina, who eventually married my son. Judy Kitchens raised her kids in a drug environment. Her daughter lead my son into drugs. He finally came to me, and I helped him with medical care for rehab, and he finally divorced because he didn't want to live that kind of life. My point is, Judy had and still has drug problems with her husband, kids, and grandchildren. She doesn't address the problems in her own family and facilitates those problems. What the heck is she doing being a social worker!? I have said before to people that she should never be able to be a social worker.

Alabama: Destroying Families in Secrecy and with Intimidation

Here at Health Impact News and MedicalKidnap.com, we have reported quite a few stories about parents making similar claims of Alabama DHR kidnapping their children. Last year we reported on a 14 year old rape victim who chose to give birth to her baby, and how Alabama DHR took the baby away from her while still in the hospital even though the girl's grandparents, who had custody of the 14 year old mother at the time, wanted to raise the baby. The story gained national attention and quickly went viral, with more than 1 million readers in the first 48 hours:

Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital

The attorney appointed for the baby named Health Impact News and other alternative media sources in a lawsuit, upset that we were bringing this story to the public.

Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping

One of our reporters accompanied the family to the first court hearing, and while waiting outside the courtroom to report on the story, the judge called her into the courtroom, even though she was not a party to the case, and gave her strict warnings about publishing the story while sitting on his bench, even though our reporter had no legal counsel to represent herself.

[Alabama Judge Threatens Health Impact News Reporter](#)

Here are some other stories we have published about families suffering in Alabama:

[Alabama DHR Seizes Newborn Baby with No Court Order, No Trial, and No Evidence](#)

[Newborn Baby Kidnapped from Alabama Hospital After Parents Decline Birth Certificate and SSN](#)

[Foster Boy Risks Retaliation: Speaks Out Regarding Abuse and State Kidnapping in Alabama](#)

[Alabama Seizes 7 Children from Family After Child with Autism Wandered to Neighbors](#)

[Alabama Girl Medically Kidnapped and Forced on Drugs: Parents Facing Jail for Failure to Pay State Child Support](#)

[Alabama Autistic Boys Kidnapped from Native American Ambassador Mother and Abused in Foster Care](#)

[Alabama DHR Woman Indicted: Faking Credentials and Collecting \\$864K in Medicaid funds for Kidnapping Children](#)

Alabama DHR and Due Process Concerns

If you don't like what the State of Alabama is doing to families, you might want to contact the governor and let him know.

Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Connie Rowe chairs the DHR Task Force. She may be reached at (334) 242-7600, or contacted [here](#).

[Alabama DHR contact info](#).

Alabama Mom Laments How DHR Stole 2 Years of Daughter's Life Over Cell Phone Dispute



Makayla before she was taken by DHR. Photo courtesy of Norris family.

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

One of the hardest things that any family faces, whose child has been medically or legally kidnapped by Child Protective Services, is the possibility that they will never win their case, and that their child will stay in the system until they age out. Some of these children are adopted out to strangers, and

others stay in foster care until they reach an age where the system discards them.

Most parents hold onto the hope that, somehow, their child or children will come back to them when CPS no longer has control of their lives. Some give up and lose hope, unable to face another day of dealing with the pain of losing their child.

One Medical Kidnap mother, [Brenda Maney](#), has told parents who are close to giving up that they cannot give up. She says:

You HAVE to hold on. It would be the ultimate tragedy for your child to grow up and eventually look for you, but instead of finding your loving arms, they find your gravestone.

Laine Norris is the mother of a teenager who was medically kidnapped at the age of 15. She and her family fought hard to get her back home, but they were unsuccessful.

They cried many tears and prayed many prayers.

Recently, Laine wrote a beautiful post as a comment on a story on the *Health Impact News* Facebook page. Her daughter is now 18, and she is finally free of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR).

Laine's prayers that have been poured out with many tears from a mother's heart are being answered.

We share her post, with permission, in the hopes that her words will encourage the many parents facing the same struggles that Laine and her family have faced.



Makayla and her mother Laine, before she was taken from her family. Photo source: Norris family.

Here is their original story:

Alabama Girl Medically Kidnapped and Forced on Drugs: Parents Facing Jail for Failure to Pay State Child Support

Here is Laine Norris' post in its entirety, edited for typos:

This was the first part of a story Medical Kidnap has done on our family's nightmare.

It's been over two years since our daughter was taken and never returned by Dekalb county DHR worker Ellen Morrow.

She was 15 years old at the time. She is now 18 years old.



Makayla with mom Laine – photo courtesy family

My daughter was an honor roll student and softball player in the 10th grade. We dreamed and worked hard towards getting a college scholarship so she could attend Auburn University because she always said that is what she wanted to do when she graduated.

She was a good girl. She has never been in trouble. She had not started dating yet. She was a normal child and DHR destroyed her and our dreams for her future over a cell phone dispute.

The reason that my family was torn apart, according to DHR, was that there was possible risk of neglect in the future if they did not remove her, evidenced by an argument that allegedly occurred the evening before.



Ellen Morrow was the DHR social worker that allegedly took Makayla. [Image from Facebook.](#)



Stacey Slaton McClendon. [Image from Facebook.](#)

That is what it takes to destroy lives and families in Alabama. We are loving and fit parents who provided a safe healthy stable home for all our children yet Ellen Morrow and her supervisor Stacey McClendon from Dekalb County DHR saw an opportunity to further their career and put more money in their pockets and they took it. They and the court ripped my child apart like dogs.

I was forced to watch while my baby cried out for me to save her. As a mother this is what I felt and I had the constant thought of what must be going through her head and heart... 'Mama, you promised you would always come and save me? Why won't you save me?' That was my thought when I went to bed and when I woke up each day. That is, when I could sleep.

Every single day and night I searched law books and the Internet praying to find a miracle to bring my baby girl back home to us.

I called and wrote everyone imaginable, from teachers to the President, begging for help thinking someone would see what horrible wrongs were happening and correct it. I thought if someone heard of the abuse that was being committed against me and my family that people would stand up and put an end to it.

Instead I found no solution and my comfort came from the Lord and prayer warriors such as my Granny Margaret Abbott, my friend Terri Lapoint, advocates who became friends and family Kenneth Paschal, Kristy Devine, Samuel Shrock, and <3 Cindy Allen. I also could not have made it without the love and support of my husband Joe and my son Wayne. I appreciate them so much.

It was not DHR or the President who stayed up late nights with me praying for us or paying my phone bill and putting their own family's safety at risk to help save mine.

It was these people that I'm so blessed to have met.

My daughter is now 18. While she was in foster care, she quit school, was unsupervised, and used for another government

check. She was drugged, lied to and about, brainwashed, hypnotized, made to believe we did not care nor try for her.

She moved in with friends and became pregnant.

She recently got married.

My little girl grew up in two years. It is sick the amount of damage that these monsters have done and caused in that time.

God heard all the prayers and he faithfully answered. She is back in our lives and we are building our relationship and healing from all that's been done to destroy us. I was told at my lowest that there were two things that DHR could not take from me: prayer and the mother and child bond that God himself gave us, and that was what kept me hanging on just a little longer when I was so tired and everyone was beating my knuckles and it hurt more to breathe than it would have to have laid down and died.

We have been used and abused by this evil system but I serve a powerful God and He said He would restore what had been taken seven fold.

He said he would take my pain and turn it into joy, my tears into laughter. He spoke to me and He said, 'I will use this wrong for the good.'

DHR did not have my permission to use my family, to violate my God given or my Constitutional rights, nor my family's.

Now I pray that God will use me to help prevent others from going through this abuse at the hands of our own Government and this group of unqualified people which it

pays to abduct, and traffick human beings. I pray for the Lord to protect us all and put an end to this madness and corruption. Counting my many blessings.

Laine Norris

Florida Foster Parents Charged with Hundreds of Sex Crimes Against Children in Alabama



Daniel and Jenise Spurgeon (Florence police)

By [Ashley Remkus](#)
[al.com](#)

A Florida couple is accused of hundreds of sex crimes involving 11 young children in Alabama, authorities said.

The charges leveled against Daniel W. Spurgeon and Jenise R. Spurgeon stem from allegations of abuse sustained by their foster and adopted children when they lived in Alabama years ago, Florence police said.

The allegations have been under investigation since Florida authorities contacted Florence police last July about crimes that occurred in Cape Coral. The Florida investigation led police to believe children in Alabama also may have been abused, said Florence police Sgt. Brad Holmes.

Daniel Spurgeon is charged with 115 counts of first-degree sex abuse, 122 counts of child abuse, four counts of first-degree sodomy, four counts of sexual torture, three counts of domestic violence by strangulation or suffocation, six counts of first-degree rape, 115 counts of enticing a child for immoral purposes, six counts of incest and 11 counts of first-degree human trafficking.

Jenise Spurgeon is charged with 100 counts of child abuse, one count of domestic violence by strangulation of suffocation, 11 counts of first-degree human trafficking, 100 counts of endangering the welfare of a child and 100 counts of enticing a child for immoral purposes.

Holmes said the victims' ages range from toddlers to teenagers. The abuse occurred when the Spurgeons lived in a neighborhood off Jackson Road in north Florence. The couple moved to Florida in 2015.

Police brought the charges after conducting multiple interviews and gathering substantial evidence, Holmes said.

The Spurgerons are jailed other charges in Florida, but police are arranging extradition back to Alabama.

Florence police are asking anyone with information about any additional victims or the abuse to call 256-760-6500. The Alabama Department of Human Resources also is involved in the investigation.

[Read the full story at al.com](#)

[More stories about Alabama on MedicalKidnap.com](#)

Is Alabama DHR "Offer" to Young Mother Blackmail? Give Up Your Daughter and We Will Not Take Your Other Children



Haly and Avyonna at a visit. Source: Facebook.

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

Her court-appointed attorney called it “an offer.” Haly Boothe calls it “blackmail.” She was devastated by the choice that met her when she went to Shelby County Family Court in Alabama. Her family has been fighting to get 10 month old baby Avyonna back from state custody ever since the Department of Human Resources (DHR) social workers came to the hospital 3 days after her baby was born and took the newborn baby girl from her mother’s breast. Original story:

Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at Hospital

At the time, they told her that the reason that they were taking the baby was because the state already had her other 2 children, children that were born to her when she herself was in foster care. She and her grandparents have maintained that the real reason the first 2 children were kept by the state was because she was a foster child when she had them. The choice that was presented to Haly on Friday lends credence to that assertion.

The “Offer”

Her court-appointed attorney, Meagan Moncus England, reportedly met in the judge’s chambers with Judge Crowson, DHR attorney Jennifer Newman, GAL (Guardian ad Litem) Erin Welborn, as well as Haly’s husband Anthony’s attorney. None of the discussion happened in open court with any of the family present. They had apparently made a decision as to the fate of little Avyonna, and they came out of the chambers with this “choice” for Haly:

1. *Voluntarily allow Aveyonna to be adopted by her foster parents, the same ones who recently adopted Haly's other 2 children. If she were to agree to this, DHR said that Haly would no longer have to pay child support, and that DHR would agree not to take any other children that Haly might have in the future. Or*
2. *They would move to terminate her parental rights.*

The family was floored. They see this as an admission that DHR had no valid reason to take any of the children.

Rodney Prince, Haly's grandfather, was with her and Anthony at court, and he says that he doesn't trust that DHR would keep their word even if Haly were to agree. He says:

They had no grounds to take that baby in the first place. It's all about money and greed now.



Haly and her baby at a visit. Photo courtesy of the family.

Haly emailed GAL Erin Welborn, DHR attorney Jennifer Newman, and her attorney over the weekend to clarify what she, Anthony, and Rodney had heard:

So let me get this straight, DHR said my only option is to let Avyonna get adopted with my older two and they will drop all of the child support and ANY FUTURE children I have DHR will not take?

The only one who has responded as of Wednesday evening is Haly's attorney, Meagan England, who emailed back:

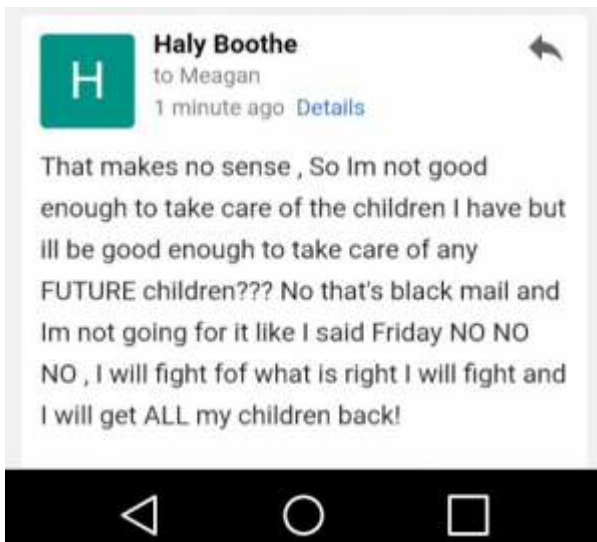
That was the offer on Friday.

Later, England emailed again to add:

Correction: they would not take any future children based on the fact that your other 3 were taken. If they have cause in the future, they will be taken.

Notably, that last part was not mentioned at all on Friday to the family. DHR and the GAL did not respond at all.

Haly is understandably devastated. She wrote to her attorney:



England replied:

It is not blackmail. It is an OFFER.

You will not get your 2 oldest back. They have been adopted.

We can fight all you want. You keep that attitude and smart mouth and you will get nowhere. I am not a babysitter.

Older Children Adopted Out

The family reports that they were never notified that the older 2 children were adopted out to the foster parents, who were strangers to the family. A friend of the family stumbled upon a Facebook photo posted by one of the foster moms showing the foster parents and 2 of the children that Haly gave birth to, all dressed up sitting in a courtroom. The photo was dated March 6, and the family assumes this must be the day they were adopted. Their adoption was mentioned as a foregone conclusion at court last Friday.

Isn't Attorney Supposed to Fight FOR Client?

The family does not believe that this recently appointed attorney has any interest in standing up for Haly. The county pays the public defenders, and this one seems to side with DHR as far as the family can see.

Social workers have apparently complained to the attorney that Haly is difficult to work with. She freely admits that she is angry. DHR has caused a great deal of pain in her life.

She is only 20 years old. She was taken away from her home and the grandparents who raised her when she was just 12 years old, and that was based completely on a story that she and each of her 4 siblings insist is a lie – that her twin sexually assaulted his siblings, when all that they say that he did was to pop Haly's bra strap.

See story here:

Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR **Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at** **Hospital**

She spent the remainder of her childhood in foster care, and bore 2 children. She was shifted around to a total of 8 different placements. She grew to love the next to last foster mother that she was placed with, Mrs. Howard, but right after Haly graduated from high school, Mrs. Howard died suddenly of a heart attack.

Haly and her 2 children were placed in another foster home, but that foster mother kicked her out and kept her children, and then reportedly accused Haly of abandonment. From then on, she has been fighting to get her children back.

She says she was lied to and told that they would not take her newest baby, born last May, but social workers seized Aveyonna when she was only 3 days old.



Haly with newborn baby before she was taken from her at the hospital. Photo courtesy of the family.

Haly has been accused of being hostile, but those who care about her do not report that they find her hostile. She is, however, angry with those who continue to keep her children from her.

In any other context, a mother's anger would not be held against her. If it were masked men who broke into her home and kidnapped her children, the media and the world would join her in her anger. But since it is government officials under color of law who have taken her children, is she not allowed to be angry?

GAL Who Sued Mother Remains on Case

Despite many requests for her removal from the case, Erin Welborn remains as GAL for Avyonna, as she was for the other 2 children. She was also the GAL for baby Braelon, Avyonna's cousin. After Welborn filed a lawsuit last summer against Haly and many others, including *Health Impact News* writer Terri LaPoint, for talking about baby Braelon's story, the GAL has been allowed to stay involved with the case. At one point, the family believed that she had been removed and another GAL assigned, but they later learned that was not the case. Apparently, the court sees no conflict of interest here.

See story about the lawsuit:

[Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping](#)

Haly Rejects "Offer"

Haly struggles and tries to maintain hope, but she is finding that difficult when the deck seems to be stacked against her. She feels that nothing that she does is good enough. She is married. She has a job, and a car, and they have their own apartment. Like many parents report, no matter how many hoops they jump through, it seems that there is always something else.

Haly has rejected the "offer" from DHR, believing that DHR will be consistent with their pattern of not keeping their word, as Haly has seen many times during the course of her nightmare journey with DHR. She vows to keep fighting for her children, ALL of them, and she says she will never give up.

She doesn't understand how DHR could make such an offer to her. If they can tell her that they won't take future children from her, isn't that a clear admission that they never had reason to take any of her past children from her?

How You Can Help

There is a defense fund to raise money for Haly to be able to hire an attorney who will fight for her. See:

Haly's Defense Fund

Call Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's office at 334-242-7100. He may also be contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Senator Cam Ward is the Senator for their district. He may be reached at 334-242-7873, or contacted [here](#).

Representative April Weaver represents their district. She may be reached at 334-242-7731, or contacted [here](#).

According to the [Alabama Family Rights Association](#), ALFRA:

Alabama has a nine-member task force created to examine the work of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). If you have issues or concerns about DHR services, your best plan of action is to contact the following legislators/lawmakers and committee members:

Connie Rowe, State Representative, has replaced Mac McCutcheon as the Task Force Chair / 334-242-7600/ email [here](#).

Chris England, State Representative / 334-242-7703 / 205-535-4859 / email [here](#).

Greg Reed, State Senator / 334-242-7894 / he is on [Facebook](#).

The complete list of committee Members can be found here: [Executive Order Number 11](#)

Shelby County DHS Director Kim Mashego at https://dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county_results.aspx?id=Shelby

Military Medic Whistleblower Reveals How Vaccination Status is Used In Alabama to Take Children Away from Parents



Sherrie Saunders. Former military medic who is now a whistleblower on the anthrax vaccine.

Health Impact News

Sherrie Saunders is a former military medic who has gone public as a whistleblower on the dangers of the anthrax vaccine given to U.S. military personnel. For more on this topic, see:

Gulf War Syndrome: Documents Prove UK and US Military Personnel were Injected with Untested Vaccines

Last year the VAXXED film crew interviewed her and talked about how the military tried to keep her quiet:

Video no longer available.

Sherrie was in Washington D.C. recently and spoke at the Revolution for Truth rally. She addressed the growing problem of vaccine-injured children and how the most severely injured are becoming a growing problem with families and siblings that struggle to care for them.

Living in Alabama, Sherrie also addressed how DHR (Department of Human Resources, or “Child Protective Services”) was taking children away from good parents and putting them into the foster care system where the children are forced to be vaccinated against their will, or the will of their parents. Sometimes children are taken away from parents simply because they disagree with doctors regarding vaccination schedules.

Watch her entire talk:

<https://www.facebook.com/JoshBucky/videos/10212057588733001>

Join the online FREE Documentary, The Truth About Vaccines starting April 12th to learn more about the unholy alliance between the manufacturers of vaccines and state and federal legislators who want to pass mandatory vaccine laws. Find out what options you have if you are a parent concerned about vaccines.



WATCH THE 7-PART DOCU-SERIES

THE TRUTH
ABOUT VACCINES

STARTING APRIL 12TH

FREE & ONLINE

Baby Seized at Birth from Breast-feeding Alabama Mother to go Home More than 1 Year Later



Ayonna is coming home! Photo supplied by family.

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

An Alabama baby seized more than a year ago from her mother by Shelby County DHR (Department of Human Resources) is to be returned home in a dramatic turnaround of events. Public outcry and media exposure of corruption eventually led to meetings with state DHR officials and a change of venue for Haly Boothe and her husband Anthony Lett's case. Their case was transferred out of Shelby County, and almost immediately, things began to change.

Now, Avyonna is on her way home.

Avyonna was taken from her parents, Haly and Anthony, when she was only 3 days old. She was a breastfeeding newborn taken from her mother's breast before she ever left the hospital. There was no court order, warrant, or emergency circumstance, but the department mistakenly believed that they had the right to seize children without such, in direct opposition to the 4th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

Caseworkers from the same department seized Avyonna's cousin – Baby Braelon – just one month later in was [one of the most-read stories](#) covered by the *Medical Kidnap* division of *Health Impact News* and read by millions of people. The family alleged then that they had been unjustly targeted for years by Shelby County DHR, with multiple family members seized without any evidence of abuse or neglect. This newest development in their family's saga appears to support that allegation.

See Baby Braelon's story:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals Newborn Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)



Baby Braelon with his mother when she realized that her baby was going to be taken by DHR. Photo credit: Juda Myers.

See original coverage of Avyonna's story:

[Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at Hospital](#)



Haly with newborn Avyonna. Photo supplied by family.

Judge to Give Opportunity to Be Parents – Cancels Adoption Plan of Foster Parent

Haly and Anthony were in court in Chilton County on Thursday, October 26, 2017. According to Haly's grandmother Dee Prince, the judge told the young parents that, if they wanted to be parents, he would give them that opportunity – an opportunity that has repeatedly been denied to them by Shelby County judges and social workers.

He dismissed Shelby County's petition to terminate their parental rights for Avyonna, and now, full custody is to be returned to the parents by January. Effective immediately, the couple begins unsupervised 8 hour visits twice a week with their baby, and overnight visits are to begin Thanksgiving weekend.

When children are taken from their homes by Child Protective Services, it is done suddenly. However, the practice is usually for reunification to be a process of "transitioning" over time, presumably so as not to traumatize children by sudden removal from a placement to which they have grown accustomed.

Although this has no logical basis as far as the well-being of the child, the federal funding continues to follow the child as long as the state has some measure of custody of them. [Studies clearly show](#) that children are more traumatized when they are removed from the home of their biological parents, than they are in foster care.

Almost every parent involved with Child Protective Services questions the lengthy reunification process, but are so grateful to be getting their children home that they generally do not argue much with the practice. The Boothes are no

exception.

Dee Prince told *Health Impact News* that the foster mother told the caseworkers, who then told the judge in court on Thursday, that Shelby County DHR had told her that she could adopt Avyonna. The judge allegedly stated that what Shelby County had promised was no longer a factor in this case.

As we have seen numerous times in cases involving CPS, the foster parents were apparently lied to about what kind of parents the children had. Most foster parents believe that they are helping poor, abused children with terrible biological parents. They do not realize that less than 20% of children are taken from their parents for reasons of abuse or that at least 80% of the allegations against parents are unsubstantiated. They do not realize that the children they care for often should never have been taken from their families.

Case Moved Out of Corrupt Shelby County

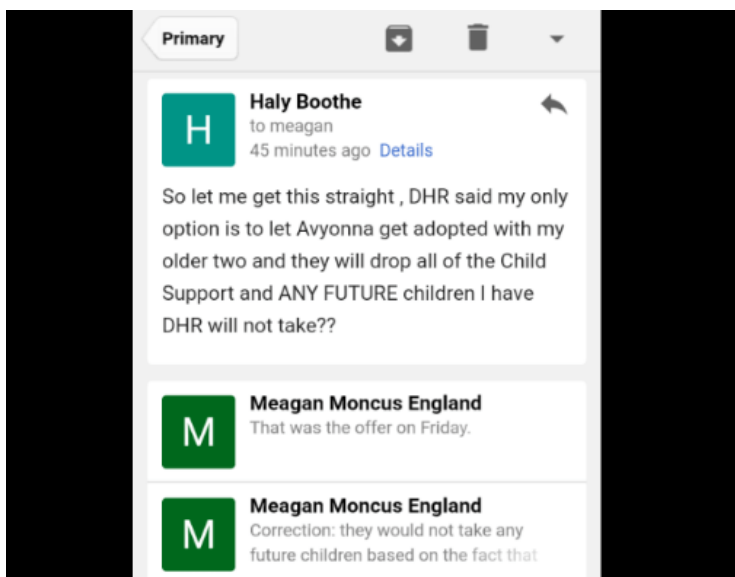
Had Avyonna's case remained in Shelby County, it is unlikely that Haly and Anthony would ever have had the chance to be parents. It was the change in venue that has made all the difference.

It didn't happen quickly. Almost a year after Avyonna was taken and news of the corruption against their family hit social media, Haly was given the opportunity to meet with officials from the state DHR office. Her grandmother Dee Prince accompanied her, armed with notebooks put together of all the articles and the evidence that the parents had done nothing wrong to deserve losing their children.

For the first time, they felt as though someone within the system actually heard them.

The officials reportedly looked at them with great skepticism when Dee told them that Shelby County DHR tried to blackmail Haly into voluntarily giving up Avyonna for adoption in exchange for DHR stopping the collection of child support and promising not to take any future children that Haly might have.

Then Dee showed them the emails from the court-appointed attorney Meagan England, providing the evidence that they did indeed offer such a deal.



Shelby County DHR Goal to Destroy Families?

Haly and Anthony had already lost custody of their first two

children, who were adopted out to a Shelby County couple last year. Avyonna was placed with her brother Haydn and sister Ka'myai in the home of their adoptive mothers, who were apparently promised that they could adopt Avyonna as well.

In offering the “deal,” Shelby County DHR all but admitted that they never had any grounds to take any of Haly’s children. England had reportedly met in the judge’s chambers with Judge Crowson, DHR attorney Jennifer Newman, GAL (Guardian ad Litem) Erin Welborn, as well as Haly’s husband Anthony’s attorney, with none of the family present. They told Haly that, if she did not accept their deal, they would move to terminate her parental rights.

See:

[Is Alabama DHR “Offer” to Young Mother Blackmail? Give Up Your Daughter and We Will Not Take Your Other Children](#)

When Haly refused their offer, Shelby County DHR moved ahead to begin termination of parental rights proceedings for Avyonna.

In the meeting with state DHR officials, Dee told more of Haly’s story: how Haly’s older two children were taken from her after she herself was in foster care. She and her siblings had been taken from their grandparents the Princes based on false allegations. (See [story](#).)

She was bounced from placement to placement and gave birth to 2 children while in foster care, Haydn and Ka'myai.

Even with 2 babies, Haly graduated on time from high

school. Shortly after graduation, her foster mother passed away. Haly was 17.

She and her children were placed with another foster family. That family kicked her out and kept her children, alleging to DHR that she abandoned her children. It was on that basis that DHR kept custody of her children. Their father Anthony, himself an adopted foster child, was treated almost as though he were invisible.

Their rights were terminated based on the length of time the babies had been in foster care. An appeal to that TPR was denied. Avyonna was taken 3 days after she was born because the state already had the other 2 children.

Dee told the state officials what she has been saying all along, that DHR never even gave Haly or Anthony the chance to be parents.



Baby Avyonna – ripped away from her parents and raised by strangers. Photo provided by family.

Shortly after that meeting, Avyonna’s case was transferred to Chilton County, and everything changed.

Shelby County caseworker Star Pope had previously told Haly and Anthony that they were required to move out of the Princes’ home. They had been living in a basement apartment in the Alabaster home. They had their own

kitchen, living room, bedroom, and their own separate entrance.

This was not satisfactory to Pope, who wrote in the case plan that the couple were required to move out and live in their own home and demonstrate to the state that they could maintain their own support. She reportedly told them that if they did so, they could get Avyonna back. However, if they did not, she would never recommend that they get Avyonna back.

They moved out, and lived in their own apartment for more than a year. Yet instead of returning the baby, DHR moved to terminate parental rights.

Now that Chilton County is over their case, it is suddenly now acceptable for them to live in the basement apartment of the Princes' house. They have been able to move back home and recently passed the home study with flying colors.

For years, Haly has felt that the social workers in Shelby County were out to destroy her family. She has found that the Chilton County social workers have seemed more willing to work with her and do what is right. She and Anthony have been able to visit more with their baby and enjoy her.

Understandably, Dee says that they are all a bit skeptical and afraid to trust because they have been lied to so many times in the past. However, thus far, they have much more hope now that the case is out of Shelby County's hands.

Corruption and Child Kidnapping Exposed in Shelby County Alabama

The Boothe and Prince family have sought justice for their

family for many years but told our reporters that Shelby County DHR has targeted them. They have felt that it was impossible to get any kind of justice there.

It was reportedly the series of articles by *Health Impact News* and other media which drew the spotlight to Shelby County and enabled investigators to start looking deeper.

On June 15, 2016, *Health Impact News* investigator Terri LaPoint and pro-life advocate Juda Myers witnessed the actions of DHR, police, and Shelby County Medical Center as they stole Avyonna's cousin "Baby Braelon" from Haly's sister, who was a young rape victim. The baby was literally pulled off of his mother's breast without a court order, warrant, or emergency circumstances.

Juda Myers of [Choices4Life](#) filmed the dramatic pleas of the mother crying for her baby, and we reported the [story](#).

The story quickly went viral and gained international attention. However, local media refused to report on the story.

Before long, it became clear that this story was the tip of the iceberg in Shelby County that people involved did not want exposed.

Dee Prince showed our reporter almost a foot-high stack of documents which chronicled their family's involvement with DHR – false allegation after false allegation.

Over almost 2 decades, Dee, a teacher, and her husband Rodney, retired police officer, have been forced to hire an attorney to help them fight against the allegations. One by one, the allegations were shown to be unsubstantiated. To

date they still do not know where many of the allegations came from, but they suspect that social workers just made up things. Rodney told us that:

They make it up as they go along!

Many families have told *Health Impact News* that an accusation by Child Protective Services can ruin their lives and reputation, even if the accusation has no basis in fact. At least 75% of the allegations by CPS all across the United States are unsubstantiated, and even those that are substantiated are often false accusations based on lies and hearsay, with no actual evidence of any wrongdoing.

See:

[75% of Children Taken by Texas CPS are Based on Unfounded Accusations](#)

[85% of Reports to Indiana Child Protective Services Unsubstantiated - Families Destroyed Needlessly](#)

This is certainly what we found with the Prince's family, including Haly and Anthony.



Dee Prince (left) recently traveled to Washington DC to meet with other advocates like Kathleen Arthur (right) and talk with legislators about CPS corruption and medical kidnapping. Photo credit: Health Impact News.

Attempts to Silence Family and Stop Health Impact News from Exposing Alabama Corruption

Erin Bell Welborn, Guardian *ad litem* for Baby Braelon (as well as for Haly's children), filed a \$300,000 lawsuit on behalf of the newborn in the Circuit Court of Shelby County against various family members and media personnel, including *Health Impact News*. They demanded that we take down our story and stop publishing anything regarding this case. We stood on the 1st Amendment Freedom of the Press and refused to back down.

See:

Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping

Less than a week later, Judge Corey B. Moore further attempted to squelch exposure of the activities of Shelby County DHR and others involved with the trafficking of children in that county. While *Health Impact News* reporter Terri LaPoint was present at the courthouse in support of Haly Boothe, Judge Moore had Mrs. LaPoint escorted into the courtroom in an attempt to silence her and stop investigation into Shelby County officials and DHR corruption.

See:

Alabama Judge Threatens Health Impact News Reporter

Dee Prince told us that their attorney Mark Pratt advised them not to talk to media or to post anything about Haly's or Baby Braelon's cases on social media. Court hearings involving either case often ended up being discussions about what was being discussed in social media, not anything about the merits (or lack thereof) of the cases, and not about the well-being of the children.

Grandparents of Baby Born of 14 Year Old Rape Victim Still Not Allowed Visitation, but Family of Accused Rapist Is

Eventually, Baby Braelon, his mother, and her twin brother were placed with the twins' biological mother. Their case

was moved to adjacent Jefferson County, but some of the key players from Shelby County have remained involved, including the GAL Erin Welborn and DHR attorney Jennifer Newman. Both Welborn and Newman were involved with Haly's case as well.

To this day, the Princes are still not permitted to have visitation with Baby Braelon. Yet, Dee reports that she has learned that the family of the biological father, accused rapist Samuel Woods III, is now being allowed visitation with the baby every other weekend.

Woods has been held in the [Shelby County jail](#) without bond since April 24, 2017, on 2nd degree rape charges. He has now been charged in the rapes of 6 underage girls.

Social Workers to Be Arrested if They Try to Take Next Baby

Haly and Anthony are expecting another baby in March. Until recently, they have been afraid that DHR would take this baby too. They recall assurances when Haly was pregnant with Avyonna that DHR would not take her from them, but that was obviously untrue.



Avyonna during a recent visit. She looks happy to be with her family. Photo provided by family.

In a dramatic recent development, the family has learned that state DHR officials have told Shelby County DHR to

“stand down” with regards to the new baby. A social worker has told the family that if social workers from Shelby County show up at the Birmingham hospital where Haly gives birth, the social workers will go to jail. Chilton County DHR reportedly sees no grounds for removing the new baby.

For the first time during this pregnancy, the family feels that they can look forward to the birth of the new baby without the terror of the baby being taken from them. Victory has been a long time in coming for this family, but they are overjoyed at the prospect of getting Avyonna back home and coming home from the hospital with the new baby.

Dee Prince says that she hopes that some good comes out of their painful story for other families, and that there will be changes made within Shelby County and the State of Alabama DHR that will help to ensure that other families do not suffer the pain that they have been through.

Alabama Grandparents of Rape Victim Cleared of False Charges Used to Medically Kidnap Infant



Dee and Rodney Prince – Baby Braelon’s great grandparents have fought valiantly for their family. Today, they are vindicated. Photo provided by family.

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

She was warned not to post their story on social media. She

was told to “keep quiet” and “comply.” But Dee Prince knew that silence would only enable and embolden the bullies that were her abusers.

Her abusers, and those of her family, were people within the Alabama Shelby County Department of Human Resources (SCDHR), working with some in law enforcement, Shelby Baptist Medical Center, attorneys, and Guardian ad litem – a “nest” of corruption working together to steal children from her family, based on false allegations.

Now, she has won – because she dared to trust God and speak out.

On June 15, 2016, Shelby County social workers medically kidnapped 2 day old Baby Braelon from his young nursing mother’s arms based on false allegations. Now, almost a year and a half later, Dee and Rodney Prince received a letter in the mail stating that the allegations that started their nightmare are “not indicated,” and that:

The central registry maintained by the Alabama Department of Human Resources will be notified of the “not indicated” disposition.

Dee Prince boldly shared her victory post on Facebook on the evening of Wednesday, November 17, 2017:

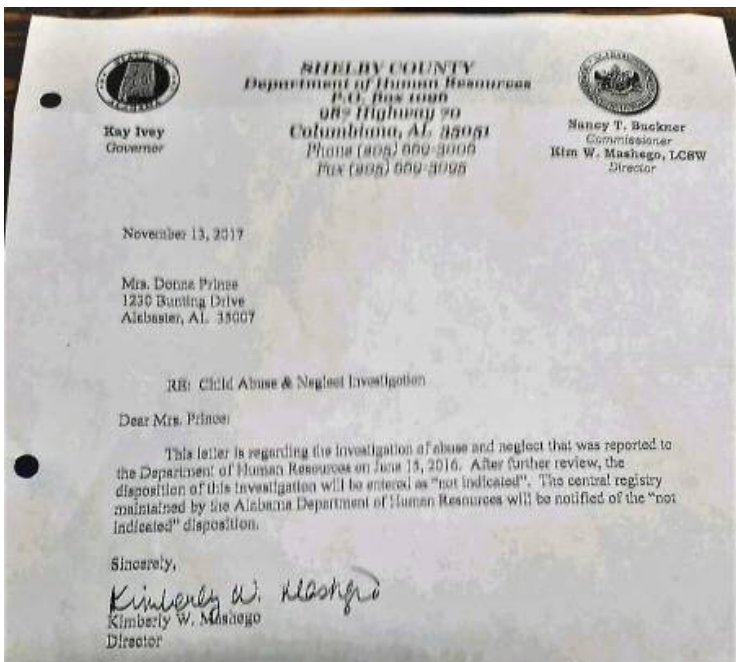
PRAISE REPORT!!!

The long awaited verdict against Rodney and me for child abuse was received today! SCDHR claims we failed to protect our granddaughter when Sam Woods III (rapist) and his

mother came to the hospital when Braelon was born!

SINCE I HAVE REFUSED TO BACK DOWN FROM SCDHR's bullying tactics, the administrative hearing/trial has been cancelled! The letter received today signed by SCDHR Director, Kim Mashego, states "After further review, the disposition of this investigation will be entered as "non indicated.""

I'd like to thank those who have stood with us, printed or shared our story, and covered us in prayer through all the FALSE allegations SCDHR brought against us.



Baby Braelon Medically Kidnapped Over False Allegations

The story of Baby Braelon went viral during the summer of 2016, reaching a million people in just the first 24 hours.

The baby boy was born to a 14 year-old mother who was a rape victim. Our investigative reporter Terri LaPoint was already in contact with the family over the unjust removal of Baby Avyonna from another of the Prince's granddaughters, Haly Boothe.

When Braelon was born, his grandmother Dee became concerned that DHR was going to try something to take the baby away from his young mother, whom Dee and Rodney had raised since infancy.

Terri LaPoint contacted Juda Myers of Choices4Life for her input, since Juda's pro-life ministry is with mothers who conceive in rape. Juda has seen Child Protective Services take rape-conceived babies from their mothers before, and she immediately got on a plane heading to Alabama.

Both LaPoint and Myers were invited to the hospital by the family as advocates. They spent the next two days in the hospital with Dee, the young mother, and Baby Braelon, and they were horrified witnesses to the events that unfolded at Shelby Baptist Medical Center, just south of Birmingham, Alabama.

See original story:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals Newborn Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)



Baby Braelon and his mother, scared that DHR would take her baby from her, which they did hours later. Photo credit: Juda Myers.

They witnessed the accused rapist Samuel Woods III and his

mother barge into the hospital room uninvited, having somehow bypassed hospital security. They saw the shocked faces of the young mother and her grandmother and their family friend as Woods scooped the baby from the bassinet like he owned the place. After a brief, uncomfortable conversation, Woods was told to leave.

See story:

[Accused Man Arrested in Alabama Rape Mother Story – Allowed to Enter Hospital Room to See Baby Before His Arrest](#)

That encounter was used later that same day as the grounds for DHR to come into the hospital, flanked by hospital security and armed police officers, to kidnap Baby Braelon out of his breastfeeding mother's arms.

He was taken without a court order or a warrant, with police approval. Officer Edmundson and DHR supervisor Ahzshaka Evans said that DHR doesn't need those (regardless of the 4th Amendment assertion that they do). They said that they had a "DHR pickup order," but they failed to produce even that. They also refused to tell what grounds they were using to take the baby.

See video:

<https://youtu.be/7tXWnflAoHI>

It was not until several months later that the Princes were finally able to learn that "inviting the rapist into the hospital room" was the grounds used to seize Baby Braelon that day, and the young mother and her twin brother less than 24 hours later.

It was all based on something that everyone involved had to know at the time was a lie.

Alabama Family Court Attempts to Silence Family and Media

Thus began the battle for Baby Braelon and his family, news of which went around the world.

There were numerous court hearings in the Shelby County family court, most of which devolved into histrionics by DHR social workers, their attorneys, Guardian ad litem (GALs), and other attorneys about the “social media.”

One GAL, Erin Bell Wellborn, filed a \$300,000 lawsuit against Medical Kidnap and our reporter, as well as against Juda Myers, her organization, and Meko Haze and his outlet, The Daily Haze, for reporting on the story.

See:

[Health Impact News Named in Alabama Lawsuit for Exposing State-sponsored Child Kidnapping](#)

Judge Corey Moore called Terri LaPoint into his courtroom to try to silence her from talking about the story.

See:

[Alabama Judge Threatens Health Impact News Reporter](#)

The Prince’s attorney Mark Pratt, whom they say they have

paid well over \$20,000 over the years to represent them, advised them to play nice and refrain from talking to the media and posting about their story on Facebook and other social media.

Media Attention and Public Outcry Helped Family

Dee Prince has told us many times that she knows that the only reason that Baby Braelon was reunited with his mother less than 24 hours after he was taken was due to public outcry arising from the alternative media. It became obvious to everyone paying attention that DHR already had what some have called “a buyer” waiting in the wings for the baby.

When the mother and her twin were seized in apparent retaliation, it was their story in the media that eventually led to their release from foster care group homes, where they were being held captive by DHR. Though they were not returned to the grandparents who have had custody of them since they were newborns, they were returned to family.

See:

Alabama 14 Year Old Rape Victim Released from State Custody with her Baby

Dee and Rodney Prince have always acknowledged that it was prayer and public involvement because of the media, including *Health Impact News*, that is responsible for the results.

False Allegations Threatened Family

However, the false allegations that started it all – that the Princes invited Woods into the hospital room – were still out there, creating much undue stress.

Dee Prince is a public school teacher, and she knew that if she were found “guilty” by family court of allegations of abuse or neglect, her career was over. This was not something that Rodney Prince, a retired police officer, wanted on his record either. He was not even at the hospital when Woods came into the room, yet he was accused as well.



The twins with their grandfather Rodney. Photo supplied by family.

The allegations, which Dee more accurately describes as “lies,” have been the basis for DHR withholding visitation rights for the Princes with Baby Braelon, while, in a twist of dark irony that could only happen within Child “Protective” Services, the family of the accused rapist is being allowed visitation. (Note: Woods himself isn’t visiting. He is sitting in jail without bond for a total of SIX alleged rapes of

underage girls, including Braelon's mother. Two of the rapes happened after he was bailed out for the first four.)

The case was repeatedly continued. Juda Myers and Terri LaPoint submitted affidavits about what they witnessed to attorneys, and both were prepared to testify. A 30 minute audio recording of a conversation in the hospital with a social worker was transcribed. The evidence of the Princes' innocence was very clear. But the courts had yet to hear it.

Lawmakers Step in to Help Family Where the Corrupt Court Had Failed

Several months ago, some legislators who had been repeatedly contacted by our audience were able to secure a meeting between Dee Prince, her granddaughter Haly Boothe, and some top state DHR officials. During that meeting, Dee, always the teacher, presented the DHR officials and legislators with copies of tabbed, color-coded notebooks, in which she had compiled all of the evidence of their innocence, as well as of DHR's harassment and targeting of her family. There was also email evidence of an "offer" that DHR tried to make to Haly.

See:

[Is Alabama DHR "Offer" to Young Mother Blackmail? Give Up Your Daughter and We Will Not Take Your Other Children](#)

Dee Prince included copies of texts, emails, and news articles by *Health Impact News* in the notebooks.

Shortly thereafter, Haly's case was transferred out of Shelby County DHR's jurisdiction into Chilton County, where she is

finally being heard. Baby Avyonna is finally in the process of reunification with her parents, who did nothing wrong to lose her in the first place.

See:

[Baby Seized at Birth from Breast-feeding Alabama Mother to go Home More than 1 Year Later](#)



Haly Boothe and her baby Avyonna, who is finally coming home. Photo supplied by family.

However, the allegations of abuse over Woods being invited into the hospital room still loomed large over Dee and Rodney Prince.

They were scheduled for court this month, but they recently learned that their paid attorney, Mark Pratt, has been “suspended for ‘questionable conduct.’”

As they scrambled to find new legal representation, they were told that they would have to sue in order to get their money back that they had paid Pratt. Most attorneys they consulted would not touch the case dealing with DHR, and one said he would take the case for \$8,000.

Meanwhile, someone within the state DHR worked on getting the court date extended.

The stress and worry about going into the hearing without legal representation seemed overwhelming to the couple who had already been through so much fighting for their family. Dee is a cancer survivor, and the stress from Shelby County DHR did not help her health.



Dee Prince with Braelon at an early visit. Photo source: Health Impact News.

Corrupt Charges Finally Dropped

Then, out of the blue, Dee received a message from a state DHR official telling her that it was over:

You will be receiving a letter in the coming next few days letting you know that the final disposition on your pending CAN [Child Abuse and Neglect report] has been entered as

Not Indicated. Your administrative review has been permanently cancelled and there is nothing further for you to do ... no need to hire legal representation.

Shortly after, they received the letter in the mail stating that the allegations are not indicated, signed by supervisor Kim Mashego, the same supervisor who has been very difficult for the family to work with in the past.

Dee and Rodney Prince have claimed since the beginning that they are innocent of any wrong-doing. They have contended that the lies stated by DHR have torn their family apart, and have tarnished the reputation of fine, upstanding community leaders.

Grandma Prayed and Trusted God – A Persevering Faith that Affected Many

Isaiah 54:17 says:

no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the LORD. [NIV]

This is a day that Dee and Rodney Prince have prayed for for a long time. When we first met Dee Prince, she told us of something that the Lord had shown her not long before in prayer time. She recounted how God showed her that He was going to use her family to expose DHR in Alabama.

At the time, Baby Braelon had not been born. She had no way

of knowing that this precious little baby's story was going to be heard around the world and his cause embraced by so many.

She didn't have any idea that he would inspire pro-life activist Merissa Hamilton to get involved in her state of Arizona with the cause of exposing and stopping child kidnapping by Child Protective Services, eventually making the decision to run for Governor of the State of Arizona.

Dee Prince just knew that God had given her a promise, and that she would treasure that promise in her heart, believing that somehow, some way, no matter what it looked like on the outside, God would be faithful to bring about His promise to her. She knew that she could never give up.

Now, Dee and Rodney Prince have been vindicated and their name has finally been cleared.

She wrote to *Health Impact News* just after receiving their good news:

DHR destroys families, but we, as a family have persevered because of God's grace, and his promise (God revealed to me in my prayer time) that our case would expose DHR!

Newborn Kidnapped from Hospital at Birth in Alabama Returned to Parents After 2 Years



Dee Prince celebrates with her granddaughter Haly Boothe and baby Avyonna, who is finally home. Photo supplied by family.

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

Baby Avyonna was a newborn nursing at her mother's breast when Alabama social workers seized her from the hospital and placed her into foster care almost 2 years ago. Now, finally, she is home with her parents Haly Boothe and Anthony Lett.

She was taken by Shelby County Department of Human Resources (DHR) just 3 days after she was born.

There were no allegations of abuse or neglect. Avyonna was taken because DHR said they had a pick-up order. Social workers believed they had the right to take the new baby since the department already had Haly's other 2 children Haydn and Ka'Myia in custody.

During the course of the family's involvement with DHR, it became clear that the department had been planning all along to adopt Avyonna out. It was never about anything that Haly or Anthony did or didn't do. It was a foregone conclusion that the people who were adopting her siblings would adopt Avyonna as well.

See original story:

[Pattern of Child Kidnappings by Alabama DHR Exposed: Another New-born Infant Seized at Hospital](#)



Haly with newborn Avyonna before she was seized from her without a court order or warrant. Photo supplied by family.

It was not until media attention from *Health Impact News* began to shine the light on what was happening with Shelby County DHR that there was any progress toward getting Avyonna home.

Health Impact News was in the process of investigation of their story when Shelby County DHR seized the newborn baby of Haly's sister. Baby Braelon's story went viral and

garnered international attention.

See Baby Braelon's original story:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)

Justice has been slow in coming for the family, but it is happening. In November of 2017, grandparents Dee and Rodney Prince were finally cleared of the false allegations leading to Baby Braelon's seizure by DHR.

[Alabama Grandparents of Rape Victim Cleared of False Charges Used to Medically Kidnap Infant](#)

Reunification Ordered

Avyonna's case was moved to Chilton County last year, and things began to dramatically change.

At the end of October, we reported that a Chilton County court ruled that Avyonna was to begin the reunification process to go home. The family, including Haly's grandparents, Dee and Rodney Prince, were overjoyed, but cautious.

There have been a number of cases where families are promised reunification that never materializes. After seeing so many lies from those within the system, they recognized that a monkey wrench could still have been thrown into the process.

See coverage of the court's decision to reunify:

Baby Seized at Birth from Breast-feeding Alabama Mother to go Home More than 1 Year Later



**GOING
HOME!**

**#HalyBoothe
#MedicalKidnap**

After 1 year of being seized by DHR,
This baby finally gets to go home to live with her mom and dad!

Though she was not charged with anything, and not found guilty of anything, social workers from DHR of Alabama thought it was lawful for them to take the 3-day old infant from her mother!

Facebook meme celebrates Haly's victory. Provided by family

Unsupervised visits began for the first time on October 27. Avyonna spent Thanksgiving and part of the Christmas holidays with her family.

As of January 5, 2018, she is home for good. The family is due to go back to court on March 1 to close out the case.

Avyonna Is “All Smiles” at Home with Her Family

We spoke with Haly’s grandmother Dee Prince, who has fought valiantly for her family over the course of many years. She has cried many tears and prayed many prayers.

Dee told us that Avyonna is adjusting well to being with her biological parents. She describes her as a happy, giggly little girl who is “all smiles.”



Avyonna is home, and she is happy all the time. Photo supplied by family.

She was taken directly from the hospital at 3 days old and placed into a foster home with her older brother and sister. She is now 20 months old. Until recently, she had never even seen her own home. She only had visits with her parents that were supervised at the DHR office or fast food restaurants.

Still the bond remained. Avyonna has always known who her real parents are.

Experts in [prenatal psychology](#) affirm that even babies taken at birth have an indestructible bond with their biological mothers that no separation can completely sever. Babies bond with their mothers while they are gestating in their mother's womb.

Dee says that Avyonna is very happy to be home, and everyone is enjoying being around her. She says that she sees Avyonna's father Anthony takes great delight in her, and that Haly smiles now more than she has seen in years.



Anthony clearly delights in his daughter. Photo taken at a recent church event and provided by family.

We asked if Avyonna has nightmares, because this is a common theme that we have noted with most of the medically kidnapped children who are returned home. Thankfully, Dee said:

No. The only problem at nighttime is that she doesn't want to go to bed. She just wants to stay up and play!

She is grateful that, in Avyonna's case, the foster parents did truly love her and care for her. Too often that is not the case.

Federal data shows that children in foster care are at least 6 times more likely to be abused, raped, molested, or killed in

foster care than they are in their own homes. Avyonna's older siblings were abused in their prior foster home.

Since she has been home, Avyonna has asked about her siblings. Chilton County social workers have made arrangements with her former foster parents, the ones who have adopted Haydn and Ka'Myia, for the siblings to see each other at least once a month.

Haly and Anthony cannot see their other children, though. Their children were unjustly taken from them. They were born while Haly was in foster care, and DHR refused to allow her to take her own children with her when she grew up and left the foster home. She was kicked out of the foster home, but the fosters kept her children.



Haly with Ka'Myia and Haydn at a visit before her rights were severed. Photo provided by family.

Shelby County DHR terminated Haly and Anthony's parental rights and adopted Hadyn and Ka'Myia out to people that the family had never met before DHR. It was a cruel, unjust proceeding, and Dee told us that they still hope that it can be overturned. Their appeal was denied.

As our previous articles have shown, none of Haly's children should have been taken from her. The DHR removal of Haly from her grandparents should never have happened either. She was taken kicking and screaming at the age of 12 from the grandparents who had raised her for her whole life. She and her 4 siblings were taken based on false allegations and lies.

Haly's siblings all were eventually returned, but after she got pregnant in the foster care system, she remained a prisoner of the system.

Because her children were born into the captivity of foster care, the system assumed rights to her children. It has been an uphill battle ever since, fighting for her right to simply parent her own children.

Child Support Money Returned

To compound the injustice, Haly was being charged child support for her children, even after her rights to the oldest two had been terminated. Her paychecks were being garnished, leaving her with little to live on.

The family has been fighting this as well. Besides fighting in court, Dee Prince sent copies of Haly's paycheck stubs to the State Department, showing the child support being taken out.

Refund checks have trickled back to Haly slowly, and last week, the State Department sent Haly checks for a refund of the bulk of the child support payments paid.

Brought Back from Captivity

Now, after a hard-fought battle, her youngest child is home.

Avyonna's homecoming is the result of media exposure of corruption within Shelby County DHR, as well as a great deal of work by her family and much prayer.



Avyonna with Haly and Dee. Photo provided by family.

Dee Prince told *Health Impact News* that she has stood on promises in Scripture throughout this ordeal, including a Psalm that says that, when others forsake us, God will never forsake us. Deuteronomy 30:3 – 13 is a passage that has comforted her many times and that she would like to share with the public:

3 then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes (Or will bring you back from captivity) and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.4 Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back.

5 He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors.6 The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.7

The Lord your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you.8 You will again obey the Lord and follow all his commands I am giving you today.9 Then the Lord your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land.

The Lord will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your ancestors,10 if you obey the Lord your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

11 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult

for you or beyond your reach.¹² It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?”¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” [NIV]

Alabama Newborn Baby Kidnapped at Hospital with No Warrant, No Court Order, No Emergency Circumstances



Chelsea who had been through so much in her life was so happy to become a mommy to her “sweet prince.” Photo source: [Bring Kason Lee Stokes Home](#) Facebook page.

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

It should have been one of the happiest times in the young couple's life. It started out that way.

Two weeks ago, on Monday, February 26, 2018, Chelsea Thomas, 18, gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby boy in Birmingham, Alabama. Their first-born son was everything that she and her 19 year old fiance' Brian Stokes had hoped for.

They immediately fell in love with their "sweet prince" who has daddy's nose and mommy's lips. Baby Kason was their whole world.

Then, their world was shattered.

At 3 pm the very next day, Chelsea had just breastfed her baby and he was asleep in her arms. A nurse came into the room and said she needed to take Baby Kason to the nursery "for an assessment."

He never came back.

Less than an hour after the nurse took their baby out of the room, Chelsea received a phone call from a lady with the [Steps Ahead](#) prenatal program telling her that she was required to notify the Department of Human Resources (DHR – Alabama's Child Protective Services) when the baby was born.

She told them that DHR had taken custody of Baby Kason. He was in lockdown in the hospital nursery and the parents were not permitted to go near the nursery.

There was no reason given. There was no warrant. No court order. No emergency circumstance. Nothing. Their baby had only been with them for little more than 24 hours.

It turns out that, even though Chelsea is 18, Jefferson County DHR still legally has custody over her, because she is a former foster child. As such, it appears that they get to call the shots – up to and including taking her baby away from her.



As soon as he was born, Kason was his parents' whole world. The very next day, he was taken from them. Photo source: [Bring Kason Lee Stokes Home](#) Facebook page.

Just before Chelsea was discharged from St. Vincent's East Hospital the next day, the stunned parents were given 10 minutes to hold Kason and say goodbye, supervised by Jefferson County social worker Ericka Lawery.

They have not seen their baby since then.

It was not until they went to court on Friday, March 2, that they were given any reasons for their newborn being taken. Even then, the reasons don't make sense to them or to those who know them.

Health Impact News spoke with Brian's grandparents, Charles and Jean Mitchell, with whom the couple live. They said they have never seen anything like it. The picture painted by the social worker does not remotely resemble what they see. Jean told us that it appears to her that the social worker Ericka Lawery has some kind of "vendetta" against Chelsea. They see no reason why DHR took Baby Kason away from his family.



Jefferson County social worker Ericka Lawery. Photo source: [Facebook](#).

One of the allegations is that Chelsea has “severe mental illness.” The other is that she was “discharged from her prior placement at Childhaven for wanting to harm her baby.” The same report has her on “runaway status.”

According to Chelsea, Brian, and his grandparents, these allegations are simply wrong.

Is This How We Treat Children Rescued from Abuse?

Chelsea, who turned 18 a month after Kason was conceived, is no stranger to the Child Protective System. As a little girl in Arkansas, she was taken from her biological mother when she was 4 years old.

She remembers the horrors from which she was rescued – from a mother who reportedly was a drug addict who trafficked her own children.

She experienced things that no child should ever have to go through. It is for such children that taxpayers have approved the existence of Child Protective Services. It is that knowledge that makes the taking of Baby Kason that much more confusing to his family, who believed that CPS was supposed to be about taking children from abusive parents, not from loving parents.

With Chelsea, her birth mother’s rights were terminated when she was 6 years old, and she was adopted by a couple in Arkansas when she was 8.

However, all was not bliss in her new “forever home.”

The new family moved to Alabama when she was 10, due to

her adoptive father's job transfer. Her adoptive parents split up and her father re-married. Alabama DHR became involved over reports of physical and verbal abuse in the home when Chelsea was 12, and she was removed from their home. At age 14, she was placed into a residential group home in the Birmingham area and has been under DHR custody ever since.

She met Brian Stokes at her 15th birthday party at a local skating rink. While "love at first sight" may not be exactly what they call it, the bond they have forged since that day is strong.



Brian cherishes his new baby. Photo source: [Bring Kason Lee Stokes Home](#) Facebook page.

Drugged in Foster Care

Chelsea told us that, under Child Protective Services' care, she has been on medications since she was 4 years old, for *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder* (PTSD) and anxiety.

This is consistent with data that shows that children in foster care are drugged at a higher rate than the general public.

See:

Foster Care Abuse: Drugging Children Against Their Will

While it might be reasonable to expect that a child who had experienced what she had would have PTSD, it does not follow that she would need medication. Instead of being seen as a pathology that needs to be treated, there are some who suggest that Post Traumatic Stress is not a disorder to be medicated, but rather it is a normal response to an abnormal situation.

Chelsea says that she has asked many times over the years to be taken off of the medications. She has been telling them “as long as I can remember” that she doesn’t need them.

Shortly before she turned 17, she was placed into Hillcrest Behavioral Health Services for what Chelsea calls “medication management.” Hillcrest has a residential program and adolescent group home. Chelsea said that it seemed to her that she was there because they really didn’t have a place for her anywhere else.

After she became pregnant, doctors at Hillcrest took her off of all the medications she had been on. Chelsea says that even though they stopped the meds cold turkey, she is happy to be free of them. She says that she doesn’t need them and that she is doing fine without them.

Childhaven

Since Hillcrest reportedly does not allow pregnant residents to stay there, Chelsea's social worker Ericka Lawery, the same one who later removed her son, tried to find another placement for her where she could stay while pregnant.

DHR transferred her to [Childhaven](#) residential home on September 12, 2017, which was 2 months AFTER Chelsea turned 18. Lawery reportedly did not give Chelsea the option of being released from DHR care, even though she was 18. According to Alabama law, the age of majority is 19, not 18.

Readers might recognize the name Childhaven. It is the place where Baby Braelon and his mother were taken after Shelby County DHR seized them from their family.

See:

[Alabama Child Protective Services Steals New-born Breast-feeding Baby from Rape Victim While Still at the Hospital](#)



Mold in the shower at the Childhaven group home. Photo source: Baby Braelon's mother. See [link](#).

Another young mother recognized the photo from the article, though Childhaven was not named in that article. Shanley contacted *Health Impact News* with her story:

Alabama DHR Destroys Another Family: Baby Taken Away Because Young Mom was a Foster Child Kidnapped from Loving Parents

[Note: not long after Shanley's story was publicized, both she and her son were reunited and released from DHR custody.]

Once Chelsea got to Childhaven, she says that the staff told them that the girls over 18 were welcome to leave any time they wanted, as long as they understood that they could not come back.

Shanley told *Health Impact News* that this was the general understanding at Childhaven:

Once you're 18, they consider you are an adult there. I got told plenty of times that once I turned 18, I could just walk out.

Preparing for Baby

Shortly after the Christmas and New Year holidays, Chelsea decided to take them at their word. The facility was almost an hour from Brian. On January 8, she left and moved to the house where Brian lived with his grandparents.

Brian and his family were very excited about the new baby and they welcomed Chelsea into the family. They worked together to make preparations for Kason's arrival.



Everything was prepared for Baby Kason's arrival. Photo source: *Health Impact News*.



The bassinet was ready to hold Baby Kason. Now, instead of a baby, the bassinet holds papers from DHR and hospital records. Photo source: *Health Impact News*.

Stunned by Allegations

Chelsea and Brian were taken aback at the allegations that they heard in the court hearing on March 2. Ericka Lawery has been her social worker since she was 15. They knew that Lawery was upset that Chelsea left Childhaven, but they never dreamed that she would take it to the level of taking their baby from them.

Chelsea told *Health Impact News* that, even though Childhaven staff said that she could leave anytime, it is apparent that DHR doesn't want foster children to know that they have the right to leave.

According to the paperwork she got on her case, she is both "on runaway" and "was discharged" from Childhaven, but she asserts that neither is true. She "just left." She had someone to pick her up and she went to Brian's house.

The first time that she learned that she was accused of wanting to harm her unborn baby was in court, 3 days after he was taken from her. That was completely made up, she says.

Allegedly, a broken razor blade was found in the bathroom under the sink at Childhaven, and she is accused of somehow wanting to use that to induce a miscarriage at 34 weeks pregnant. She says she has never seen the alleged razor blade.

Shanley told us that the 2 girls share each bathroom, and the residents are responsible for cleaning their own bathroom and room. If there was indeed a razor blade found, it could have come from the roommate, or even a past resident. There is no evidence that Chelsea had anything to do with it.

They do not know where the accusation came from.

Chelsea wanted her baby. Her Facebook page is full of posts about how excited she and Brian were about the baby and how much they wanted him.



Kason is everything to Chelsea. He is very much wanted and loved. Photo source: [Bring Kason Lee Stokes Home](#) Facebook page.

She told us how Brian and the baby would “play tag” for hours during her late pregnancy. Brian would push on her belly, and Kason would kick back in the spot where his daddy

pushed. When he was born, it was clear to her that the baby recognized Brian's voice:

He definitely knows his daddy!

It is unclear how any of these allegations constitutes grounds to take her baby from her or Brian.

Mentally Ill or Just Had a Rough Life?

Ericka Lawery has alleged that Chelsea has "severe mental illness." However, the only mental health diagnoses that Chelsea says that she has ever had were Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and anxiety. These are conditions which might be expected in a survivor of human trafficking. How cruel is it to weaponize such a diagnosis against her and punish the victim that the Child Protective system was charged with helping?

She has been on medication for most of her life, and she has been in facilities that provide therapy. Since she stopped taking medications in early pregnancy, she has been sleeping better and "doing better." Brian says that he has noticed a positive difference in Chelsea since she stopped taking them. Unless there is something else in her records that she is unaware of, there have not been any other diagnoses.

She has been through some very traumatic events in her life, but that does not make her mentally ill. The way those around her see it, it makes her an overcomer.

Brian's grandfather Charles Mitchell describes Chelsea as:

the sweetest, most well-mannered girl.

Jean Mitchell told us that she sees no sign of any kind of mental illness. She said that nothing that Ericka Lawery said about her resembled the Chelsea that they have come to know and love.

Jean says she told this to the social worker, but she believes that Lawery just doesn't like Chelsea.

Chelsea has graduated from high school, and has already taken a couple of college courses. She comes across as intelligent and stable. She has chosen not to let the things that happened to her destroy her; instead, they have made her stronger.

We asked Chelsea why she wasn't on disability for the alleged mental health illness. She replied:

That's what I'm wondering if I am so disabled.

Wouldn't it be the responsibility of her social workers to secure disability benefits if she actually had mental health issues that were debilitating enough to render her incapable of taking care of her child?

Not only is she not on disability, she is not on any kind of medication and hasn't had any since early pregnancy. Chelsea said that her social worker has refused to give her her Medicaid card, despite numerous requests going back to her time at Hillcrest. She was unable to refill her prenatal vitamins prescription. If she had been given any postpartum

prescriptions, she would not have been able to fill them.

Since she is technically still in foster care herself, isn't DHR responsible for ensuring that she had access to get her prenatal vitamin prescriptions filled? If she were mentally ill, wouldn't it be DHR responsibility to get her disability benefits? Or is Chelsea mentally stable, and this is simply an excuse to take her baby?



This is HER baby. HIS baby. Doesn't Kason deserve to have his parents? Photo source: [Bring Kason Lee Stokes Home](#) Facebook page.

Is the bottom line the fact that Chelsea remains in DHR

custody, even though she is 19?

It is clear from other cases in Alabama that some social workers believe that the fact that the mother is a foster child entitles the state to their babies.

Are mothers who are foster children themselves nothing more than breeders for the state? Don't they have the same right that any other mother has to raise their own child?

If their being a foster child renders them incapable of parenting adequately, isn't that an indictment on the foster care system itself? Wouldn't that indicate that the foster system is doing a very poor job of parenting the wards they raise?

It is readily apparent that Chelsea and Brian have plenty of support from Brian's family. They have embraced Chelsea as part of the family, and they obviously love her.

Brian's grandparents have raised 5 children and 3 grandchildren. DHR has even placed children with them before. They passed the recent home inspection, and they don't understand why DHR won't let them care for the baby if they are worried about the parents.

Charles Mitchell said:

*That baby would be so well taken care of here and be loved.
We are behind him all the way.*

His wife was very clear:

He's blood. He's our family! We want him home.



Jean Mitchell loves her great-grandson and believes he should be with his family. Photo source: [Bring Kason Lee Stokes Home](#) Facebook page.

Could it be that some social workers have grown accustomed to placing children with strangers, because that is where the financial incentive is, due to the Adoption and Safe Families Act?

Perhaps this social worker is unaware of the Family First Act which was signed into law by President Donald Trump on

February 9 as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which shifts funds from stranger placement to placement with family.

When Will They See Their Baby Again?

No one in the family has seen Baby Kason since Brian and Chelsea were given 10 minutes to say goodbye on Wednesday, February 28. They were told in court that they are supposed to have some visitation, but that hasn't happened yet.

Ericka Lawery has not scheduled any visits yet, nor will she return any calls from the family.

Not only is this hard on the parents; it is devastating to a newborn who cannot comprehend being separated from his mother. The psychological damage that DHR is causing to Baby Kason is immeasurable.

The next court date has not even been set yet, but Chelsea said that she thinks it is supposed to be in June sometime. She told us:

We are not willing to wait till June to see our son.

She doesn't know who the judge is in her case:

I have no idea who the judge is. I have never seen a judge.

There was a "fill-in" judge on the day they went to court. Chelsea told us that, over all the years that she has been in

Child Protective custody herself, she has only seen a judge one time:

The day I got adopted at 8 years old. I've never seen a judge since then. Ericka would never let me go in to see a judge.

Information for the Foster Parents

Chelsea told us how Lawery “went on and on in the ISP meeting about how good the foster parents are.”

She makes it sound like they are permanent.

Since they are caring for her son, Chelsea said that there are some things that the fosters need to be aware of in their health history, in case those things are passed on to the baby. Chelsea has allergies to cats, benadryl, and to “a BUNCH of foods.” Brian is diabetic.

How You Can Help

A Facebook page has been set up for supporters, to follow their story and get involved, called [Bring Kason Lee Stokes Home](#). Chelsea and Brian ask for prayer for their baby to come home quickly.



Bring Kason Lee
Stokes Home
@KL.S022618



Alabama Governor Kay Ivey may be reached at 334-242-7100 or contacted [here](#). She is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Senator Linda Coleman represents the district where Chelsea Thomas and Brian Stokes live. She may be reached at (334) 242-7864 or contacted [here](#).

Mary Moore is their Representative. She may be reached at 334-242-7608 or contacted [here](#).

Gary Palmer is their Representative in Washington D.C. He is aware of at least some medical kidnap situations. He may be reached at (202) 225-4921 or contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Alabama Senior Citizen Medically Kidnapped and Forced onto Drugs Against Family Wishes



Nancy Scott is very concerned about her mother's well-being, and now she cannot even talk to her. Photo supplied by family.

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

Just as Child Protective Services and a judge have almost omnipotent, unchecked power to decide unilaterally that the relationship between a parent and a young child is not worthy of being preserved, Adult Protective Services and a probate judge have the same power to sever the relationship between an adult child and their elderly parent.

Sometimes the relationship has endured for longer than the judge and social worker combined have been alive, yet with the stroke of a pen, a senior citizen can be completely torn away from their own children.

The wishes of the elder can be completely ignored, and documents assigning power of attorney to a trusted adult child can become meaningless. Medical and financial decisions are placed into the hands of a court-appointed guardian who is often a stranger to everyone in the family.

Nancy Scott, a retired English teacher from south Alabama, wrote to *Health Impact News* describing the medical kidnapping of her 102-year-old mother, who is also a beloved retired schoolteacher known to her former students as “Ms. Gregory.”

St. Vincent’s Hospital and the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) seized custody of Marian (Gregory) Leonard in February 2018. She is being held against her will, forced by a Jefferson County, Alabama, court into Hospice care, even though she has no terminal illness or disease. She is elderly, but her mind is sound.

Nancy has always enjoyed a close relationship with her mother, but she has not seen her since midsummer. At that time, Ms. Gregory begged to go home. She told Nancy:

If you don't get me out of here, they're going to kill me, and they're going to kill you.

She is being drugged against her will and has told her daughter that she doesn't want the drugs. There have been times that medical staff have said that Ms. Gregory had dementia, but Nancy says that this is because of the unnecessary psychotropic drugs that doctors put her on. When she was under care of doctors who removed the medications, her mental state drastically improved.

Ms. Gregory's Story as Told by her Daughter

Here is their story in Nancy Scott's words, written just before her visits were stopped:

My mother, a 102 year- old retired English teacher from south Alabama, wakes up every morning and asks, "When can we go home?"

And I tell her every day, "I'm working on getting us home."

Home is south Alabama, known as the "Wiregrass." My mother has been in the custody of the Alabama Department of Human Resources since February 1, 2018. I now have a very good attorney, but the first attorneys I had, did absolutely nothing except take my money and never filed an appearance. I just hope it's not too late.

Medical kidnapping usually involves a child or children, but in my situation, my elder mother—was kidnapped by the Alabama DHR. She was in St. Vincent's Hospital for what would have been a 3-4 day stay because of a UTI and a mild case of the flu.

DHR issued a court order for “protective custody” on February 1, 2018, and stated in the order that she could not leave the hospital without a court order. I was not allowed to know what I was accused of because DHR sealed the records. One attorney I hired was also not allowed access to the records. The first GAL leaked some of the information to me along with other “grapevine” news.

I finally learned that I was accused by DHR of taking my mother from a facility against medical advice. However, I provided a report from a physician at a local hospital who had given me full permission—and his blessings—to take her out of the facility on the day she and I left.

[Note: documentation of this has been provided to *Health Impact News*.]

No allegations of abuse or neglect can be found in the (almost) five years I’ve been taking care of my mother. A couple of phone calls by DHR could have proven that I did not take my mother anywhere against medical advice (and never have). However, DHR jumped into the case. Now after spending several thousand dollars of the tax payers’ money, this organization is still trying to find something to justify the hasty, costly decision to take charge of my mother.

Since she has been in “protective custody,” my mother has gone from getting up every day, eating a regular diet, and sitting in a recliner, to being bedridden. She has asked to get up, but Hospice has said, “No.” She left St. Vincent’s with bedsores.



St. Vincent's Hospital, Birmingham, Alabama. Photo [source](#).

After the medication overdoses at this hospital, it's a miracle she is alive. The doctors at St. Vincent's assured me they were not giving her any medication—she refused to eat or drink for one month and slept most of the time. After a family friend (another physician) came to the hospital to check on her, I learned what she had been given.

The hospitalists in charge of my mother's care at St. Vincent's had been giving her Scopolamine, the "date rape" drug, and then proceeded to label her as "demented." They also gave her Haldol and Ativan (against my written request not to do so).

These doctors also gave her a cough medicine that she could not metabolize. The guidelines for avoiding such medications were in her hospital records, and I reminded

them to check this medication against her medical allergies.

She almost died from the medicine mistake, and one hospitalist, Dr. Wheeler, refused to consult with an anesthesiologist regarding the best treatment for her to help her get over the mistake with the medicine. Dr. Wheeler told me, “No, because of her age.”

Probate Judge Alan King (Jefferson County, AL) appointed a conservator and a guardian (GAL) for my mother even though I provided documentation that I had not done anything against medical advice.

When Judge King issued an order after a March 20, 2018, hearing, neither my attorney nor I were allowed to receive a copy of the order for several weeks. The clerk at the probate judicial office told me that until the court costs were paid, we were not allowed a copy of the judge’s order. DHR was responsible for the bill, so getting a copy of the order was delayed almost a month while everyone waited for DHR to pay the bill.

Judge King also insisted that my mother leave the hospital under hospice care although she has no diagnosis of any terminal illness.

Prior to the hospitalization, she ate a regular diet, got out of bed every day (with the help of regular caregivers), and enjoyed having her hair done.

The Director of Nursing at the current facility told me that she had tried to get Hospice to agree to add a low dose of Zoloft for my mother at bedtime. Hospice told me that they were under strict court orders not to discuss any medication issues with me and refused to add the Zoloft even though

she had been taking this medication for over 30 years.

Early on, my brother called the former GAL and told her that no one was able to look after the best interests of my mother any better than I because I knew all of her medical allergies and was extremely careful with her care.

In addition, the court-appointed Jefferson County conservator and St. Vincent's social workers selected a facility in Jefferson County, a three-star facility, that always seems to be short on staff. The court refused to allow my mother to leave Jefferson County (Birmingham area).

The facility in Troy, Alabama, which I presented to hospital social workers as an option, much closer to her home and friends, has a five-star (Medicare rating) and is almost \$2000/month less expensive.

Why all this taxpayer money to hold an old woman in “protective custody” and deny her God given rights to choose where she will spend her last days?

Bottom line—we have been through all this before.....could some of the problem possibly be the 300 wooded acres in Henry County, Alabama, that my mother inherited from her grandfather during the depression?

In 2013, several south Alabama residents attempted to force a guardianship on her. I published an article about this incident in my [blog](#) in late 2013:

Forcing Guardianships on the Elderly: Keeping the Sharks Away—They're Closer Than You Think

Excerpts from the blog:

My mother lives in a small town in southeast Alabama. In February 2013, she hired an attorney to complete an irrevocable trust for her estate, but he never completed the process. He insisted some land needed to be sold first, although he never looked at her bank statements. My mother's monthly income is well above her living expenses. After a couple of months and no land sale, the attorney suggested a guardianship.

We knew nothing of what was in store for our family nor did we have any idea of the stress or the danger our mother would endure because of our naivety.

[Nancy elaborates on manipulative tactics that the attorney and a bookkeeper used to convince her mother that she didn't have enough money to pay her bills. They believe that the bookkeeper was behind what happened next.]

[S]omeone filed for my mother to have a competency testing. With no notice, the owner of the assisted living facility told my mother that she was under a court order to have competency testing with a local doctor. My mother told us later that she had angrily told the doctor, "I know who is behind this." She answered a few questions and demanded to be taken back to her facility.

Mind-Altering Drugs

A few days later, my son and I were with my mother on an outing. We noticed that mother's speech was slurred. She also had difficulty standing, and her sentences trailed off in mid-sentence. After a quick family conference by phone, everyone suggested that she go home with me for observation. I went into the assisted living facility to pick up a few overnight items as I had many times in the past.

During the conversation [with an employee], I looked over the employee's shoulder and saw the word Oxycontin 10 mg, twice daily and what appeared to be an increased dosage of NORCO. Frightened, I discussed my concerns with my mother and she agreed.

She said, "My head has felt funny, and I didn't know why." Suddenly, I knew what I had to do...

I drove away from the assisted living facility, [and] I knew I couldn't turn back. I took my mother to a large medical facility out of town for a complete physical and mental evaluation.

The results astounded both of us. [She was fine.] She did not return to the assisted living facility. When she was not back by 9:00 the next morning, the owner of the assisted living went to the sheriff's office and asked them to try to get my mother back. She is grateful to be with family and out of danger.

Signing While Drugged

The Probate Court continues to refuse to give my mother or me copies of the court documents that have been filed.

During the weeks that my mother was on the large doses of narcotics, I learned that Lawyer #000 took several papers into her room, which she signed for Lawyer #000, and the assisted living owner witnessed.

When I told my mother about Lawyer #000 and the papers, she was horrified—she remembers nothing of his visit because of the large doses of medicine being given to her.

As for my mother's mental state, she has no difficulty remembering anything except what happened during those days she was taking the large doses of narcotics. A hair analysis confirmed both the NORCO and the Oxycontin.

She has no desire to return to a place she once called home. Her physical strength has returned, and she doesn't speak with slurred speech now. She is enjoying reading a new Danielle Steel novel that I downloaded with Kindle on my laptop.

Read the entire blog entry [here](#).

The article circulated through the Henry County Courthouse and the hearing was cancelled. I also published three other articles about corruption in Alabama, particularly south Alabama. Some of these articles included information about attorneys in the south Alabama area who tried to get my mother to sign her property over to them.

When will it end? My mother has lost almost four months of her life—possibly her last days. Who is behind all this? That's a good question, and one that someone should investigate.

Concern for my Mother's Well-Being

A representative of Southern Care Hospice told me today that they are not allowed to discuss any of my mother's medication issues with me. On the first day with Southern Care Hospice, I gave the hospice nurse practitioner crucial information about my mother's medication issues when he interviewed me.

Somehow the nurses who work with my mother never received that information. And the Director of Nursing at the facility did not get that medical information.

My mother is being treated as though she is not a person— and I am definitely a non-person. In this situation, we have no rights—but no wrong doing has ever been shown.

Who can stop Alabama DHR? If Judge Alan King allows her to leave and go home, that's fine. But these problems should not happen to anyone. How can a person, respected and loved as a teacher in her community, suddenly because she is old, become the pawn of powerful men and women?

How You Can Help #BringMsGregoryHome

Nancy Scott and her mother are frustrated that a court-appointed guardian/conservator is now calling all the shots for Ms. Gregory. Nancy told *Health Impact News*:

She's got a FAMILY! She doesn't need this.

They understand that she is elderly. Nancy wants her mother to be able to leave Jefferson County and return to a facility closer to her home in southeast Alabama of their choosing, not the state's, where the family can visit and care for the woman who has cared for so many throughout the years.

Nancy fears for her mother's life, as well as for her emotional health, as she is deprived of the love and care of her family:

I don't want my mother to die this way.

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey may be reached at 334-242-7100 or contacted [here](#). She is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Alabama Senate Majority Leader Jabo Waggoner represents the district where Marian (Gregory) Leonard is currently being held against her will in a nursing home. He may be reached at 334-242-7892 or contacted [here](#).

Representative Jack Williams represents the district. He may be reached at 334-242-7779 or contacted [here](#).

See other articles on elder medical kidnappings covered by *Health Impact News*:

[Medical Murder? Massachusetts Woman Medically Kidnapped from Her Home Dies After Being Denied Medical Intervention](#)

Attorney: Elder “Protective Services” is a Racketeering Enterprise Medically Kidnapping Seniors

Massachusetts Senior Citizen and Attorney Medically Kidnapped – Estate Plundered – Represents National Epidemic

Healthy Boston Woman is Medically Kidnapped and Forced onto Psych Drugs Resulting in her Death

Public Warning: Boston is a Cesspool of Adult Medical Kidnappings

Adults Medically Kidnapped: 3X More than Children in Foster Care – \$50 BILLION in Assets Seized

Attorney Explains how to Protect Against America’s Epidemic of Senior Medical Kidnappings

Medical Kidnapping of Seniors: A \$273 BILLION Industry

Husband of Retired Missouri Couple Medically Kidnapped – Estate Plundered to Pay for Unwanted Medical Confinement

Adult Medical Kidnapping in New York: 1950s Air Force Veteran Held Hostage in Hospital

Alabama Lab Owner Arrested for Falsifying Results of Drug Tests Used to Medically Kidnap Children



Photo: Dale County Sheriff. [Source](#).

by **Brian Shilhavy**
Editor, **Health Impact News**

Local media in Alabama are reporting that Brandy Murrah, owner of A&J Lab Collections in Ozark, Alabama, has turned herself in to local police over charges that she falsified paternity tests and drug test screenings in child custody cases.

Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams [has stated](#) that Murrah's actions may have resulted in a potential "tidal wave" of DHR cases where children were removed from their

parents based on false evidence from her lab.

Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams said Monday that if the allegations against Murrah are true, it could mean that parents were denied custody based on falsified drug screen results.

“We’re messing around people’s lives and their children,” Adams said. “It just seems beyond irresponsible to the point of being callous about the consequences.”

“I anticipate the tidal wave is just building as far as ramifications,” Adams said.

The district attorney said the job of his office is to prosecute each incident of false testing if and when they are found.

“We anticipate a lot,” he said. ([Source.](#))

“We have no idea at this time how many people did not get their children back because of Ms. Murrah’s alleged fraudulent reports,” Adams said.

“I am furious and offended by these alleged crimes. I don’t understand how someone could be so callous and evil, to have no regard for the consequences of their actions. In my opinion, all cases affected by Murrah’s alleged actions must be redone in order to be fair.” ([Source.](#))

Murrah allegedly has a prior criminal record.

According to Adams, Murrah (then known as Brandy Renee Williams) has five previous convictions for fraudulent use of a

credit/debit card.

Houston County court records show Williams pleaded guilty to the counts in 2013 for the incidents occurring in 2012. She was sentenced to three years probation. ([Source.](#))

Sgt. Cody Evans of the Ozark Police Department stated that the complaint against Murrah came from a doctor's office in Florida.

“Without releasing too much, we received a complaint from a doctor's office in the Florida area advising us that they believed a document had been forged,” Sgt. Cody Evans said. “Some of the testing (was) never approved by their facility, but I can't go any further at this time.”

A source tells WDHN that, if the allegations are true, several children may have been wrongfully taken from their families by the Ozark judicial system. ([Source.](#))

Falsified Records are Common in Cases Where Children are Removed from Their Parents

Sadly, all across the U.S. stories are being reported that social workers routinely lie and falsify records in order to take more children out of their homes and place them into the lucrative, federally-funded foster care and adoption system, which is, in fact, a [child trafficking business](#).

The ease at which social workers across the country get away with this is so widespread, that the Texas State Legislature

just took up a new bill that is designed to stop this illegal practice. See:

New Proposed Texas Bill would Stop Child Protective Services from Falsifying Records

In October 2016, attorneys for social workers in Orange County California tried to argue to the 9th Circuit of Appeals that it was acceptable for social workers to lie about parents in order to take their children.

The 9th Circuit judges did not buy the argument, and ruled against the social worker.

The 9th Circuit video tapes most of their cases, and you can watch the incredible 23-minute video of the defense attorney trying to argue that a social worker has the right to lie:

<https://youtu.be/nZaoLxmFTkI>

Last month (April, 2019), we [reported](#) on the case of former Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) social worker Chelsea Gray, who is facing trial for lying to a judge in 2018 that caused 4 children to be wrongly removed from their parents.

District Associate Judge Adam Sauer had harsh words for Gray and DHS, and ordered a halt of the termination of parental rights.

Sauer called Gray's testimony unacceptable. He said that terminating a parent's rights was the most important decision a court can make, and that it must be a fair

proceeding based on facts and evidence.

“What does not, or at least should not happen, is that an agent of the government, charged with the task of safeguarding the welfare of children, would completely fabricate contact with a family in order to mask non-compliance with the agency’s policy,” Sauer wrote.

He added, “Providing false testimony of any kind is an unfathomable violation of the trust that the people in the State of Iowa place in their public servants and cast a dark and permanent shadow upon all of us.”

Sauer blasted the state for trying to minimize the impact of Gray’s testimony on the outcome of the case. He dismissed all four petitions to terminate parental rights filed by the state, and ordered that “referrals for new foster case placements shall stop immediately.” ([Full Story.](#))

Alabama Mother Separated from Newborn Baby for Days Because of False Drug Test After Eating Poppy Seeds



Rebecca Hernandez. [Courtesy of WAFF.](#)

Comments by Brian Shilhavy
Editor, Health Impact News

Another case where a false drug test was used as justification to medically kidnap a newborn baby and separate the infant from the mother, during one of the most crucial times when a baby needs to bond with their mother just after birth.

[WAFF 48 News](#) in Huntsville, Alabama, picked up the story.

A Huntsville mom and her doctor fear poppy seed bread may be the reason she no longer has custody of her 2-day-old baby boy. Rebecca Hernandez was given a drug test after her delivery at Crestwood Medical Center Tuesday. According to her doctor, the screening showed traces of opiates in her system.

“This is a nightmare for the whole family,” said Hernandez. “Ya know, a newborn baby has to be close to mom. They have to be with the mom. That’s the most important time in their life to be close to the mom when they’re just born.”

Through the help of her doctor, Hernandez learned the poppy seed bread she had eaten the day before may have caused a false positive.

Dr. Yashica Robinson, Hernandez’s doctor, said same day drug screenings are a problem and wants hospitals to rely on laboratory confirmed tests.

Poppy seeds derive from the opium plant, but can eating them flip a drug test positive?

“Screening tests can have what we call false-positive results where other things can interfere,” explained Robinson. “You can have a substance that a patient eats. Like in this case, poppy seeds can make them test positive for opioids.”

Hernandez and her doctor say they understand policy but want hospitals to wait for the confirmatory test before children are taken away.

The newborn’s screening test results were negative for opiates, according to Robinson.

Hernandez and her doctor say their issue isn't specific to Crestwood. They want policy changes at all hospitals.

When [WAFF posted the story](#) on social media, they say the story was exposed to tens of thousands of people who read it, and they received hundreds of comments from people saying they had experienced similar experiences with Child Protective Services.

Why the hospital tested Ms. Hernandez for drugs, and whether or not Ms. Hernandez agreed to the drug testing, is not known. She spoke to reporters via a Spanish interpreter.