

Health Impact News

Medical Kidnapping Children in the United States: Michigan

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Michigan



State of Michigan Sues Parents to Force Chemo on Cancer-free Child

UPDATE March, 2012: [State of Michigan Appeals Case Against Parents to Force Chemo on Cancer-free Child](#)

UPDATE 12/21/2011 CASE DISMISSED! From [WoodTV.com](#):

Judge Solka wrote in his ruling, *“The court concludes as a matter of law that Jacob’s parents have not been negligent in making decisions about his (Jacob’s) course of treatment...”*

“The court is not making a finding that Jacob does not have cancer. A second opinion of a pediatric oncologist on additional treatment would be reasonable and should be considered by the parents...”

“These decisions are better made in a clinical setting without resort to the courts. This is a physician–patient issue. The court should become involved only if an impasse is reached. The court does not find such an impasse here that the state should intervene and the family subjected to the rigors and uncertain outcome of a jury trial.”

Original Story:

Jacob Stieler was diagnosed with cancer back in March of 2011. After chemo and radiation treatment, multiple scans indicate he’s cancer free. However, his doctors have ordered

further treatment—something Jacob and his parents oppose. Now the State of Michigan is taking the Jacob's parents to court, charging them with neglect.

<https://youtu.be/UWlitZRLwrk>

From the Stieler's blog at hopeforjacob.org:

July 18th

Wednesday, I got a phone call from the social worker at the hospital where Jacob has been. She informed me since we are refusing radiation for Jacob, they would be filing a petition for court. I was in shock! Well, not totally. In shock for the fact that my son is CANCER-FREE!!! Anyway, Friday morning comes and I am woke up by the sound of Child Protective Services knocking on our door. I was disgusted to find out that the hospital lied and said that he would have a 0% chance of survival if he didn't follow through with it (that number was NEVER given to me). Second, they with-held the fact that his PET Scan came back clear and he is, in fact, cancer-free. I am disgusted by the fact that they were deceitful. What happened to parent's rights? We are not being foolish and not taking further action with Jacob. We are taking him to a place to build up his immune system, get some healthy weight back on his bones and he will have multiple therapies to heal his worn body. The fact that they want to give him almost 2 months of radiation plus 6 months more of chemo – both of which cause cancer – when no cancer is present, is completely shocking! Please be praying for all of us! Jacob is scared and worried! He already told me that if they make him do chemo and radiation, that he will kill himself! Satan sure is working overtime, but God is in control!!!

October 14th

First things first, Jacob is doing wonderful! He is happy and healthy, going to school full time and loving life!!! He turned 10 years old a couple weeks ago and was able to go bow-hunting October 1st. He shot a 6-pt. buck and was ecstatic!! I've been hunting for years and never got one. He certainly deserves it though.

In the meantime, we've been checked-up on by CPS for the past 3 months. "Just doin' their job" while the case is still open. It wasn't going anywhere....CPS couldn't find a reason for medical neglect like the hospital was claiming and either could the prosecuting attorney. That sure didn't stop the hospital from whining and got another big children's hospital involved to complain, which is also downstate (I'm not supposed to mention names, but I'm sure you can all figure it out). Doctors from both hospitals acted very irrational and immature because apparently everyone up here "is incompetent - they don't know how to handle a case such as this". Well, DHS ended up filing a petition. We have been to court a few times. Crazy things keep happening to keep it from going further. We're already on our second judge.

Yesterday we went to court again. Had a useless meeting first and then the lawyers met with the new judge. There is now an actual trial set for the first week of December. There will be a jury. This trial is for two things. First, they are still pushing to have Jacob have 6 more months of chemotherapy and 2 months of radiation. Two of the chemotherapy drugs that he was on and would be on are mustard gas - yes, chemical warfare. Another one is nicknamed "red death" and can potentially cause major heart damage. Another has chloroform in it and the other two are just as capable of causing cancer. Yes...it's all POISON! And I'm sure most of

you know how horrible radiation is. Oh, and did I forget to mention again that Jacob is CANCER-FREE!!!! Yes, he had another PET Scan a few weeks ago and still NO CANCER! They truly believe that poisoning my child is the best thing for his health. It doesn't matter that we have doctors currently keeping any eye on him. It doesn't matter that he's had a lifestyle change and we're doing multiple things to keep him healthy. It doesn't matter that we're going to keep getting PET Scans done every 3 months. It doesn't matter that we would certainly get him into treatment the moment one of those scans came up showing cancer. They're not happy with that answer. Is it because they're not getting their \$60,000 a month? And that's not counting radiation.

Okay...now let's talk about the other side to this story. Another reason for this whole trial is the fact that they're trying to set an example with us - to not question the doctors or the state, for that matter. We're all just basically "foster-parents" to our children. The state actually owns them and they have a right to decide what's best for our kids. We, as parents, do not! I hope you are all as outraged at this as we are!!! What happened to our rights?? This is certainly not a free country that we're all fooled into believing. Doesn't the 14th amendment mean anything??

If this makes you furious, please let us know! Let Governor Snyder know. Let our Senator and State Reps know. Let DHS know. We need to stand up for our rights as parents that we know what's best for our children and that we should ultimately have the right to decide what's best. Not some strangers who don't know a thing about our children or us for that matter.

As bizarre as this whole situation is, and believe me - you don't even know half of it, we're trusting God! We know this is all happening for a reason. Not quite sure what it is yet,

but God has a plan. He cares about Jacob. He loves him more than we do. God has been taking care of us this whole time since day one back in March. He keeps on blessing us in so many ways and we are so thankful! He is truly an awesome God!!! Please continue to pray for us, for this whole situation. That the truth would be revealed. That God's will would be done! Also, please continue to pray for Jacob, that he would continue to stay cancer-free and that he would get stronger each and every day.

October 23

When does the State of Michigan have the right to interfere with decisions made by parents concerning the care of their children? This is the question that will be answered in a jury trial on December 6-7 at the County Court. Our son, 10-year-old Jacob Stieler has had two clear PET scans in the past 4 months meaning there is no evidence of cancer in Jacob's body, yet still the Department of Human Services is being pressured by a large children's hospital in lower Michigan to force him to undergo 6 more months and several weeks of radiation treatments just because this is the "standard of care" protocol, based on studies that have been done on other children, not Jacob. After going through 2 1/2 months of watching Jacob suffer physically and emotionally from his chemo treatments, we were so very grateful to get the results of his PET scan in July which showed no evidence of the cancer which could not be surgically removed in March. Despite all of our efforts to support his body through treatment, he still lost 14 pounds, and looked like a concentration camp victim after those 2 1/2 months. Now, after receiving some non-traditional therapies to help him regain his lost weight and build up his immune system, Jacob looks like a normal healthy young boy, and is ever so glad to be finished with chemo. Should Jacob's cancer return, we, as his parents, will want to be able to choose where to go for

treatment, and what kind of treatment we believe will be best for our child. Except in cases where parents are proven to be unfit, abusive, or neglectful, the State has never been given the right to make these choices, and never should be. If we do not retain this right as Jacob's parents, and the ones who have been given the responsibility by God to care for him, what will keep the State from interfering on any number of choices that we parents make concerning the care of our children, medical or otherwise?

According to Jacob's doctors, 30% of the children who follow their treatment plan are not alive in five years. Is this because of the damage caused by these very toxic drugs, which can even cause healthy, normal cells to become cancerous? We have not been given answers to these questions. There don't seem to be any answers. Unbiased studies have not been done. We hope that in December the jury will remember that it is our right as parents to make any difficult medical decisions for Jacob, this beautiful son that we love far more than the State of Michigan ever could.

Note: the trial was postponed until January

Get current updates at [Hope for Jacob blog](#) and also on their [Facebook page](#). They need your help, and there are things you can do to help.

State of Michigan Appeals Case Against Parents to Force Chemo on Cancer-free Child



Health Impact News Editor Comments:

We reported the story of Jacob Stieler last year, and his parents won a hard fought battle with the state of Michigan, where the Michigan Department of Human Services wanted to force a dangerous chemo therapy treatment on their cancer-free child. Read the [original story here](#).

Unfortunately, even though a judge ruled against the state and allowed Jacob's parents to choose what was best for their son, the state of Michigan is continuing to harass the family and has appealed the decision to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Here is an update from their [Facebook Page](#) from Michael

Farris of the Homeschool Legal Defense Association:

Stieler Case Update: Michigan Department of Human Services appeals pro-family decision to Michigan Court of Appeals.

Ken and Erin Stieler are the mom and dad of Jacob—who has been cancer-free since his PET scan in early July. He has had two clean PET scans since then—the most recent in January.

Despite all of this, the Michigan Department of Human Services continues to attempt to prosecute this family for medical neglect. If they succeed they will force Jacob to resume chemotherapy despite the fact that the drugs in question are not FDA approved (either for children in general or for this particular cancer). Moreover, these drugs do not promise anything close to a guaranteed cure. And, the FDA requires the drug manufacturers to disclose that these drugs cause new cancers to form, heart disease in children, failure to sexually mature, and many other serious side effects in some cases.

The Marquette County Probate Court has twice ruled against the Department. Yet, the department keeps on fighting against these parents.

Just this afternoon, the Department's appeal was filed in the Michigan Court of Appeals. The irony is that the Department has alleged that this case should be expedited because the situation is urgent. If it was urgent, why did the Department wait 55 days from the initial hotline call until filing its complaint? Why did the Department and a consulting doctor call two local judges trying to influence them to prosecute the Stielers—despite the fact that such out of court calls are clearly unethical? These calls required the case to be re-

assigned twice—wasting another two months. If it was urgent, why did the Department ask for a continuance of the December trial date by almost a month? If it was urgent, when the Department lost why did it seek a motion for rehearing, a step that is rarely granted and which took another two months to resolve? And when they filed this motion for rehearing, why did they wait until the very last day—21 days—before filing the motion? And when it came time to appeal, why did they wait until the 20th day—beating the deadline by a single day?

The Department's actions prove that they don't really believe in the medical urgency theory—they only believe in hassling parents that have the courage to tell them “no.”

Please “like” this if you will commit to pray for this family and this case. And pray that Jacob will remain cancer free.

If you want to help with the funding of this case, please go to the Homeschool Foundation's site. This is not a homeschool case, but we stand for the rights of all parents to direct the upbringing of their child. Thanks.

<https://secure.hslda.org/hslda/support.aspx>

Read the [Original Story Here](#).

UPDATE March 21 from [Hope for Jacob Facebook Page](#): “We got the news today that the Court of Appeals have approved DHS' appeal. Meaning that they will listen to what DHS has to say. DHS will have 28 days to file their brief and then we will have 21 days to file ours. If the court of Appeals then agrees to listen to an oral argument, that will happen 2-4 months from then. I actually started laughing when Michael Farris told me that. At the earliest, it'll be over a year from

when CPS started their investigation in the first place.
Craziness!!!

Homeschool Mom Wins Appeal for Protecting Daughter from Forced Medical Treatment From Police and CPS



Local Detroit residents protested the unlawful seizure of Maryanne Godboldo's daughter, with signs saying 'Free Arianna.'

Health Impact News Editor Comments:

In what appears to be a final victory for Maryanne Godboldo and her daughter Arianna, a Detroit Judge has removed all charges against Maryanne for trying to protect her daughter from the unlawful seizure by CPS and local police because she refused psychiatric medication for her homeschooled daughter.

“This court finds that the defendant in fact did use reasonable force in this case — did not use deadly force ... to prevent an illegal attachment, to prevent the removal of her child by the Detroit police,” said Judge Richard Skutt. “This court feels (Detroit police) did not, one, have the authority to remove the child at that time.” ([source](#))

Maryanne Godboldo’s story is told in the following video and Health Impact News has provided [extensive coverage of her story](#) as well. When she refused to give over custody of her daughter to forced medication, police sent a SWAT team and tank to her home to forcibly remove her daughter. (See: [Police use Assault Weapons and Tank against Home School Mom wanting to protect daughter from Dangerous Medications](#))

<https://youtu.be/6hIlo7KD2Lo>

This long protracted legal battle, which has resulted in the child being reunited with her mother and all charges against the mother dropped, would not have been possible without Attorney Allison Folmar.



Attorney Allison Folmar (left) and Detroit mother Maryanne Godboldo (right)

<https://youtu.be/Cz7CJ1bYioM>

Parents who have taken their children off of psychiatric drugs after seeing the dangerous effects on their child have been charged with medical neglect and had their children forcibly removed from their custody.

The charge of “medical neglect” is an oxymoron when it comes to the issue of psychiatric labels and drugs because:

A) There are no medical/scientific tests to prove any child diagnosed “mentally ill” has a medical condition of “mental

illness”, as none exists and

B) because the psychiatric drugs prescribed against the parents will have been documented by international drug regulatory agencies to cause mania, psychosis, suicidal ideation, heart problems, diabetes, stroke, and sudden death.

The “medical neglect” being perpetrated on these children is by those forcibly drugging them against their parents’ wishes. Detroit, Michigan Attorney Allison Folmar has successfully won cases such as the case of mother Maryanne Godboldo, who faced down a SWAT team and tank and police who broke into her home, and Folmar was victorious in her battle when a judge ruled the order which prompted the seizure of Maryanne’s daughter was not only illegal, but unconstitutional. Folmar has fought and won other similar cases and now is focusing on enacting laws to protect parents from having their rights obliterated under the guise of “mental health”.

Judge Upholds Detroit Mother's Right to Protect Daughter from Forced Drugging



Photo taken from TV footage of the SWAT team sent to the home of Maryanne Godboldo

Mother Faces Down Swat Team & Tank For Refusing to Drug Daughter

<https://youtu.be/6hIlo7KD2Lo>

CCHR Applauds Judge for Upholding Detroit Mother Maryanne Godboldo's Right to Protect Daughter from Forced Drugging

Despite prosecutors' second attempt this year to bring

criminal charges against Detroit mother Maryanne Godboldo, who underwent a 10 hour stand off with police for refusing to administer a powerful antipsychotic drug to her daughter, Wayne County District Judge Gregory Bill has become the second judge this year to dismiss the charges

Detroit, MI ([PRWEB](#))

On July 11th, 2014, there was loud applause in the court when Wayne County District Judge, Gregory Bill, reaffirmed the dismissal of criminal charges against Detroit mother, Maryanne Godboldo for a second time this year. [Case No. 11057748, 36 District Court, Detroit, Michigan, filed 03/27/2011] [1] The mental health watchdog, [Citizens Commission on Human Rights \(CCHR\)](#), applauds Judge Bill in upholding Maryanne's right to protect her daughter from forced psychiatric drugging.

In March 2011, the [Maryanne Godboldo case](#) garnered international headlines when images of a SWAT team, tanks and a helicopter, showed up at the home of a Detroit mother after she refused to administer an antipsychotic drug to her daughter.[2] The seizure of the then 13-year old caused a firestorm of press and public outcry.[3] By December 11th, 2011, nine months and numerous court hearings later, Godboldo was acquitted of all charges, with the judge calling the court order that was used by Child Protective Services (CPS) to try to gain entry into the home invalid. [4]



Attorney Allison Folmar (left) and Detroit mother Maryanne Godboldo (right)

Maryanne’s story began in 2011 when she chose to fight for the medical well-being of her 13-year old daughter, Ariana, refusing to give the child the dangerous, and potentially lethal, [antipsychotic drug Risperdal](#).^[5] What ensued from there is as follows:

- With a “rubber stamped” court order in hand, CPS enlisted the services of Detroit’s SWAT team to go to the Godboldo home and remove the child from her mother.^[6]
- After a 10-hour standoff with police, and assurances that the teenager would not be

removed to a psychiatric facility or forcibly drugged, Godboldo agreed to end the standoff. Both assurances were not upheld and Ariana was taken to a psychiatric facility where the child was drugged against her mother's will.[7]

- It took days for Godboldo's attorneys to locate the child in a psychiatric facility. Once they found Ariana, they discovered that the teenager's prosthetic leg had been taken from her and she had been forcibly given psychiatric drugs.[8]
- After nearly two months of legal hearings, Ariana was released into the custody of her aunt, while Godboldo awaited trial for the defense of her child and home.[9]
- State prosecutors further attempted to prosecute Godboldo for an alleged "warning shot" fired during the illegal entry by police, in an attempt to seize her child. In March 2014, 36th District Court Judge Ronald Giles ruled that given the illegal entry of Godboldo's home, "...the defendant, in fact, did use reasonable force...to prevent an illegal attachment." Judge Giles further explained, "The Detroit Police did not have the authority to remove a child at that time...based on the invalid court order that was being used and presented." [10]

Despite numerous dismissals of the criminal charges leveled

against Godboldo by Judge Giles and Judge Bill and the appeals court, prosecutors continue to appeal the dismissal. A spokesperson for the Prosecutor's Office stated, "We do not agree with the court's ruling affirming the dismissal of the case in 36th District Court, and we will be appealing to the Michigan Court of Appeals." [11]

In an exclusive interview with CCHR, Allison Folmar, Godboldo's attorney and champion, says, "In many ways this case really puts psychiatrists and the pharmaceuticals on trial because they tried to do something that they had no right to do. There are a multitude of lawsuits against the pharmaceutical company that makes Risperdal. This is a devastating, harmful drug that should not have been prescribed for this child." [12]

Folmar has no doubt that Maryanne will prevail, and acknowledges that many positive changes have occurred in the state and even across the country as a result of this case. For example, no more can emergency removal orders be "rubber stamped," probation officers are prohibited from signing orders and the CPS no longer will investigate cases of parents who refuse to drug their child. [13]

Folmar sums up what she believes transpired in the Godboldo case: "This case has far reaching implications for parents, not only in Detroit, but across the country, to choose whether or not to drug their child. It is a case of misdiagnosis, misinformation and unrestrained persecution. Parents need to understand this is not an isolated case and it is happening across the nation far too often."

Read the full article [here](#).

[About Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#): CCHR is a

non-profit, non-political, non-religious mental health watchdog. Its mission is to eradicate abuses committed under the guise of mental health and enact patient and consumer protections. CCHR has helped to enact more than 150 laws protecting individuals from abusive or coercive mental health practices.

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[7] Heather Catalo, “Mom who chose to take daughter off medication files lawsuit, alleges daughter deprived of prosthesis,” ABC 7 Detroit, May 10, 2012, wxyz.com/news/local-news/investigations/mom-who-chose-to-take-daughter-off-medication-files-lawsuit-alleges-daughter-deprived-of-prosthesis

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[9] "Godboldo May Be Reunited With Daughter," CBS Detroit, May 6, 2011, detroit.cbslocal.com/2011/05/06/godboldo-may-be-reunited-with-daughter/

[10] Kim Craig, "Charges dismissed against Detroit mom who fought removal of daughter by Child Protective Services," ABC 7 Detroit, Mar 14, 2014, wxyz.com/news/weve-won-says-maryanne-godboldo-after-judge-dismisses-criminal-charges-against-detroit-mom

[11] Elisha Anderson and Gina Damron, "Judge upholds dismissal of charges against mom in police standoff case," Detroit Free Press, July 11, 2014, freep.com/article/20140711/NEWS01/307110149/ruling-upheld-Detroit-Maryanne-Godboldo-mother-antipsychotic-medication-judge

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[Full Press Release.](#)

Michigan Only State with Pharmaceutical “Immunity Law” Determined to Prosecute Mother for Refusing to Drug Daughter



Attorney Allison Folmar (left) and Detroit mother Maryanne Godboldo (right)

EDITOR’S NOTE: See Health Impact News’ original coverage of this story here: [Police use Assault Weapons and Tank against Home School Mom wanting to protect daughter from Dangerous Medications](#)

CCHR Launches Investigation into Michigan Mental Health Policies—in response to state’s repeated attempts to prosecute mother for refusing to drug daughter

Michigan, the only U.S. state that has a pharmaceutical “immunity law” seems determined to prosecute Maryanne Godboldo for refusing to administer a dangerous antipsychotic drug to her daughter

By [Kelly Patricia O’Meara](#)

[Citizens Commission on Human Rights International](#)

When will the deliberate persecution of [Detroit mother, Maryanne Godboldo](#), come to an end? Despite four court rulings exonerating Godboldo of any wrongdoing, the state prosecutor is, inexplicably, committed to what can only be described as a relentless attack. The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), the nation’s leading mental health watchdog, has launched an in-depth investigation into Michigan’s mental health policies to get to the bottom of the state’s seemingly endless prosecution of Godboldo.

From the beginning, [psychiatric drugs](#) have been at the forefront of this case. Given that Michigan is the only state in the nation providing pharmaceutical companies total immunity from lawsuits, as a result of harm or death caused by FDA-approved drug products, one can only wonder if the state is pursuing Godboldo because of the national and international attention she received for her courageous refusal to administer a dangerous antipsychotic drug to her then 13-year-old daughter.

Mother Faces Down Swat Team & Tank For Refusing to Drug Daughter – Video

<https://youtu.be/6hIlo7KD2Lo>

It begs the question: Is the state more interested in protecting the pharmaceutical companies over the well-being of the families of Michigan? Godboldo bravely stood up to the state's Child Protective Services (CPS) and mental health workers who immediately validated this mother's worst fears when, after illegally placing her daughter in a state-run pediatric psychiatric facility, the 13 year old was forcibly administered [Haldol](#) and [Risperdal](#)—harmful psychiatric drugs that have left her damaged.

Recall that Godboldo's legal nightmare began when, based on an illegal, falsified order provided by CPS, a full military-style SWAT assault was unleashed upon her home, with the intent of removing her daughter, Ariana, because Godboldo refused to drug the teenager with the antipsychotic Risperdal.

After ten hours of negotiations, Godboldo reluctantly agreed to allow Ariana into the custody of her sister with the promise from CPS that Ariana would not be put into a psychiatric facility or drugged. Contrary to these promises, and without notifying Godboldo, Ariana was taken to the Hawthorn Center, the state's pediatric psychiatric facility, forcibly held and drugged.

Again, one cannot help but consider important information that may shed light on the state's continued interest in bringing criminal charges against Godboldo. For instance, the current Attorney General, Bill Schuette, was one of more than a dozen lawmakers who, in 1995, championed the pharmaceutical immunity legislation. In 2011, it was the

State Attorney General's office who appealed the release of Ariana out of state custody. In the criminal case, District Attorney, Kym Worthy, repeatedly tried to prosecute the four-time-exonerated Godboldo.

But these questions are merely the tip of the iceberg. As part of CCHR's investigation, determined to reveal those responsible for the violation of Ariana's rights, FOIA requests have been made to the pertinent agencies and psychiatric facilities involved in Ariana's forced incarceration and drugging, including:

- Two of the psychiatrists responsible for administering the powerful antipsychotic drug Risperdal to Arianna.
- The New Oakland Center—the first health care facility to prescribe psychiatric drugs to Ariana.
- The Children's Center—the facility where Godboldo signed a release form allowing her to withdraw Ariana from Risperdal, yet was responsible for reporting Godboldo to CPS when she exerted her right to do so while carefully weaning her daughter off the drug causing severe reactions in her daughter.
- The Hawthorn Center—the facility where Ariana was taken against her mother's wishes and the agreement reached to end the stand-off. Hawthorn is responsible for drugging Ariana without having any medical records for review and, based on an illegal order by CPS, drugging Ariana with two dangerous psychiatric drugs, both of which carry numerous drug regulatory warnings of severe side effects including death.

According to [Godboldo's attorney, Allison Folmar](#), the investigation is necessary on a number of levels, including her belief that Godboldo “is being persecuted as opposed to being prosecuted.” Folmar explains that, “Maryanne has never hurt anyone and everyone who knows this woman will tell you she is an awesome mother. She’s had to endure a devastating three years and I think this is political. I’ve never seen such a relentless prosecution of an innocent person, especially in light of her being deemed innocent by the courts.”

Maryanne Godboldo describes forced drugging of daughter - Video

<https://youtu.be/dREfPo7mmpE>

Folmar understands what’s at stake for those involved, especially in light of the illegality that took place in the Godboldo case. “A court,” explains Folmar, “never can order a child be put on antipsychotic drugs without the consent of the parent. When it comes to the mental well-being of the child—when you see a drug that makes your child violent—you have an absolute right to say ‘don’t give that drug to my child,’ without any argument.”

“What happened in this case is not an isolated incident,” says Folmar, “the state has joined with the psychiatrists and they illegally take parents’ rights away. This is the fight. This cannot happen. It is illegal.”

Folmar does not mince words when it comes to the Hawthorn Center’s illegal actions. “Hawthorn has no legal support for anything it did. It was illegal to detain Ariana against her and her mother’s will, it was illegal to administer a dangerous drug, regardless of whether or not they had her medical records, which in this case they did not have them.”

That there was outside pressure being applied on this case is clear by the initial refusal to admit on the part of the Hawthorn Center. “At first,” explains Folmar, “Hawthorn repeatedly refused to admit Ariana because the psychiatrist complained he couldn’t treat the child without a court order. There was no order. There are no commitment papers for the child and that is why Ariana was initially refused admittance. The fact they took her despite no legal order is what needs investigation.”

While a court has ruled four times in favor of Godboldo, the state refuses to accept the verdict. The question is why? More importantly, how long will Godboldo continue to be persecuted for her legal defense of her home and daughter? The Citizens Commission on Human Rights intends to get to the bottom of this continued abuse.

<https://www.cchrint.org/cchrint-donate/>

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Kelly Patricia O’Meara is an award-winning former investigative reporter for the Washington Times’ Insight Magazine, penning dozens of articles exposing the fraud of psychiatric diagnosis and the dangers of the psychiatric drugs—including her groundbreaking 1999 cover story, “Guns & Doses,” exposing the link between psychiatric drugs and acts of senseless violence. She is also the author of the highly acclaimed book, Psyched Out: How Psychiatry Sells Mental Illness and Pushes Pills that Kill. Prior to working as an investigative journalist, O’Meara spent sixteen years on Capitol Hill as a congressional staffer to four Members of Congress. She holds a B.S. in Political Science from the University of Maryland.

Parents Falsely Accused by CPS Fight to Get Reputation Back - Pay Forced Hospital Bills



The Debski Family.

by Terri LaPoint
Health Impact News

Innocent Parents' Lives Turned Upside Down by CPS

The parents did nothing wrong, yet their lives were turned upside down. They were falsely accused of abuse when they took their baby girl to the doctor for an accidental injury. Later, they were compared to “dolphins caught in a net.” A child abuse doctor at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital

(HDVCH) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, actually thanked them for “taking a hard hit for the greater good” of catching abused and neglected children. They were innocent. Bethany and Andrew Debski did not go to the doctor looking to take a hit. They were concerned about their baby, and wanted to make sure she was OK. They never expected the nightmare turn of events that would arise out of seeking help. They are victims of a disturbing trend in which parents are presumed guilty until proven innocent. In the world of Child Protective Services, the Constitution appears to be meaningless, and children and parents are caught up in a net that was originally intended to catch abusive parents who beat, torment, and molest their children. Increasingly, good parents whose children happen to get sick or injured accidentally are being caught up in this very costly net, causing even greater injury and trauma. How many families will be caught up in the net before the system gets more efficient nets, ones that don’t entrap the guiltless?

Routine Doctor Visit Leads to Nightmare Experience

The Debskis’ saga began on a Thursday night in early April. Bethany was at work at a neighborhood restaurant, and Andrew was reading a bedtime story to his little girls, Clarity, 9 months, and Sadie, 5. Clarity fell backwards off her sister’s bed, landing on her head on the hardwood floor. At the time, there were no apparent injuries, but he called his wife anyway. Because Clarity was acting fine, Bethany stayed at work, and came home at midnight. The baby showed no symptoms, and went to sleep as normal. When her mother got home, the baby woke up to breastfeed, as usual. Bethany noted a “squishy bump,” not a goose-egg bump, on the top of her head where she hit the floor, but that was the only thing that was different. They called the nurse-line at

HDVCH, and were advised to keep a watch on her, checking with her doctor the following day. Their physician wasn't able to get them in until Monday. No one they spoke with seemed overly concerned, and Clarity's behavior was normal. When the doctor examined her, he didn't seem concerned. However, after consulting with a colleague, he scheduled an appointment for the Debskis to take Clarity to Metro hospital for a CT scan. Several hours later, their doctor called and said that the CT scan showed a skull fracture. Though he assured them that the baby was improving, they needed to go to a different hospital, HDVCH, for an MRI, he told them. When they arrived, the MRI was never done. Instead, the staff did full-body x-rays on Clarity; and it quickly became apparent that they were looking for signs of possible abuse. The baby was admitted to the hospital, but no treatment was ordered. Bethany lay down on the bed to nurse Clarity.

CPS Harasses Parents – Takes Away Breast-fed Baby from Nursing Mother

That was when four police officers, a social worker, and others came into the room. They took pictures of the baby, and interrogated both parents separately. They did saliva drug tests on both Andrew and Bethany. Andrew's test fell apart into pieces in his mouth, and then fell on the floor when he took it out of his mouth. The CPS worker put it in the bag anyway. Then, she informed them that they had a petition to take custody of Clarity, and that Andrew and Bethany would have to leave the hospital. Bethany's parents were called to stay with the baby. CPS also sent Sadie to stay with the other set of grandparents.

False Tests and Accusations

Bethany's drug test came back negative. Andrew had informed the CPS worker that he was on medication for a health condition. He expected that it would show up in the test. However, the test failed to show the properly prescribed medication that was definitely in his system, yet showed positive for cocaine, a drug he has never used. Later drug tests showed the truth, but he stood accused based on a test that had fallen on the ground, one which showed both a false positive and a false negative. The family was in turmoil, confused, hurt, and angry. A police officer drove Bethany home. According to Bethany, he assured them "that it would be over soon, and that situations like this, unfortunately, happen to many great parents that he has witnessed."

Parents Found Innocent



The Debski Family.

It did eventually get straightened out. After 14 hours of the exclusively breastfed baby being separated from her mother, Bethany was allowed to be with Clarity. At that point,

officials determined that she wasn't home when the alleged "abuse" happened, so she could be around her children again. CPS decided that she and the children needed to move in with her parents, while Andrew stayed at the family home. The neurologist at the hospital had assured the Debskis, before all the chaos happened, that Clarity was fine and that he expected only improvement. It was only later in a hearing that the Debskis learned that the child abuse physician had reported that her injuries could be life threatening if she were discharged from the hospital. At the June 19 hearing, another doctor reported that Clarity's injuries were consistent with the accident that happened. The petition for custody by the state was dismissed as unsubstantiated.

Fighting to Clear Name Wrongly Accused of Child Abuse

For six weeks, an innocent family suffered incredible turmoil, because they were "like dolphins caught in a net," one designed to catch abusive parents, not parents of a child who has an accident. Yet, even then their troubles were not over. Andrew's name was placed on the National Registry for Child Abuse and Neglect. It has only been last month that his name was finally cleared, after months of phone calls and letters. Finally, everything has been expunged from the records. After the Debskis sent numerous letters to Congressmen and the state office of the CPS, they received a phone call from the local CPS last week, acknowledging that mistakes were made in the handling of their case and apologizing to them. They told Bethany that they are working to repair the problems within their system. A breastfeeding baby was separated from her mother for more than 12 hours while the system figured out that mother hadn't done anything wrong. Bethany was also accused of

“not practicing safe sleep,” because the social worker walked in on her lying down next to her baby as she nursed her to sleep. Two sets of grandparents and a small child were awakened in the middle of the night while CPS assigned everyone to the places they wanted them.

Hospital Bills for Unwanted Treatments Ordered by CPS

To add insult to injury, the hospital that falsely accused them has billed the Debskis for the full-body scan that was ordered because of abuse allegations, as well as for the overnight hospital stay. Clarity was not even treated during the hospital stay. Bethany says that some on the hospital staff seemed more concerned with building a case than they were about treating Clarity’s injuries. HDVCH continues to deny any wrongdoing. Since *Health Impact News* began investigating this story, the hospital has called Bethany and offered to cut the bill in half, due to “miscommunication.” The Debskis are still expected to pay the remainder of the bill.

Innocent People Have Lives Admittedly Destroyed by CPS for the “Greater Good”

The Debskis are sharing their story to show how innocent people can get horribly caught up in the system. The power of CPS is virtually unchecked. In this cruel system, parents are guilty until proven innocent, and children pay the price. Bethany says, “Just because it is legal for them to act that way, does not make it right.” Though the child abuse doctor compares innocent parents like the Debskis to dolphins being caught in the net, they aren’t dolphins. They are people – parents who love their children and seek help for them when they are sick or injured. Hundreds of other

innocent parents are caught up in this cruel net. Some of them never get free. There is something wrong with a system that believes that it is acceptable to destroy good families in the search for abusive families. The entity assigned to protect children from abuse has itself become an abusive tyrant.

Michigan CPS Seeking to Force Measles Vaccine on 4 Small Kids Against Desire of Parents



Health Impact News Editor Comments

The Detroit Free Press is reporting today that Child Protection Services has taken four small children away from their parents, and that a court appointed attorney is asking a judge to force the children to receive the measles vaccine, even though the biological parents do not want them to receive it.

Attorney in neglect case seeks measles shots for kids

By [L.L. Brasier](#)
[Detroit Free Press](#)

Excerpts:

A judge will decide within days whether to order four small children in an Oakland County family to be immunized for measles, against the wishes of their parents, who are fighting to retain rights to the children.

Child protective service workers were seeking to terminate the parental rights of Brian and Amy Kenny of Highland Township, who have a long history of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child neglect, when they learned the four children, ages 10 and under, had not been inoculated against the measles.

Clarkston attorney H. Elliot Parnes, appointed by the court to represent the three girls and one boy, said he planned to file a motion today asking a family court judge to order that the children be immunized against the virus. The children, temporary wards of the court, are living with grandparents. The motion will be heard before Oakland County Circuit Court judge Lisa Langton on Feb. 11.

Attorney Daniel Bagdade, representing Brian Kenny in the termination hearing, said Kenny was adamantly opposed to inoculations after researching the matter and talking to parents of autistic children, who blame the immunizations for the condition.

“He feels he has done his due diligence and is adamant about his position and feels that the court making him do this is a violation of his rights,” Bagdade said, noting that parents nationwide were making the same decision against the vaccine, yet faced no court action. “No court, to my knowledge has ever ruled that it is illegal or neglectful to not get your kids immunized. We’re moving into some new

territory here.”

Read the [Full Story here](#).

[Lisa Langton – Deputy Court Administrator](#)

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Medical Kidnapping of Twins Reported in Michigan



Image from [WDIV Detroit](#).

UPDATE 6/18/2015

After 2 and a half months, the Geers have their twins back.
Full report at [ClickOnDetroit](#).

Video no longer available.

Original Story: WDIV in Detroit Michigan is reporting on a medical kidnapping in Novi Michigan (outskirts of Detroit).

Video no longer available.

Video highlights from transcript at [Click On Detroit](#)

TONY AND MELISSA ARE PLEADING TO GET THEIR FIVE CHILDREN BACK AFTER CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES TOOK THEM AWAY.

THEY SAID TWO OF THE CHILDREN HAD INJURIES, BUT THE PARENTS SAY THEY HAVE BRITTLE BONES. THEY WERE IN COURT AND HAD A LOT OF SUPPORTERS WITH THEM, TOO.

THE GEARS SAY LAST NIGHT THEY WERE LOVING PARENTS AND CAME HERE TODAY WITH SUPPORTERS AND BEING CALLED DEFENDANTS TODAY. THIS COUPLE HAS MASSIVE SUPPORT FROM THEIR COMMUNITY SAYING THIS COUPLE ABSOLUTELY WOULD NOT HURT ANY OF THEIR CHILDREN.

WITH POLICE THERE, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES REMOVED THEIR FIVE BOYS FROM THEIR NOVI HOME LAST NIGHT. JOSEPH, NOAH, WYATT, TWO PREMIES, JUST 4 MONTHS OLD, A MOVE THAT DOZENS OF SUPPORTERS SAY IS DESTROYING A GOOD FAMILY.

THE OLDER BOYS WILL BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE FAMILY HOME. THEIR GRANDMOTHER WILL BE LIVING WITH THEM. THE BABIES WILL BE OUT AWAY FROM THE PARENTS AND THEY'LL BE WITH THEIR AUNT. MELISSA GEAR BREAST-FEEDS. (She can only see her babies twice a week.)

Rick Snyder is the governor of Michigan, and [he can be reached here](#).

Please visit [Click On Detroit](#) to give them some positive traffic to this story, and then [contact them](#) and thank them for covering this story and exposing CPS and medical kidnapping. We need more media stations around the U.S. reporting these stories.

Police in Michigan Seize 6 Children Because Family Was Camping in Tents



by [Off The Grid News Staff](#)

Excerpts:

A Michigan family which had dreams of camping during the summer in the great outdoors was horrified when state officials seized their six children simply because they were temporarily living in tents, *Off The Grid News* has learned.

The nightmare experience for Christopher and Antonia Hernandez began May 19 when Otsego County sheriff deputies and a CPS official took their children, and ended June 10 when their children were returned after the parents won a court ruling based on the fact the mother and children

are eligible for enrollment in the Tlingit Native American tribe. The federal Indian Child Welfare Act makes it more difficult for state officials to separate Native American families. Michigan has a similar state law.

If the family had not had the Tlingit link, the case still would be ongoing, with the children still in foster care.

But the removal never should have taken place, Christopher and Antonia told *Off The Grid News*, which has read the court documents – one of which criticizes the family for not having electricity or a water source. The family was near a state park and had purchased a pass to shower and bathe there. The parents also had a generator.

They had been living in the tents for nine days when police arrived.

“The government has tried to standardize what a home is and what a home must have, without consideration for if the children’s needs are being met or not,” Christopher and Antonia said in a joint statement. “This was not a case of neglect, but a case of the government telling us how we have to raise our children — that we must have running water, we must have electricity and we can’t stay in a tent for the summer. To the government it makes no difference if the children are happy and healthy. We need to conform to their idea of normal or they can take your children away.”

Read the [full story at OffTheGridNews.com](https://www.offthegridnews.com)

Michigan Family Traumatized by CPS in Medical Kidnapping of Twins



Geers twins. Image supplied by family.

Health Impact News Editor Comments

We were able to report on the Geer family's fight with CPS in Michigan back in April of this year (2015), because the local media in Detroit did a great job in publishing their story. The Geers were more fortunate than most of the families we have reported on who have had their children medically kidnapped by the State due to a doctor's testimony, as their community was outraged and showed tremendous support, and the local media also did their job in covering the story. See:

Medical Kidnapping of Twins Reported in Michigan

Melissa Geer recently contacted Health Impact News to give their full story. The Geer family story is an example of how the new pediatric specialty of *Child Abuse Specialist* is tearing apart innocent families. The Geer family story is also a great example of how local communities need to stick together and fight for their families against government medical tyranny.

A Nightmare Experience for One Family in Michigan

by **Melissa Geer**
Special to Health Impact News

On November 8th 2014 we decided to have our Christmas tree and house decorating party – earlier than usual as I had a feeling the babies would arrive early. On this very day contractions started and didn't stop getting closer and closer. That evening we put our older 3 boys to bed and explained that the babies may be arriving soon.

Twins Born Premature via C-section

After 24 hours of trying unsuccessfully to stop labor I went in for c-section to deliver Joshua and Thomas 7 weeks early.

Despite their prematurity and low birth weights they were doing amazing. We knew right away Joshua had some similar facial characteristics of our 3 year old son with Goldenhar Syndrome and it was confirmed 3 days later.

After a month in the hospital the boys came home. Joshua was having some abnormal blood work, noted to have small kidneys and within a week of discharge his pediatrician became concerned that his metopic bone may have fused prematurely and a week later it was confirmed he had craniosyntosis. Within a day of this news and researching this condition and the surgery needed we knew there had to be other options and Tony found a non invasive neurosurgery option at our home away from home Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Surgery Needed for Twin with Craniosyntosis

In a week's time we drove to Ohio and met this amazing surgeon and knew that not only was the surgery easier, it had more success and recovery much quicker. This was the best place for our baby. We made arrangements for surgery the following week.

The day before we were scheduled to leave, Joshua developed a horrible case of RSV. His breathing was incredibly labored getting worse by the minute and was transported to Mott Children's Hospital by ambulance. He spent 8 days in the hospital recovery and his surgery was cancelled. Thomas also developed RSV and was able to recover at home.

We then had to wait 5 weeks for Joshua to fully recover before the surgery could be rescheduled which also put us at the maximum age he could be to have this non invasive procedure. We kept the kids in as much of a bubble as we could while we waited.

On March 2nd, surgery was scheduled and despite some abnormal labs they were able to proceed and succeed. There is nothing like watching an infant no bigger than your hand

go in an OR to have “brain surgery.”

I was so sick that morning. I wasn't sure if it was nerves or the flu as it could have been either. The following evening Joshua was discharged and we stayed a night at Ronald McDonald house to be sure he recovered well before traveling home to MI.

Post-surgery X-rays Allegedly Reveal Fractured Ribs Caused by Abuse

That night Joshua started to vomit a bit, and after debating do we or don't we, we decided to take him to the ER to be sure all was well before we traveled home. I was reluctant to take him to the ER after brain surgery for risk of infection, germs, but we wanted to be safe before driving home.

After deciding to do an X-ray of Joshua's abdomen to be sure his throwing up was viral, the Doctor came in the room and we knew right away something was not right.

We knew this look as we have experienced it many times before. We basically had to beg her to spit it out but never in a million years did I expect what she said. “It appears Joshua has multiple rib fractures that could only most likely be caused by abuse. We have contacted social work, we would like to ask you some questions, get more X-rays, a cat scan and blood work.”

Everything was a blur. The day went on and we found out that Joshua only had 1 fracture and they had seen shadows and that his blood work was a little concerning so they called hematology. ...It appeared that we would be discharged as they were not concerned and then after a long day they came in and told us they had to contact CPS in Michigan and they

would follow up with us the next day.

Distraught Mother and Father Do Everything to Comply with the Ongoing Investigation



Geers family. Image supplied by family.

That night my husband and I laid at the Ronald McDonald House in each others arms, and cried and thought what in the world is happening and what would happen. Do we need an attorney, what kind of attorney, what could have happened?? In the end we knew the truth would prevail.

The next day we arrived home and were greeted by CPS and asked to take all children including Thomas to Mott Children's Hospital to be checked out. We of course complied trying to keep the kids calm and not concerned.

All kids checked out and Thomas went through a skeletal survey and came back all good. The ER doctor told me to keep doing what we were doing and I laughed and said, "Can I record that?"

We thought well this sucks but they are doing what they need to do. This is what I do so I understand mandated reporting, better be safe.... as hard as it was I got it.

We were on a voluntary safety plan where my sister, brother-in-law or mom needed to be with us at all times. This was supposed to be 3 days, and then time kept going by. We asked what the holdup was and were told they needed another opinion. We thought this was strange but it must be procedure.

Children Seized and Traumatized by Police and CPS on Testimony of Doctor Who Never Examined Them

They couldn't get the X-rays from Cincinnati so Tony took a day off work and drove down round trip to get the X-rays disk. We handed it over and 5 days later my doorbell rang at 5:40 p.m. and I looked outside to see 3 police officers and 2

CPS workers who explained that they were removing the children from our care as this doctor that never met our kids says Thomas has 5 rib fractures most likely caused by abuse.

See: [Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?](#)

Imagine this moment for a second. I have 2 boys ages 9, and 8 running into their room to hide and a 3 year old asking what is wrong. My world is crashing and I am trying to calm and reassure them, call my husband to bring the babies home from the sitters, call my sister to tell her the babies are coming to her house, pack bags for everyone, figure out cars and car seats all while shaking uncontrollably being told I need to go to court the next day at 1 p.m. as the state is filing a petition to terminate our parental rights.

Just writing this brings a stress no parent should ever experience and most thankfully never will. I will forever have this image engraved but most importantly Joe and Noah will never forget.

As I buckled my bigger boys into a stranger’s car I stopped and prayed with them. I told them Mom and Dad would do everything we needed to get our family back together, that the truth would prevail, God would protect us and we would have an army of friends and family to help us reunite.

I told them to be strong because I know they are and to always be respectful because that is how we raised you. With those words I kissed my boys and said good bye, walked in my house and fell to my knees and cried a cry I have never cried and hope to never cry again.

The Fight to Return the Children to our Custody



Geers family reunited. Image supplied by family.

I then spent the next 12 hours trying to find an attorney and prepare for court the next day at 1 p.m.

The months that followed were filled with such emotional

turmoil. My kids were separated. Babies with grandma and bigs with Aunt Michelle and Uncle Doug, we moved out of our house to allow the big kids to have as much normal as they could.

I spent every moment I had trying to figure out how to reassure the kids, spend as much time as I could with them and learn as much as I could about the law and medicine.

I knew we never hurt our kids, as they are our whole reason for being, so what was wrong? I would spend my morning with the babies, go to work for a few hours in the afternoon, be home for the big kids when they got out of school, say good night to bigs, go and say goodnight to babies and then drive out to White Lake.

I would then spend hours at night reading every article I could find, talking to other families, and contacting doctors to ask for help. I would then compile packets of medical information and X-ray disks and ship them off to experts around the U.S. in hopes they would be able to find what was going on with my babies. Then I would get up the next day and do it all over again.

My focus was solely on keeping my kids as content as I could and finding an explanation for the fractures. I would have these moments of complete devastation and outright panic in the reality of what was happening.

I remember being in CVS one day and the reality of the State of Michigan wanting to terminate my parental rights hit me. I became paralyzed and sobbed uncontrollably thinking I was going to collapse and trying to figure out who I could call to come get me. This on top of the countless nights I cried myself to sleep in Tony's arms.

Everything we do is for them. How this could be happening to us was beyond my comprehension.

Faith, Family & Friends

We would not have made it through this horrific events without these 3 things. I can not express in words how much these three things meant to us. I would say daily that I didn't know how people would get through without these 3 things. I felt so weak but these things kept me strong.

To watch my 9 year old experience a full out panic attack, and my 8 year old hold me so tight I couldn't breathe begging me to stay the night, and my 3 year old ask me nightly why I couldn't stay with him because this was our house. Then to have 2 breastfeeding babies who could only see their dad for like an hour a day and mom not much more than that at a crucial time of bonding with us – there is nothing more heart breaking.

Despite these awful realities we choose every night to focus on our amazing family, taking care of our precious cargo, the ability to keep them out of “foster” care, stay in or close to home, and see us daily along with supportive employers that stuck with us in a time of complete chaos and change.

Victory: “We Have Won this Battle, but our War is not Over”

On June 15th we turned over our discovery to include 8 expert witnesses all indicating the twins suffered from a metabolic bone disease and rickets of prematurity. After reviewing these reports on June 18th the state withdrew their petition and our nightmare ended. Sadly for many others they are still battling.



Geers family celebrating reunification. Image supplied by family.

We have won this battle but our War is not over, and we hope many of you will want to assist and look at the bigger picture here.

We always understood the need to protect the children and investigation. In fact, we tried to assist in this process as much as we could.

We Do Not Believe it is OK to Tear Apart Innocent Families in Hopes to Find Abusive Ones

The first problem is the lack of investigation.

Once a doctor who never met us or our kids said there could be abuse – the investigation was over. Nobody took the time to get to know our kids, Tony, myself, my pregnancy or details of the twins medical history. In fact, our pediatrician tried to contact them and offer additional info about the twins vitamin D levels, and they simply said, “Sorry, its in

the courts hands.”

When I would talk to doctors that wanted to help, they would spend 10 minutes with me on the phone and be in disbelief that our kids were removed.

Between my health history, and the twins prematurity and health problems, they said we were a perfect storm for fragile bones. My response was always the same –“I don’t think they know because nobody took the time to ask or find out.” And I didn’t know as this is all new to me.

Problem number 2 is that Child Abuse Doctors are trained and paid to only find child abuse.

They are supposed to rule out differential diagnoses such as metabolic bone diseases, which Josh’s labs clearly indicated. Thomas’s labs weren’t even completed until 3 weeks after the kids were removed, despite the recommendation the day after removal.

One of the doctors claiming we abused our kids didn’t even have that lab work, and never met the twins or myself. He knew nothing about the type of pregnancy I had.

There is no data on unexplained fractures in infants, as infants are not routinely X-rayed. The question becomes, what if we randomly X-rayed infants on a regular basis? Many doctors concur that we would be seeing a lot of unexplained fractures. We just don’t know how easy it is to fracture because we don’t X-ray.

It is a lie to say that these babies experienced pain and discomfort (due to these hidden fractures.) I can assure mine did not. Had it not been for Joshua’s vomiting and us being

cautious, we would have never discovered these fractures.

Problem number 3: the lack of rights for parents in family court. In this system when you are charged in family court of child abuse, it is up to you to prove your innocence. They can remove your kids based on hearsay, and you are guilty until proven innocent. So many people don't have the knowledge or resources to accomplish this fight. This is not right.

The New “Child Abuse Specialist”: Wreaking Havoc on American Families

I have watched many TV shows in my life where people are falsely accused, and I always thought that would be so awful. Let me tell you, there is nothing worse than being accused of abusing the kids that you would lay down your life for.

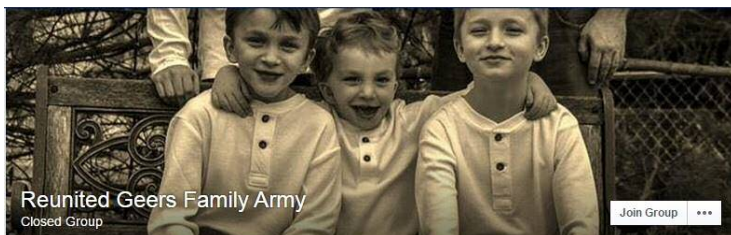
Sadly, people are convicted criminally of this crime with no evidence other than a child abuse pediatrician claiming child abuse, and many other families lose their children for months or years as they try to prove their innocence.

How does a system set up to protect children not take into consideration the fact that what they are doing potentially causes an irreversible emotional damage that nothing could repair?

Why do we think “better safe than sorry” when innocent families are being torn apart so we can be “safe”? The truth is we were in a voluntary safety plan and we complied and understood. In fact we wanted to help. Was it necessary to show up at my house with 3 police officers unannounced and traumatize my kids forever?

We acknowledge CPS workers have a difficult job and they

have a lot of responsibility. This is an unbelievable weight on their shoulders. But why do we jump? Why can't we look at the whole picture? Why is what they do more important than what our family went through – unjustly?



The Geer Family [Facebook Group](#).

Parents Protest Medical Kidnappings in Michigan



Parents protesting University of Michigan Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” who take children away from parents wrongfully. Video capture image from wxyz.com ABC 7.

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

Parents in Michigan traveled to Ann Arbor Michigan this week to protest medical kidnappings, where doctors conspire with Child Protection Services to take children away from parents based solely on a doctor’s opinion of “medical abuse.” The protest took place at the University of Michigan Board of Regents.

One of the parents who spoke out was Melissa Geers, a Michigan mother who had her 5 children removed from their home after a doctor found one of their prematurely born

twins with broken ribs. A “Child Abuse Specialist,” a specialty doctor trained just to find abuse, made the diagnosis based on x-rays, and had never examined the child nor the parents. Another doctor later determined that the twins had “brittle bone” disease, and the children were eventually returned to their parents.

Melissa wrote an article for Health Impact News chronicling their ordeal here:

Michigan Family Traumatized by CPS in Medical Kidnapping of Twins

Melissa was also interviewed by the [local media](#) while protesting in Ann Arbor:

Video no longer available.

Some quotes:

My oldest is old enough to know what happened. And he was wearing his Tae Kwon Do uniform the day he was removed, and won't go back to Tae Kwon Do. My 8-year-old runs when the doorbell rings. My 4-year-old asks me every time I leave the house if I'm coming back.

As we have documented on our Medical Kidnap site, even when children are returned to their parents after a wrongful removal by CPS, the trauma remains. The parents in Michigan were protesting a new pediatric specialty where certain pediatricians specialize in finding child abuse, usually by simply reviewing documents and not interviewing the family. Their very specialty and funding depends upon

them finding abuse, often where it may not be present, failing to consider other causes of trauma that are not caused by abusive parents.

For more information on this new pediatric specialty, see the Health Impact News special report:

Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?

Even the mainstream media is beginning to recognize that medical designations such as “Shaken Baby Syndrome” are responsible for putting innocent parents behind bars, and losing their children. The New York Times this week ran an investigative report:

Shaken Baby Syndrome: A Diagnosis That Divides the Medical World

Here is the ABC 7 report of the parent demonstration in Ann Arbor:

Video no longer available.

20 Year Old Autistic Girl in Michigan Medically Kidnapped Over Treatment Disagreement



Hannah G has a smile that lights up the room. Source: [#freehannahg Facebook page](#)

UPDATE: 10/9/2015

As of late this afternoon, Hannah is FREE! We don't yet know the details, but we will update as soon as we can. What we do know is this, from the #FreeHannahG Facebook page:

Besides having a mother and siblings who would NEVER give up, a family that pulled together and formed an amazing circle of support, friends and colleagues that took a stand...and an amazing legal team...and YOUR support, I

believe that she freed herself by being an amazing self-advocate. She still managed to touch hearts and make us all laugh from her not-so-royal tower on the 7th floor. This is the time to breathe, thank God and be grateful that she is home. Once the family has had time to rest after this 40 day hell on Earth, they will release a statement that will answer those questions.

Also, we received word that a copy of this article was sent to Michigan Lt. Governor Brian Calley as soon as it was published, and that he read it.

To all who worked hard for Hannah's freedom, thank you. This is a beautiful testament to what families, communities, and the public can do to fight for freedom for families faced with the injustice and cruelty of medical kidnapping. Sadly, there are many more stories like this. Each victim needs advocates to speak out for them and fight for their freedom.

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

Savannah Garcia, or Hannah, as she is known to those who love her, is a fun-loving young lady who is an important part of her community in Traverse City, Michigan. The 20 year old is a regular fixture at her neighborhood ballpark, where she cheers on her favorite players, and she is well-loved by all who know her. She loves her dog, her family and friends, stuffed animals, frappes, and her fiance. Even though she is autistic, she has been living in an apartment attended by a care team, and has been involved in making many of her own choices.

Until September 4, 2015.

That was the day that 2 doctors at Munson Medical Center filed a petition to remove Hannah's mother as her guardian and to name a person completely unknown to the family, Stephanie Strehl, as her guardian. Health Impact has learned that psychiatrist Dr. Marilyn Conlon and internist Dr. Hal Yost are the physicians behind the charges, yet reportedly they have still not yet consulted with, or even spoken to, Hannah's long term primary care physician. Nor have they fully reviewed Hannah's records, according to her attorney Calvin Luker, reported by the [Traverse City Record-Eagle](#). Yet their chosen guardian has taken away all semblance of choice and basic civil liberties from Hannah.

How Hannah Wound Up as a Prisoner at Munson Hospital

According to a [press release](#) issued by the RespectABILITY Law Center,

Hannah has a medical condition, Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension, where pressure builds in her brain causing painful, punishing headaches. In 2012, surgeons installed a shunt to drain the fluid that causes the pressure.

Sometimes these shunts need adjustments, which is called a "shunt revision." The details of the summer of 2015 may be found in the press release, but it comes down to this: on several occasions, beginning in May 2015, Hannah began having severe headaches. Always under consultation with her primary care doctor and neurosurgeon, her mother took her to 3 different hospitals on different occasions where objective medical testing revealed that there was an increase in intracranial pressure, which was causing debilitating

headaches. Each time that surgery was performed, they found a medical reason for her severe pain, including a blockage in the tubing with cells. Another time, the tubing itself had become disconnected, and had to be repaired.

On the latest discharge on August 30, she was sent home with “significant pain prescriptions.” At this point, her family requested palliative care to manage these pain medications, because her normal caregivers are not able to oversee narcotic pain relievers, according to information on the [#freehannahg](#) Facebook page. This request would later be interpreted as a request for Hospice care, rather than palliative care, because such care is actually administered by Hospice of Northern MI.

In less than 24 hours at home, Hannah was screaming, “My head hurts!” A nurse practitioner took her to Munson Hospital on August 31, because it was the closest one to her. Munson had not previously been involved in her care, and the physicians allegedly blamed Hannah’s behavior on her autism. Those who knew her recognized that her behavior was uncharacteristic. Munson doctors’ solution was to double her dose of morphine.

When Hannah slept through a scheduled dose of morphine, her family noticed that she appeared “markedly improved.” They began to refuse subsequent doses. It turned out that Hannah had been having an adverse reaction to the morphine. After 18 hours morphine-free, “She was her happy cheerful self again.”



Just about every picture with Hannah shows a happy, fun-loving young lady. She misses her life, and wants it back. Source: #freehannahg Facebook page

Munson Doctors Disagree With Previous Care of Hannah and Medically Kidnap Her

Hannah hadn't even been in Munson for half a day before 2 doctors, Dr. Marilyn Conlon, psychiatrist, and Dr. Hal Yost, internist, began questioning the previous hospitalizations and shunt revisions. By September 2, without consulting Hannah's primary care physician or any of the neurosurgeons who performed the shunt revisions, they began seeking to get her mother out of the picture as Hannah's guardian.

On September 4, they succeeded in persuading Judge Larry Nelson to remove her mother as guardian and place a stranger to the family, Stephanie Strehl, over her care. Since

that day, Hannah has been effectively held prisoner at Munson Medical Center.

According to Hannah's attorney, Calvin Luker, the hospital staff:

...did so without introducing one page of medical records into evidence. They entered no evidence that the doctors or hospitals who treated Hannah performed any hospital procedures without objective diagnostic proof that the procedures were medically necessary. In fact, the only testimony questioning Hannah's need for spring/summer neurosurgery was the subjective opinions by a Munson Hospital internist and psychiatrist who only knew Hannah for four days at the time the petition had been filed and who have no personal knowledge of what medical treatment Hannah received prior to her August 31st hospitalization.

He states that he is challenging the judge's order,

because many of the facts upon which it was issued are false and it deprives Hannah of her right to counsel.

Ms. Brown is a caregiver who has been a part of the health team caring for Hannah since she was a little girl. She met Hannah and her family when Hannah was just a year old. To Ms. Brown, it is:

really frightening that two people can have that much power over somebody else's life.

She calls it a “lack of academic humility.” She notes that this truly could happen to anybody with a disability, which is scary to many of Hannah’s advocates.



Source: [#freehannahg Facebook page](#)

Munchausen by Proxy and “Doctor Shopping”

No charges have been filed, but the Munson doctors have accused Hannah’s mother of Munchausen by Proxy, a condition which many have called “quack” science, and a convenient accusation for getting parents out of the way who dare question doctors or ask for a second opinion. No doctor has examined Hannah’s mother in order to reach such a conclusion.

Other parents who have simply advocated for their children with complex medical conditions include a number whose stories we have reported, such as Michelle Rider, Melissa Diegel, the Pelletiers, Lakisha Tanna, and Jessica Gilmore, among others. See:

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

[10 and 12 Year Old Sisters Seized from Family by Hospital in Phoenix](#)

[Boston Hospital Seizes 15 Year Old From Parents Over Medical Treatment Disagreement](#)

[Chicago Lurie Children's Hospital Takes Baby Away From Family for Seeking a Second Opinion](#)

[17 Month Old Baby Taken from Family for Disagreeing with Doctors](#)

Advocates want to know how a mother can be accused of causing conditions that have real medical causes, as verified by objective testing. Ms. Brown says that she asked a doctor if there was any possible way that Hannah's mother could have done anything to cause her daughter's intracranial pressure, but was told that it would not have been possible. She also says that the doctors were the ones telling the family that the shunt was the only way to relieve the pressure in Hannah's head that was causing her so much pain.

Ms. Brown says that neurosurgeons tend to be an "arrogant breed." As laughable as it is, she wonders how Hannah's mother could be so powerful and persuasive that 3 different neurosurgeons could be so easily manipulated by her to perform unnecessary brain surgery. Should these surgeons be offended by Conlon and Yost's accusation against Garcia, which are, in effect, an indictment against their own medical judgment?

When doctors or social workers accuse a parent of Munchausen by Proxy, it is not uncommon for them to throw out the term "doctor shopping." Parents of children with

mysterious or rare illnesses maintain that they are simply seeking answers, and trying to find the best possible care for their child. This advocacy is a mark of good parenting, not bad, yet their efforts are turned against them and twisted into something it is not.

According to Luker:

Parents feel like they are damned if they do and damned if they don't. If they take their kids to the doctor, then someone is going to say they overreact and don't know how to care for their child. If they don't take them and something happens, someone is going to accuse them of neglecting their child.

Advocates point out that, even if Hannah's mother were guilty of causing the problems, Hannah's civil and Constitutional rights are still being violated. What her mother does or doesn't do is irrelevant at this point, because there are easily at least 8 to 10 relatives and close friends who are capable and willing to step in to bring Hannah home, and oversee her care. Yet, the court-appointed guardian holds all the control, and does not appear to be answerable to anyone.

Doctors Want to Put Hannah into an Adult Foster Care Home

Hannah has been medically ready for discharge since mid-September, but the guardian and hospital refuse to release her to her own home or to live with family or friends. In her apartment, she was attended by a support system from Community Mental Health. But the guardian has fired that entire staff, and has blocked their access to her. They want

to institutionalize her against her will into an Adult Foster Care home, a move which her attorney says could violate her rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

He says that this will expose her to “physical, medical and emotional harm.” Advocates report that Community Mental Health says that such a facility is inappropriate to meet her needs. She has the legal right to live in the “least restrictive setting” that will meet her needs. Family and friends say that is in her community surrounded by people she loves and who love her. According to Luker,

She’s already shown she can live safely in her current environment. To take her into foster care is going to jeopardize all the factors on which her stable life depends.



Source: [#freehannahg Facebook page](#)

Physician-chosen Guardian Isolates Hannah From Her Entire Life and Denies Her Basic Civil Rights

Michigan has a code of rights retained by mental health patients, but these rights (listed [here](#)), and some of her basic human rights, are allegedly being violated by the new guardian and Munson Hospital. The young lady who loves the warmth of the sun on her face hasn't been outside of Munson Medical Center for over a month. Instead, she is confined to her room and a "family room" on the 7th floor of the hospital.

She hasn't been allowed to see or pet her therapy dog. She hasn't been able to go for a walk or go to the ballpark, where, until now, Hannah was a regular fixture.

The guardian, Stephanie Strehl, has forbidden every single one of Hannah's friends to see her. Her family, including her brother and grandparents, aren't allowed to visit her. Her mother has been the only loved one permitted by the new guardian to visit her, for 3 hours per day. At the end of last week, Hannah's sister was granted the privilege of visiting her for up to 1 hour a day. She lives and attends medical school 5 hours round-trip away.

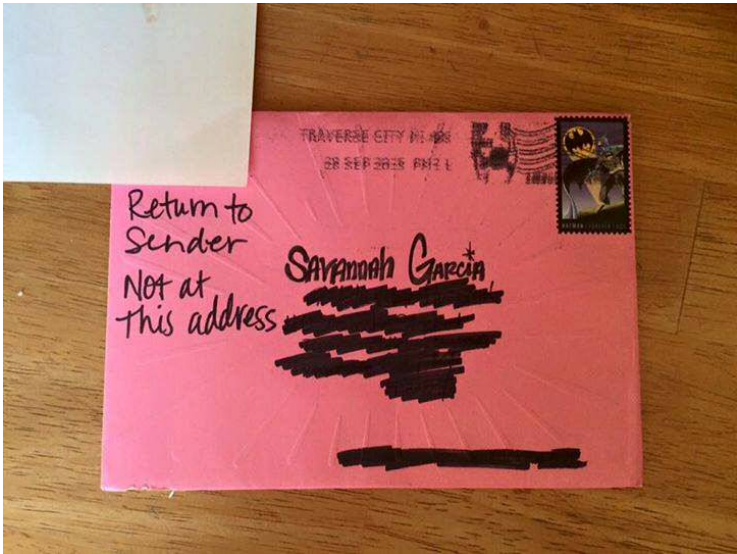
Her attorney can see her, IF he notifies them 48 hours in advance, and then he is only allowed 30 minutes.

When she goes to the bathroom or takes a shower, she isn't even allowed to shut the door.

She isn't permitted to attend meetings where people other than her family are making decisions for her life and future. Therapies that were previously scheduled before her

confinement at Munson have allegedly been cancelled, and her caregivers all dismissed.

Even the right to receive mail, another right retained by convicted felons, has been taken away from Hannah since around September 21.



When friends try to send Hannah cards and mail, they come back returned, with the address blacked out. Even prisoners can receive mail. Not Hannah. Source: [#freehannahg Facebook page](#)

Local Community Rallies for Freedom for Their Hannah

The community has come together to rally for Hannah's freedom. Friends and family have been standing outside of the hospital, where Hannah can see them from the 7th story

family room on the only floor of the hospital where she has been allowed to be for the past month. Every day, rain or shine, supporters stand outside peacefully from 3:30 to 6:00 pm, holding up signs and waving to Hannah. Passersby honk their horns. They want her to know that she has not been forgotten.

College students from Grand Valley State University have made signs to [#FreeHannahG](#).

She is sorely missed by the community, the people who saw her every day. Ms. Brown reports that Hannah has always been a delight to everyone around her. She is the kind of girl where “everybody knows her name.” Ms. Brown teared up explaining the effect Hannah has on people and how much she is missed.

They walk away and they're joyful. THAT'S what she does for people.

This town NEEDS Savannah [Hannah] around.

She needs to go to the ballpark. How can anyone have fun at the ballpark without her?

Link no longer available.

How You Can Help

If you live in the area, supporters invite you to join them at the corner of Sixth and Beaumont, where they are determined to rally every day from 3:30 to 6 pm until Hannah comes home.

There is a Facebook page set up to follow the story and find out more ways to help at [#freehannahg](#), which is also the Twitter hashtag that supporters are using.



Hannah loves dogs, so a separate Facebook page has been set up for the public to send photos and drawings of dogs to encourage her in her isolation – [Dog Pictures for Hannah](#). She is able to see the pictures.

Since mail is not reaching her at the hospital, cards and letters may be sent to P.O. Box 186, Grawn, MI 49637. Her mother will get them and take them to her daughter. Besides dogs, she loves Green Day, Rik Mayall, and anything funny (and in good taste).

The public is also invited to call Governor Rick Snyder's office at (517) 335-7858. He may also be contacted [here](#). His motto is "Getting It Right. Getting It Done." The right thing to do, say supporters, is to free Hannah.

Heartfelt Plea from Hannah's Grandmother

Hannah's grandmother Kendra Barnes penned these powerful words on Thursday, October 8, and shared her heart on the public Facebook page:

As I wake up this morning and plan my day I am reminded of

all the freedom I have to decide where and when I leave the warmth of my home. Then I am reminded that my granddaughter has none of those freedoms I have enjoyed in the last 39 days. Today as I stand on the corner of Sixth and Beaumont, come rain or shine, I chose to do what she can't. How are people able to look into her eyes and treat her as if she is a possession and not a person who has wants, desires, and dreams? How do they sleep at night knowing they have ripped her away from family, friends, and community. This is day 39. I never thought the courts would allow this to drag on and on. There is one thing I am thankful for and it is the staff who care for my Hannah and treat her the way she should be treated. There have been some very wonderful nurses and sitters who truly see our Hannah as the special woman she is and treat her with kindness and dignity. To you, I say thank you from myself, my family, Hannah's friends, and all those working to bring her home. To those of you who take away her dignity, insisting she go to the bathroom and take a shower with the door open, may you never find yourself in the same situation. It is degrading, she has done nothing to deserve this. She is not a criminal, she is a hostage. Please reconsider your choices and put yourself in her place before making such decisions. Simple kindness and respect go a long way in helping this young woman endure what she has been made to endure.

Supporters have put together a shareable YouTube video about Hannah's story:

<https://youtu.be/NLJSAsM4fxY?t=1>

Michigan Teen Medically Kidnapped and Placed in Juvenile Detention Facility as Her Health Deteriorates



Leiani before she got sick. Photo courtesy Santana family.

Update 5/8/2016

Leiani is not free. Nor is her family. The “things that had to be bargained for” means that Leiani may live at home with her step-father and sister, but her mother is forbidden to

live at home. Leiani is not permitted to freely have a relationship with her mother, and CPS defines and limits the time that she can spend with her mother.

See: [Michigan Forces Mom of Medically Kidnapped Teen to Sleep in Car – Issues Gag Order to Keep Story out of the Media](#)

UPDATE 1/23/2016

According to the [Save Leiani Facebook page](#) as of 1/22/2016:

“Leiani is Free! As you might expect there were things that had to be bargained for. We appreciate all of your support.”

You can watch the 7 Action News report [Teen taken by CPS reunited with family after nearly three months in Children’s Village](#) below:

The State of Michigan will still have “exclusive medical decisions” over the care of Leiani. Her step-father says Leiani is “traumatized.”

MedicalKidnap.com also received this request from a Michigan State Representative regarding a Hearing at the State House:

“I am a Representative at the Michigan State House. I am the vice chair of the Committee of Children, Families and Seniors. I am interested in holding hearings on the issue of CPS abuse and over reach. I would be interested in (this) story and the stories of others who have had similar experiences.”

If you have suffered at the hands of CPS corruption in Michigan and want your story known, comment with your story in the comment section.

Michigan Teen Medically Kidnapped and Placed in Juvenile Detention Facility as Her Health Deteriorates

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

Last year Leiani McMichael was an honor student, artist, and a varsity swimmer at her high school. She was a good kid with a great life. Now the Michigan teenager's family fears for her life. The 17 year old was seized from her family by Child Protective Services on November 4, 2015, after the University of Michigan Mott's Children's Hospital called CPS and accused her mother of Munchausen by Proxy. The family and supporters believe that Mott's is trying to cover up their poor care of Leiani. Doctors and social workers are blaming the teen for her debilitating illness, but her mother, Rebecca Campos-Santana, insists that there is no way this is all in her head – it's in her digestive system.

It Started with Abdominal Pain

Before February 2015, Leiani was a healthy, thriving middle-class teenager. She loves dolphins, the Hunger Games, and her dog Cupcake. She lived with her mother, step-father, and little sister. The family ran a dog grooming business.



Leiani swimming with dolphins – summer 2014. Photo courtesy Santana family.

Then, she began having abdominal pain. That is when her roller coaster of health issues began, which has ultimately resulted in CPS taking her away from her family and placing her in Children’s Village – a juvenile detention center.

Her mother took her to Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. X-rays revealed that there was indeed a problem, and she was referred to a gastroenterologist.

When he performed laparoscopy, he found and removed 2 walnut-sized cysts on her fallopian tube, and repaired 2 abdominal hernias. Her appendix was not yet showing significant problems, but it was removed as well. She was discharged on the 3rd day, but she was vomiting. That was chalked up to a virus.

In and Out of the Hospital – No Answers, Still Sick

By the 5th day after surgery, Leiani was still vomiting and her heart was racing. Rebecca took her daughter back to Beaumont Hospital. A week later, a test was performed to check for motility (movement in the digestive system). It wasn't good. It looked like gastroparesis, or delayed gastric emptying. This can sometimes be caused by damage to the vagus nerve. Doctors inserted a TPN feeding tube, so that she could receive IV nutrition.

Her care was transferred to Children's Hospital of Detroit for more testing. Doctors there pulled out the TPN feeding tube. They said that she had irritable bowel syndrome and encouraged her to eat. Despite the fact that Leiani continued vomiting, Children's of Detroit discharged her to go home after 4 1/2 days.

The next day, she was still sick, so Rebecca called her daughter's pediatrician and asked what they should do. The pediatrician recommended that they go to the University of Michigan Mott's Children's Hospital. (They had no idea that the hospital had Child Abuse Specialists on staff, who often seem to find abuse where none exists.) See:

Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?

Testing showed that her stomach was still not emptying properly. U of M inserted a different feeding tube – a nasal one this time. She was discharged a couple days later, still vomiting.

Rebecca took Leiani to see the gastroenterologist who did her

surgery at Beaumont, and he admitted Leiani back into Beaumont hospital. By this time, her body was healed enough from the surgery to do tests that he couldn't do before. He confirmed that she had gastroparesis, and put in a feeding tube that would bypass her stomach.



Leiani after Beaumont, with her dog Cupcake . Photo courtesy Santana family.

She was in and out of emergency rooms due to abdominal pain. Nobody could figure out why she was in so much pain. That didn't happen until months later. Her daughter was hurting, so her mom refused to stop looking for answers.

They went to the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, 5 hours away. The doctors theorized that her vagal nerve had been severed during the hernia surgery, and they acknowledged that Leiani was indeed in great pain.

Before Another Surgery, Leiani Wanted to Visit Dad and Get a Second Opinion

Doctors wanted to surgically insert a feeding tube. Her tube was a nasal tube, with a “bridle” device to hold it in place. Leiani told the doctors that if they were going to “butcher her,” she wanted to go visit her father in California first, and then come back and have that surgery. She also wanted to get a second opinion before taking such a drastic step. It was mid-June.

Nightmare in California

After just 3 days in California, her feeding tube broke. Her dad took her to Miller Children’s Hospital in Long Beach, California, for them to fix the tube. That hospital reportedly had never seen the bridle device before, and they didn’t know how to remove it. Instead of calling Beaumont Hospital to ask them how, they took Leiani into surgery. Things went downhill fast from that point.

Leiani ended up in a coma. Medical records show that she was “comatose, no gag, no response to noxious, auditory, visual stimuli.” When she came out of the coma, she was paralyzed from the neck down and had memory loss. For obvious reasons, Rebecca says that she “freaked out.” She and Leiani’s father wanted to know what the hospital had done to her.



Leiani at Miller Hospital June 2015. Photo courtesy Santana family.

At this point, she was being given only water, no food. Her parents tried to get her to eat. By her 17th day in Miller Hospital, she had lost many pounds.

A new doctor came in at that point. He started the feeding tube again. He figured out the source of much of Leiani's abdominal pain. She was allergic to the formula that she had been given for months. That formula was designed to be

metabolized in the stomach, but her tubes bypassed the stomach and went directly to the jejunum, in the small intestine. She was also allergic to dairy. After he switched her to a different formula for the feeding tube, she finally began getting better.

CPS Shows Up After Teen Refuses Anti-Depressant Drugs

After a month at Miller Children's Hospital, Leiani was released to go back to her dad's house. Her mother had already returned to Michigan. Leiani had only been home for 15 minutes when CPS showed up on their doorstep, accusing her parents of not giving her proper medications. Rebecca reports that the medications that they referred to were anti-depressants. Miller wanted to put her on them in order to "stimulate an appetite." It was Leiani herself, though, who refused the medications:

I'm not taking that. I'm not suicidal. I don't need that.



At Miller Hospital June 2015. Still sick, but not depressed.
Photo courtesy Santana family.

Victim Blaming by Miller Hospital

They found out that Miller Hospital was accusing Leiani of having “conversion disorder.” They allegedly blamed her for everything, that somehow she did this to herself. The National Institute of Health defines conversion disorder as:

a mental condition in which a person has blindness, paralysis, or other nervous system (neurologic) symptoms that cannot be explained by medical evaluation.

However, Leiani was suffering from very real physical symptoms. Much later, when her parents got the medical records from Miller, they learned that, during the surgery, doctors had given her medications that Leiani was allergic to, and she had a very bad reaction. They had also learned that she was allergic to the dairy-based liquid nutrition that she had been prescribed for months, which accounted for much of her abdominal pain.



July 2015 at Miller Hospital. Photo courtesy Santana family.

At that point, CPS let Leiani go back home to her mom in Michigan. Miller Hospital reportedly had not told the parents that Leiani had some neurological issue after the surgery and coma, and would require therapy after she went home.

Seizures Begin

Leiani had no prior history of seizures. When she had her first seizure at home, Rebecca called 911. Leiani was taken to Beaumont Hospital. They didn't find a reason for the seizure. They tossed around the possibility of conversion disorder, but rejected that diagnosis and discharged her.

She had another seizure after going home. Rebecca called the primary care physician and asked what to do. 911 was again the answer, but this time she went to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. They determined that the seizures were coming from her neck and spine, and it was not conversion disorder. However, they were reportedly not equipped to do the proper testing.

They transferred her care to University of Michigan Mott's Children's Hospital. Doctors there decided that they agreed with the diagnosis by Miller Hospital in California, that it was conversion disorder. By this point, Rebecca told them, "Ok. If that is what it is, then fix it." She just wanted her daughter to get better. The doctors' plan was for in-hospital therapy.

Mom Accuses Hospital of Negligence; Hospital Calls CPS

Leiani again spent nights in the hospital. U of M prescribed a wheelchair for her. One evening when her mother got there, she found her daughter saturated in urine and the feeding

machine was beeping. Rebecca cleaned her up and fixed the machine. When doctors made rounds the next morning, Rebecca accused the hospital of being negligent, based on what she had found the previous night.

Just 2 hours later, CPS showed up. The hospital had reported her. Rebecca reports that the social worker who came in read the nurses' reports and found that errors had been made by the hospital. She saw that Rebecca had done nothing wrong:

This hospital calls us all the time. Take her [Leiani] home.

But it was apparent that U of M hospital was not happy with Rebecca. Three days later, they called CPS again, accusing her of Munchausen by Proxy. They reported that there was no medical reason for Leiani to have a feeding tube or to be in a wheelchair, yet Rebecca reports that it was they who prescribed the wheelchair. Was this their way of covering their malpractice?



Leiani in October 2015 in wheelchair. Photo courtesy Santana family.

Michigan Abuse and Neglect Defense Attorneys believe that this is a common tactic. On their [website](#), they write:

Every medical malpractice defense attorney knows that the best way to avoid a medical malpractice lawsuit is to change the focus away from the child and the doctors, and to place it on the parents.

On November 4, another social worker from Oakland County DCF, Julia Rizzi, came to U of M and took Leiani out of her music therapy. Rebecca reports that she was screaming:

Don't take me!

Why Is a Sick Teen Taken to a Juvenile Facility?

Social worker Rizzi took her back to Beaumont Hospital for 2 days, and then took Leiani to Children's Village. Children's Village was in the news last summer as the "jail" that a Michigan judge sentenced 3 children to when the Tsimhoni siblings refused to have lunch with their father. The [Washington Post](#) quotes Judge Lisa Gorcyca's description of the facility to the Tsimhoni children:

You want to have your birthdays in Children's Village? Do you like going to the bathroom in front of people? Is your bed soft and comfortable at home? I'll tell you this, if you two don't have a nice lunch with your dad and make this up to your dad, you're going to come back here (after lunch) and I'm going to have the deputies take you to Children's Village.

Leiani's case is in the same court as the Tsimhoni family, but

with a different judge. Based on recommendations from social worker Julia Rizzi, Rebecca has not been permitted visits with her daughter. Leiani's 8 year old sister is permitted 1 visit per month, and her father is allowed 2 phone calls per week.

Her 3.7 GPA is also in jeopardy as she has missed at least 3 weeks of school since being in CPS custody.

Recently, Michigan CPS has sent other teenagers in their system to a juvenile detention facility after they ran away from an abusive foster home. The family of one teen, Abbie McMichael, fears for her life. She has lost 1/3 of her body weight since being in CPS custody.

See story - [Once Thriving Michigan Teenager Now Facing Death in CPS Custody](#)

Michigan Court Ignores Federal Law Requiring Family Placement

Family members have asked to take care of Leiani, but the court has refused to consider any relatives, including an aunt who lives out of state, even after Rebecca paid out of pocket for a home study for the aunt. Reportedly, the concern is that family may allow Leiani to see her mother. Interestingly, the U of M Hospital has recommended that Leiani have supervised visits with her mother, but that recommendation has been ignored.



Leiani with her mom Rebecca and her little sister – in happier times. Photo courtesy Santana family.

Odd Accusations by CPS

Court documents show that the accusations against Leiani's parents are things that any parent seeking answers for a sick child could be accused of:

- Miller Children’s Hospital and U of M have diagnosed Leiani with conversion disorder. Ms. Campos and Mr. McMichael have disagreed with past and present diagnoses.
- Became angry and frustrated with Leiani’s medical care
- Threatening to obtain other medical opinions

CPS alleges that “due to their medical mistreatment of the child ... the child is in a wheelchair and has a feeding tube, neither of which should be medically necessary.”

Social Worker Rizzi alleges that medical maltreatment of Leiani began when she was 9 years old. Rebecca has no clue how she got that idea. Leiani’s medical issues started in February 2015, when she was 16. Her health was great before that time.

The parents are accused of taking her to multiple doctors, but most of the time, this was on the recommendation of other physicians. Obviously, when Leiani was in California and had a broken feeding tube, she could not see a Michigan doctor.

Out of all the different hospitals that have seen Leiani since this painful journey began, the only facilities that have diagnosed Leiani with conversion disorder are the 2 where there was reportedly poor care – Miller Children’s Hospital in California (which gave her medications that she was allergic to) and U of M Motts. The other hospitals and doctors have acknowledged that Leiani has serious gastrointestinal issues. According to Leiani’s mom:

The people that are filing this are the people that actually medically abused her!

A couple of different psychiatrists, including one in California, have reportedly evaluated Leiani for conversion disorder, and found no sign of the condition.

“Medical Torture” and Medical Neglect in CPS Care

Leiani’s GAL has reportedly taken issue with her lowering the speed of her feeding tube. He told Rebecca:

There’s no medical reason for her to turn down the speed.

According to Rebecca, who has learned about the feeding tubes and how they function, there are several reasons that she might turn down the speed:

If the speed is too fast, it makes her be in pain.

There can be a build up of gasses. The tube placement could have moved. It could be too fast to be tolerable. The tube goes directly into the jejunum, not the stomach. She has heard her daughter scream in pain before from the speed of the feeding. They could have changed the formula back to something that she is allergic to. But the GAL insists:

I believe she’s faking it and this is all psychological.

Rebecca questioned the GAL's qualifications to make medical decisions. He is not a doctor, nor has he consulted with a gastroenterologist before making his declarations. She asked if he was familiar with her case and stomach condition, to which he responded, "No."

There is no rate that the feeding tube is "supposed to be" set at, she says. It is supposed to be at whatever rate the patient finds tolerable. She compares keeping it at a higher speed to "medical torture." Rebecca also wonders what exactly they are doing to Leiani to keep her from turning down the speed? Are they restraining her?



She was formerly on the varsity swim team. Now a state lawyer won't allow her to adjust her feeding tube for comfort. Photo courtesy Santana family.

Leiani's Safety Threatened in the Child Protective System

Currently Leiani is being held in Children's Village. Jennifer Torres is the foster care placement specialist, and she has told the family that Leiani is at the juvenile detention center because there is currently no "safe place" to send her that can provide medical care. She has allegedly told the teen that she is never coming home, and that she cannot get out of the facility unless she gets out of the wheelchair, because the "good" foster families aren't wheelchair accessible.

Rebecca says that Torres told her that there are 4 other state facilities that have requested Leiani, but she won't send her there:

"because she won't survive there."

Rebecca says that Ms. Torres offered no explanation for her cryptic comment.

Religious Freedom Denied

Leiani has requested for someone, perhaps a minister, to come in to pray with her. She grew up in a Christian home. However, CPS has denied her request to practice her religion.

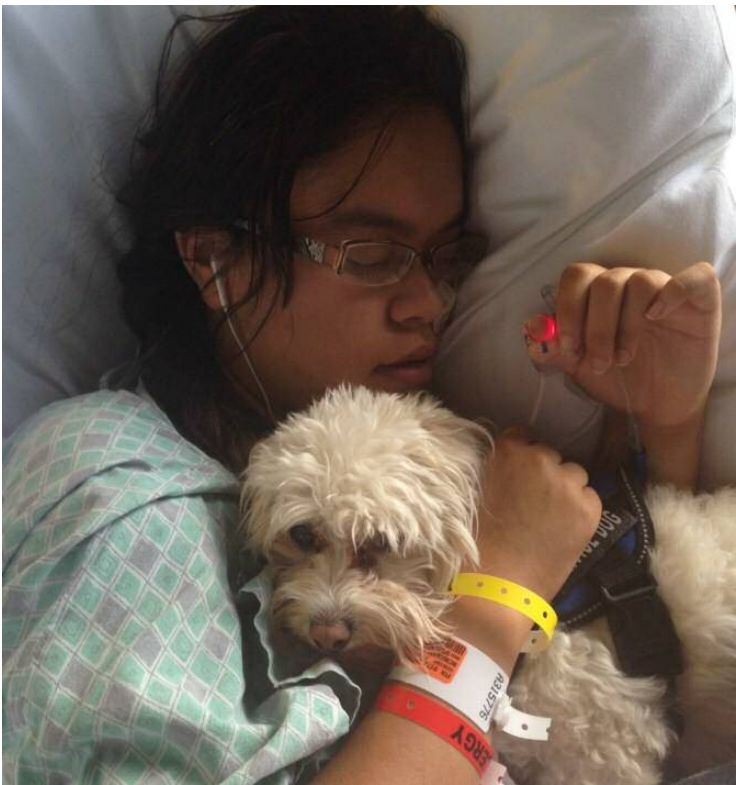
What Happens Next?

The GAL has told the family that there is a possibility that Leiani can come home, but that may prove a very risky proposition. Rebecca must move out of the family home until the family court trial. If Leiani were to decline in any

way once she gets home with her step-father, then CPS promises to immediately seize custody of both Leiani and her 8 year old sister.

No criminal charges have been filed.

To date, no doctor has figured out exactly what is causing Leiani's condition, so there is no guarantee that her condition will improve. She has declined frequently while in the care of doctors and hospitals.



Leiani in October 2015. Photo courtesy Santana family.

CPS has already attempted to remove the 8 year old from her home, but as yet has been unsuccessful. The family is very scared, for both girls:

I feel helpless, hopeless, and sad. I now have a house, not a home.

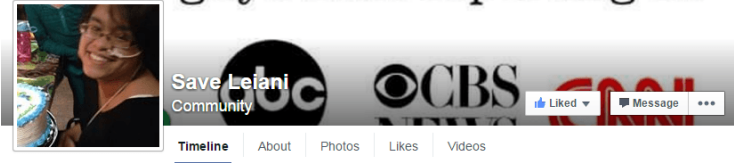
Rebecca says that she tried to participate in a family Thanksgiving dinner, but she couldn't do it. She cried all day. It was the first holiday without her daughter. She has wrapped Christmas presents for Leiani, in the hopes of a Christmas miracle that defies the social workers' declarations.

She might be 17, but she was always my little girl.

How You Can Help

Supporters have set up a Facebook page called [Save Leiani](#), so the public can keep up with what is happening. They are hoping that people will call legislators and the governor and plead for Leiani to be released to come home. She doesn't belong in a juvenile detention facility. She wants to be with her family. Friends are also hoping that a doctor will see the story who can put the pieces together and figure out what is happening medically with Leiani.

I promise I'll **stop** posting
the truth about **DHS/CPS** when
these guys **start** reporting it.



Governor Rick Snyder may be reached at 517-335-7858 or 517-373-3400, or contacted [here](#).

Mike McCready represents the district that Leiani and her family live in. He may be reached at 517-373-8670, or contacted [here](#).

Their State Senator is Jim Marleau. He may be reached at 248-724-2442, or contacted [here](#).

Once Thriving Michigan Teenager Now Facing Death in CPS Custody

Abbie before cps.



Abbie with cps



Abbie happy and healthy, holding niece, before CPS. After CPS, her life is in danger. Photo courtesy [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps](#) Facebook page.

UPDATE 8/2/2016

Kidnapped Twins in Michigan Physically Abused: Being Shipped out of State to Destroy Family Ties

UPDATE 7/22/2016

Formerly Healthy Twins Now Wasting Away in Michigan Care for 2 Years After Allegedly Trying Marijuana

UPDATE 12/17/2015

From the [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps](#) Facebook page:

Awesome news today. Although the kids are not coming home right now, Alyssa saw the dentist today. The family had made the request over a month ago! Abbie will be placed in a much safer environment and this family would not have ever gotten this far without our supporters!! On behalf of the family we want to thank everyone.

Now to keep Alexis safe and bring these girls home!!

Today Abbie was told there are a lot of people praying for her and it brought a smile to her face. She was told that many of you wanted to send her cards and letters but were discouraged from doing it because she can't receive mail. She said maybe they could be saved for her and when she is able to return home then she could pin them up to her bedroom wall...

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

A Michigan social worker asked the mother of a 14 year old girl if she has life insurance on her daughter, Abbie Odonnell, after the 5 9 teen went from 145 lbs to 92 lbs under CPS custody. Her twin sister Alexis is being housed in a maximum security juvenile detention facility, and her bunkmate has reportedly murdered 7 people. Their 17 year old sister Alyssa is being held in another lock-down facility. The girls' crime? The twins admitted to smoking pot on one occasion. Later the twins ran away from an abusive foster home. For the heinous crime of escaping that abuse, CPS is forcing the twins to serve a 12 month sentence in Wolverine Secure Treatment Center, and forbidding their older sister, who has done nothing wrong, to go home.

Laura Dalton doesn't think that Abbie will survive that long. Apparently, her social worker doesn't either, but is not doing anything to fix the situation.

Laura says that it has already been 17 months, and the girls have learned their lesson. They shouldn't have been smoking marijuana. They know that now. But is that infraction worth the state of Michigan endangering the very lives of these once healthy, thriving kids?



Abbie (top), Alexis (left), and Alyssa Odonnell. Photo courtesy [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps](#) Facebook page.

New School, Twins in Trouble, CPS Shows Up

Alyssa has always been an honor roll student, and the twins enjoyed cheerleading and gymnastics. They lived with their mom and older brother. Their oldest sister was in an apartment nearby. The family moved to a new county, and a new school in St. Clair, Michigan. It was April 2014. School was year-round, and they were the new kids on the block. They missed their old friends and their old school, and had some difficulty adjusting.

No one is excusing the fact that the twins tried pot. Their mother was quite concerned when someone from the new school called about a concerning photo on Instagram. Laura had never done any drugs and did not want that for her children. She had every intention of addressing the issue as a parent, but CPS intervened first. When the social worker showed up on her doorstep, she threatened Laura with the prospect of losing her children. Laura reports that the social worker told her:

If you don't want to lose your kids, you will do this.



Mom Laura (left) with her 5 children and grandbaby at their last Christmas together as a family. Photo courtesy Odonnell family.

The social worker reportedly demanded that she go to the courts and file charges on the twins for being “incorrigible” – in other words, not following the rules. They were 13 at the time. Laura went along with it, because she knew that smoking pot was bad, and that the twins had made a poor

choice. The worker convinced her that this would help.

Twins and Big Sister Taken by CPS after Twins Miss a Day of School

The court gave the twins the choice between going to trial or accepting probation. Alexis and Abbie chose probation. Not long after that, they missed school one day because they didn't feel well. The very next day, while their mother was at the grocery store, CPS again came to the home. The girls freely allowed the social workers into the house. At that time, Laura says that they all believed that the social workers were honestly trying to help them.

Things reportedly got much worse, very quickly.

The social worker called Laura, who headed home right away. By the time she got there, not only were the twins gone, their 15 year old sister Alyssa was also taken into CPS custody. CPS social workers also took their birth certificates. Alyssa had nothing to do with the marijuana incident or the probation, but she was there when CPS came. Later, CPS alleged that someone had made a call to centralized intake that Laura couldn't handle her children. They also stated that they had put services, like life skills, in place, but Laura says that the only thing at that time was probation.

Twins Run Away From Abusive Foster Home

Alyssa was placed in one foster home, and the twins were placed in a different foster home which already housed 4 other foster teenage girls, along with another teen girl who had been adopted. As is very common in CPS removals, no family members were given the opportunity to take them in.

Alexis was only there 3 weeks when she and a 16 year old resident decided they couldn't take the abuse that they alleged was taking place in the home, and they ran away. Abbie, who is described as the more docile of the twins, was afraid to run away, and she stayed behind. The twins were apart for the first time in their lives.

Alexis and the other girl were caught after a couple of weeks, but Alexis refused to go back to the foster home. The only other option she was given was a juvenile detention home, but she chose that over going back to the foster home.

They reported the abuse to CPS, and they reportedly investigated. The foster father had allegedly pushed one of the girls, and the girls were verbally abused. The foster mother reportedly told the girls that their parents didn't want them:

Your mom doesn't love you. If it wasn't for me, no one would want you.

(Note: Many teens and adults who are former foster children have reported being told similar things.)

At this point, one of the girls was removed from the foster home by her social worker. Abbie's social worker and the "Child Protective" social workers of the other girls were not so concerned, and left them in the foster home, despite knowing what was going on there.

Abbie was reportedly very frightened, and tried to endure. In December of 2014, Abbie couldn't cope with the things in the foster home anymore. She was admitted to a psychiatric hospital, where she reported the abuse. The hospital

reported it to CPS, who was sent out to investigate again. But Abbie made it clear that she couldn't handle the place anymore. She told the hospital staff that, if they made her go back, she would either commit suicide or run away. They discharged her that evening anyway.

Abbie made good on her promise. On her way to school the next morning, she ran away.



Abbie was a healthy teenager before CPS. Photo courtesy Odonnell family.

Alexis received a call at the facility from an unknown male, a person who was not on her call list, and she too disappeared. No one in their family or with CPS knew where they went. To date, no one still knows what happened to them while they

were missing. CPS was responsible for them.

Abbie Dropped Off at Hospital With a Pulse of 20

They were missing until September 2015. Someone dropped Abbie off at Detroit Children's Hospital and then disappeared into the night. Her pulse rate was an alarming 20 bpm. She was skin and bones. When CPS first took her the previous summer, she weighed 145 lbs. She was now 100 lbs. She would not speak of where she had been.

A week later, in an apparent effort to be near her twin sister, Alexis turned herself in. She was still healthy, at least physically.

Abbie was diagnosed with bulimia and anorexia. Later Alexis would be diagnosed with bulimia. Neither had any signs of eating disorder before. They were allegedly traumatized.

12 Month Sentence for Escaping Abusive Home

Countless books, movies, and public campaigns are aimed at empowering women that they do not have to endure abuse. Every major city has shelters set up to enable women to escape abuse. But what happens to children when they try to escape an abusive situation? The Odonnell twins were not even in the home of any biological relatives; they had been placed with strangers. Yet when they escaped, they were afraid to go home. They knew that their mother would be blamed and they would be taken away again.



Abbie, Laura, and Alexis. Photo courtesy Odonnell family.

For their crime of escaping an abusive situation, Michigan Child Protective Services has labeled them as going AWOL and is punishing the young abuse victims by placing them for 12 months time in a maximum security facility, called Wolverine Secure Treatment Center, in Saginaw, a 2 hour drive from their home. They are in the Endeavor Program. According to their [website](#), Wolverine's Endeavor Program:

provide[s] rehabilitative services for girls ages 12–20 who have been convicted of violent crimes.

The program is “housed in the Wolverine Secure Treatment Center, a maximum security facility built in 2008.” Further, the website states that they serve “abused, neglected, and delinquent youth throughout the state of Michigan.”

Abused and neglected children, as well as those who commit non-violent crimes, such as smoking pot and running away, are housed in this maximum security juvenile facility, alongside those teens who have committed violent acts, including murder. Alexis is now rooming with a girl who has reportedly murdered 7 people, most in gang-related crimes. Abbie is scheduled to go into this cabin when she goes back, the young twins who have never even been accused of violence, with an alleged gang murderer.

According to the [Medill Watchdog](#), a public accountability publication:

Younger, more vulnerable residents have often been brutalized by older, tougher residents [of Wolverine], the investigation shows. Abuse and neglect victims have been housed alongside juvenile felons – some of them former gang members – who instigated dangerous inter-bunk brawls and posed a serious threat to staff and kids alike, according to a review of state and police records, lawsuits and interviews with former employees, residents, and state investigators.

Forced to Take Psychotropic Drugs, Labeled “Manipulative” Because They Want to Go Home

Both twins have been depressed since being away from home. They have been in and out of medical and psychiatric hospitals. Alyssa has also been depressed. The simple answer is that the girls are frustrated with their situation, and they want to go home.

Their mother has done all of the classes and met the requirements demanded of her. But the social workers seem determined to make the girls pay for “going AWOL,” ignoring the fact that the girls are very normal girls who just want to go home where they belong. The twins had never been separated before and are desperate to be together. CPS is allegedly labeling this normal behavior of the children as “manipulative” and “sabotage.”

Abbie was reportedly told that they had to stay at Wolverine because she was sent there, and she will not be permitted to tell the state what she will do. Because she has been in the hospital, when she goes back, she does not get credit for time already served; her 12 months reportedly will start over again.

Where we put you is where you are staying. You will do your time or you're not going home.

The social worker reportedly has threatened to keep them in a lock down facility till they are 19 or even 26 years old, based on mental issues. The same worker has told the girls that their mother hasn't even tried to see them. CPS has limited her visits to 1 or 2 per month per child. Fortunately, Laura says, her children know better. They know that their mom loves them.

According to court documents, the girls are accused of being “attention seeking and manipulative”:

All the girls continue to sabotage their placement in hopes that they will be placed back with their mother ... Alexis and Abbie continue to have suicidal tendencies which have cause

[sic] them to be hospitalized since they return [sic] from AWOL in September 2015.

The girls have no previous history of depression. Now, according to Laura, they are:

literally forced to take pills or they are not participating in their treatment program, which means longer away from mom.

Abbie especially has a difficult time with this requirement because she has reportedly never liked taking medications. She doesn't like having no control over what goes into her body. She is complying with this CPS requirement that she hates simply because she wants to come home. The twins want to be together again, yet the state has been keeping them apart as well. The separation is allegedly the root cause of the depression.

Abbie's Life Is in Danger

Alexis went from 156 lbs to her current weight of 129 lbs, while her sister's weight has been much more drastic. Abbie weighed 145 when she was taken. She currently weighs 102/103, according to a nurse at the hospital where she is now. She got down to 92 lbs while under CPS custody. A feeding tube has been inserted.

Abbie has apparently become anorexic in an attempt to have a shred of control over her life. She has told CPS:

You can control where I live, but you can't control whether I

live or die.

Her organs have been damaged. She has been hospitalized for dehydration twice in recent months. Her blood pressure is low, and she is in very poor health. Family and friends fear for her life.

I love you Abbie !!! Rest
up get better but please
don't leave us we need
you 🥲🥲🥲🥲🥲

Text from one of Abbie's friends. Posted on the [Pray for Abbie and Alexis](#) Facebook page.

Her mother and grandmother are afraid for her as well. Laura pleads for help to save her daughter:

Abbie does not have it in her to live another 12 months away from her family.

Juvenile Detention Center

According to a hospital social worker, state funding is limited; therefore, Abbie cannot be placed in a facility that would address her eating disorders. Instead, as soon as she

becomes stable enough to be released from the hospital, she will be sent back to Wolverine Juvenile Detention Center.

Another Michigan teenager, Leiani McMichael, was medically kidnapped and her mother accused of Munchausen when some doctors couldn't figure out what was causing her illness, and other doctors actually caused some of her problems. Michigan CPS placed her as well into a Juvenile Detention Center called Children's Village. Like Abbie, Leiani's life is in danger.

Michigan Teen Medically Kidnapped and Placed in Juvenile Detention Facility as Her Health Deteriorates

Even now, because Abbie is considered a resident of Wolverine, she is required to be shackled in the hospital and wear a full straight leg brace shackled to the bed, designed to keep kids from running away. She spent 4 days without being able to bend her leg even once, complaining all the while that the brace was too tight. When a doctor finally loosened it, he found that the metal brace had caused bruising on the back of her knee and ankle.

When Laura expressed normal concerns over the restriction of and tightness of the leg brace. CPS accused her of "exhibiting odd behavior."

Why are children being forced to wear such a leg brace, when hardened adult criminals are not even required to wear them?

There is not round-the-clock nursing staff at Wolverine, which Abbie's family says that she needs. Her grandmother told Health Impact News:

My main fear is she will go unnoticed at Wolverine and will die in her sleep.

She points out that Wolverine staff did not document that Abbie had passed out shortly after she arrived. Abbie remembers only hitting her head on the sink. Someone picked her up and put her back in bed, without so much as checking her vital signs. Abbie's grandmother wonders if she suffered a seizure when her blood pressure dropped.

Abbie is reportedly afraid to be at Wolverine with her feeding tube, concerned that it will make her more of a target for violence.

Social Worker Asks Mom if She Has Life Insurance on Abbie

Laura reports that a social worker asked her a very disturbing question as they were on their way to a rare visit with Abbie:

Do you have life insurance on Abbie? I would be getting life insurance on her. The state will cover a funeral, but I recommend life insurance.

She asked her:

Are you prepared for her to die?

The social worker reportedly gave other unwelcome advice to Laura:

Let Abbie know that you would be able to live without her, that your life will go on.

This was said to a mother whose friends say is a “great mom” who has “dedicated her life to her kids,” and “would give her life for any of them.” She assures Health Impact News that she will NOT be okay if her daughter dies. This never should have happened.

Laura has reportedly done everything that CPS asks of her, but they keep finding more hoops for her to jump through; meanwhile, her daughter sometimes appears ready to check out of this life. As she loses hope, she is losing the will to fight to live.



Odonnell girls on vacation in Daytona Beach a month before CPS tore them apart. Photo courtesy Odonnell family.

Why is this Happening?

Family members want to know why are there such extreme consequences for these children for sins that, in the scheme of things, are not that serious? Isn't the point of Child Protective Services to protect children, not take away their will to live?

One court document that Laura received may shed some light. One of the “recommendations to the court” by CPS is:

That the director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services remains special guardian to receive any governmental benefits now due or to become due to said minors from the government of the United States;

According to one of the psychologists that saw the girls, the twins are not delinquents; they are severely depressed. The girls are depressed because they are not allowed to go home, and they have been kept from seeing each other. According to Michigan CPS regulations, siblings are required to have visits with each other at least once per month. However, the girls’ grandmother reports:

They are very close and have never been separated till they went into state care. Alyssa broke down in court after seeing her sister for the 1st time in 10 months. She was hysterical and was reprimanded and told it showed the judge she was mentally unstable. Alyssa couldn’t believe how awful her sister Abbie looked. Since then Alyssa still has not had a sibling visit. She only saw the twin in the courtroom in now almost 1 year.

Because the girls are depressed, they have been prescribed psychotropic medications. Because they are on such medications, they can be labeled as disabled. Therefore, there is more federal Title IV-E money that comes into the state because they are now labeled disabled. See also:

Foster Homes: Where Good Kids Go To Die

Foster Care Children are Worse Off than Children in Troubled Homes – The Child Trafficking Business

Child Protection Services is Out of Control – What Ordinary Citizens Can Do About It

Threats from Social Worker over Freedom of Speech

Recently, Laura Dalton and her mother took to social media, posting memes and information about the excessive punishment of CPS and letting the public know of their fear for all 3 girls, but especially Abbie, whose life is in serious danger. When the social worker and probation officer found out, they threatened to terminate Laura's parental rights, telling her that, if that happens, she won't know about anything that happens to Abbie.

If Laura's parental rights are severed, she is afraid that Abbie will give up.

The Odonnell Family Needs Help

The public needs to know what is happening to kids like Abbie, Alexis, and Alyssa. Alyssa is still on the honor roll, but is in a lock down facility to ensure that she doesn't run away. She is 17 now, and could legally live on her own in Michigan. But the state would miss out on the funds for her.

She also needs dental care. Her mother says that her wisdom teeth have become impacted and her gums are very swollen.

Despite staff being made aware of this, nothing has been done.

The twins missed their entire 8th grade year, and they continue to miss school. One day of missed school prompted the state to intervene almost a year and a half ago. However, the state of Michigan has demonstrated that it is a poor substitute for the love and discipline of a family. The Odonnell girls are not thriving under CPS care. Wouldn't it make sense to send them home? They have long since paid the price for their crime of smoking marijuana. It shouldn't cost them their family, or their lives.

The family is asking for help. Friends have set up a Facebook page for the public to get involved in bringing these girls home – [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps](#).



Governor Rick Snyder may be reached at 517-335-7858 or 517-373-3400, or contacted [here](#).

Phil Pavlov is the Senator serving the family's district. He may be reached at 517-373-7708, or contacted [here](#).

Paul Muxlow is their Representative. He may be reached at 517-373-0835, or contacted [here](#).

10-Month Old Baby Medically Kidnapped in Michigan



Photo supplied by family.

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

Michigan parents Josh Soto and Alexandria Burgess took their ten month old baby girl Selena to the pediatrician on September 1, 2015 because she was fussy, tugging on her ears, cutting teeth, had severe diaper rash, and seemed to have pain in her legs.

The pediatrician didn't seem concerned, and gave her Benedryl and a cortisone cream for her diaper rash. He suggested that they keep an eye on her but didn't note any concerns.

Ten days later, on September 11, 2015, Selena’s pain seemed to have increased so they took her to the E.R. of a local hospital, Promedica-Bixby in Adrian, MI. The attending nurse initially ordered a hip x-ray, but Alexandria and Josh requested that they x-ray her legs, too, to be thorough.

When the doctor came back into the room she said she had two broken legs, and asked “How did this happen?” They were referred to the University of Michigan Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan where a child abuse doctor, Dr. Bethany Mohr, determined that Selena had been abused.

Testing Inconclusive, but Child Abuse Assumed Anyway



Dr. [Bethany Mohr](#), Mott Children’s Hospital. [Image source](#).

The process for determining that Selena’s injuries were allegedly “consistent with child abuse” took a month. Selena presented without any external marks on her. No currently

known mutations in two of the most commonly tested genes for osteogenesis imperfecta, COL1A1 & COL1A2, came back in Selena's testing.

But there was a variance that couldn't be accounted for. She was only tested for two out of 18 of the most well known genetic markers for osteogenesis imperfecta which came back "benign" according to the doctor.

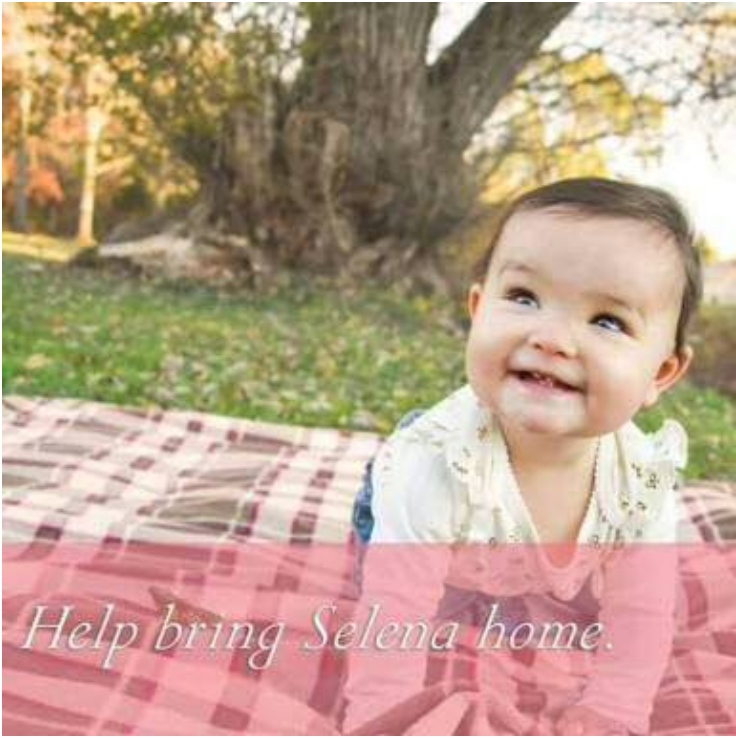
"Without a clear history of osteopenia these fractures are consistent with abuse."

Alexandria was also tested for two of the genes that contained the variance for the gene that Selena had....markers to determine whether she passed brittle bone disease on to Selena and the results have not been given to Alexandria.

Josh has repeatedly called to schedule his testing but has not been contacted back.

There was a variance in Alexandria's genetic make-up, (mutation) found in Selena in a position never seen before in a patient but, they allegedly determined it was "most likely" not disease causing without any basis for determining that. It wasn't one of the two known mutations, so the child abuse expert wrote it off.

Experts Disagree with "Child Abuse" Diagnosis



Retired University of Michigan professor of pathology Dr. Douglas Smith consulted with a radiologist about Selena's x-rays. The radiologist determined that the x-ray shows that the baby's legs are osteopenic.

According to Dr. Smith, there are several possible mutations that would cause the inherited disorder. He explained that a panel of tests needs to be run before ruling it out.

"She (doctor) merely speculated that there is no genetic mutation causing the brittle bones and it had to be child abuse."

The full panel testing that Alexandria, Josh and Selena need is not provided by the state and is very expensive.

Alexandria and Josh said they wanted to get a second opinion. Selena was taken away from Alexandria and Josh without any court order. They were told that they were to hand her over that day and were not told that it was voluntary. They had to “err on the side of caution.” Selena is being cared for by Josh’s aunt. Josh and Alexandria are able to visit with her. Selena had been in daycare where no one had expressed any concerns about Selena’s care.

Eugene Wilson, Chairman at the Center for Ehlers Danlos Syndrome Alliance, is a consultant on Selena’s case.

He says that the doctor at Mott Children’s Hospital didn’t do her due diligence.

Selena was only tested for two of the 18 markers known. In addition to the osteogenesis imperfecta Selena most likely has Ehlers–Danlos syndrome (EDS) as observed in her x-rays. In fact he states that all three, Selena and both parents should be thoroughly tested in order to establish a hereditary pattern.

Is Mott Children’s Hospital Wrongly Accusing Parents Based on Bad Science?



Main campus of Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor Michigan.

According to Mr. Wilson,

“Mott has done this to multiple families. They accuse parents of child abuse without doing due diligence which is a pediatrician's job.”

Child abuse experts are dealing with all possible disorders but are not experts in any of the medical fields and once a person is accused of child abuse then they cannot back down for fear of litigation. “It is a CYA society now.”

Dr. Douglas Smith explained that there are two main contracts that Mott Children's Hospital has with the state of Michigan. One is to give second opinions on cases flagged as possible child abuse cases and the second is to teach aspects of child abuse to case workers.

The research studies that are done are flawed according to Dr. Smith in that they have “research bias.”

One example of this is a “short fall” study that collects data when there is an infant involved in a short fall where no child abuse is suspected. By only using the participants who are not suspected of child abuse they ended up with skewed results. Without a control group they are not able to isolate and eliminate variables. In this case they didn’t have any comparison with babies involved in short falls where child abuse is suspected. If you don’t include controls in a study you will not have valid results.

Osteogenesis imperfecta, also known as brittle bone disease is:

“an inherited disorder of the tissue that holds the body together (connective tissue). It is present at birth (congenital). A child born with OI may have signs and symptoms that range from mild to severe. He or she may have soft bones that break (fracture) easily, bones that are not formed normally, and other problems.” (Source.)



Photo supplied by family.

There is a decrease in the amount of calcium and phosphorus in the bone. This can result in bones that are too weak and brittle which increases the risk of broken bones.

Selena also suffers from a lack of vitamin D which is the key

to calcium absorption from the intestines and kidneys which is essential for bone density. If during pregnancy a baby's mother is low in Vitamin D, then the baby will be born low in Vitamin D as well.

If a mother breast feeds, as Selena was exclusively, and is Vitamin D deficient, then her baby will still be Vitamin D deficient because her milk will not supply the baby with enough to make up for it. When a person's body is deficient in vitamin D then bones cannot be built easily and children become vulnerable for osteopenia, rickets and fractures more easily.

Other Possible Causes not Investigated – Parents Just Assumed to be Guilty



Photo supplied by family.

Alexandria reported that Selena was put in a Johnny Jump Up at day care. In it, she was putting weight on her legs and bouncing. They asked the doctor if that could have put too much stress on Selena's weak-boned legs.

Also, not long before the E.R. visit, Josh's elderly mother had

to catch the baby by grabbing her ankles one day, because she was about to drop her. They asked if that could have been too much stress and caused the bones to fracture.

The child abuse doctor explained those incidents were not the cause because there would have been more evidence of healing. She ruled it out as a possibility.

According to Dr. Smith, when bones are osteopenic they do take much longer to heal and those incidents should not have been ruled out as possible causes.

“Child Abuse” is not a Medical Condition – It is a Criminal Charge



Selena with daddy. Photo supplied by family.

Alexandria states:

“Child abuse is not a diagnosis, it is a criminal charge.”

The child abuse doctor explained that they are not sure what the diagnosis is and what the cause of the fractures are. The fact that the child abuse expert has put minimal energy into getting to the bottom of Selena’s fractures, and instead declares it consistent with child abuse is the extent of her investigation.

Alexandria explains:

“The genetics counselor said the variance (the mutation that Selena did have) was a variance of uncertain significance, I believe, but that it was most likely not disease causing. But the thing is....it had never been observed in another child, they had no published literature on it to refer to, so they really can’t for sure say whether it is or not...it is a good example of how potential medical issues or explanations are just disregarded without further investigation. It’s their job to find the explanation.”

Alexandria explained that Selena’s medical condition is multifaceted because Selena has multiple issues including the connective disorder EDS in addition to the vitamin D deficiency and bone disease. Their case, and all child abuse cases, deserve to have professionals put in the time it takes to thoroughly investigate all possible causes before the charge of child abuse is given.

Reputations Ruined based Only on Allegations



Photo supplied by family.

In Michigan, there is a permanent list of anyone ever accused of child abuse.

Alexandria and Josh are on that list. Their case hasn't even been heard yet.

They have never been charged criminally, never been arrested and are allowed frequent visitation with Selena.

The New Pediatric Sub-specialty of "Child Abuse"

The academic pediatric sub-specialty of child abuse pediatrician is a fairly new sub-specialty of pediatrics. 2009 is when the specialty first became recognized. Training requires a fellowship with a teaching hospital's child

protection unit and a board exam afterwards.

See:

Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?

These board certified child abuse experts are responsible for determining whether or not children and adolescents have been abused physically, sexually, medically (fictitious illness) or emotionally/psychologically. They are sometimes asked to testify in court cases for child protection organizations as experts in child abuse.

When an expert of any field testifies that they know something for sure because of their expertise and the tests that they ran, a jury trusts that means they must know for sure.

Alexandria and Josh have chosen not to sign a case plan with the state of Michigan, but instead are asking for a trial. They have not decided whether to have a jury or not. According to them, they did not abuse their daughter and are focused on proving their innocence.

Criminal court, where there are currently no charges or cases against Alexandria and Josh, has a higher standard of proof than dependency court.

Alex and Josh have a trial date set for March 29-30, 2016 in juvenile/dependency court in Lenawee County Michigan.

The state is planning to terminate their parental rights.

If they were in criminal court, the state would have a higher

burden to prove their case against them, beyond a reasonable doubt. In juvenile court, however, the state's burden is only a preponderance of the evidence, which means that the state only has to prove that there is a 51% likelihood that they are guilty.

Chippewa Tribe to Take on Case



Alexandria's mother is on the rolls of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa tribe in Michigan. She was hoping to get herself and Selena on the rolls and let the tribe take over the case. The Chippewa tribe has a much higher standard of proof before terminating someone's parental rights. As of now they have not been charged criminally and are free to visit Selena.

Alexandria reports today that the tribe has accepted them.

“My mother belongs to the tribe in Sault Ste. Marie, and each ‘band’ operates under their own tribal codes and ordinances specific to their group.”

Their standard of proof of child abuse is much higher. She is very hopeful that the tribe will take a much closer and more extensive look into Selena's hereditary issues before concluding that the test results are consistent with child

abuse.



“We did everything we were supposed to as parents, and yet still found ourselves in this nightmare. She is all we have. It was so hard going into the hearing where they told us that they were petitioning for termination, based on her “best interests”.....yet they couldn’t even get her name right.

They kept calling her “Sonia Soto” or “The Child.” While this may just be another child to CPS and the Child Protection Team, another case, another stack of [sic] paperwork on someone’s desk, she is the ONLY child in our lives....Selena is our world.....we would never hurt our little girl, and we are just trying to find answers, just like everyone else.

No one seemed to care. We went to these people for help, but got allegations instead. And now have no more answers than the night we took her to the hospital trying to figure out why our baby girl was in pain.

This time, these moments with her.....we never get it back.

Her first birthday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, her first time saying “Momma,” her first steps.....all away from home. All ruined by this nightmare we’ve been thrown into.

This is not how we are supposed to be welcoming our daughter into her second year of life. We will fight for our Selena, and will not give up. Our little girl does not deserve to be put through this.....not to be torn from her parents when she needs us most.

We just want to bring her home, where she belongs.”

Support the family by liking their [Facebook Page](#):



Michigan Teen Girl in CPS Custody Near Death - Twin Sister Pleads for Her Life



Abbie and Alexis, with mom in the middle – before CPS.
Source: Odonnell family.

UPDATE 4/27/2016

Rebecca Lopez, mother of medically kidnapped Michigan teen [Leiani](#), was a court watcher at the St. Clair County Courthouse in support of the Odonnell family this morning. She posted on the following on the [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps](#) Facebook page:

As a court watcher it was very heartbreaking to see Alexis shackled like an animal from wrist to ankles. Why do they humiliate and degrade a child like that in public? What was the crime that she needed to be shackled down like that?

The judge did not listen to any of the facts that mom had to say which was really disappointing considering he may not know the actual status of Alexis's current health. Wolverine failed to state to the judge with current facts on Alexis's health as well.

Alexis appeared very thin very fragile her hair was so thin but she smiled gracefully and was so happy to see her mom.

On the positive note the mom was not gagged thank goodness that her constitutional rights were not violated on freedom of speech.

All parties involved are working diligently to get Alexis into a U of M program for the eating disorder and after completion of that to be reunified with her family.

Laura did an amazing job keeping herself gathered and kept herself professional. I'm very very proud of her. To have a mother witness how her child is being treated in a state that she pays taxes to at the least her voice should've been heard in all aspects, and it wasn't.

Let's hope that Macomb [correction – St. Clair] County keeps their word gets Alexis into a program ASAP as there is a waiting list for almost 2 months for U of M which is unacceptable considering her daughters current status. Something else or another program should be considered immediately so she can return back home in the loving and safe arms of her mother ❤️

UPDATE 4/26/2016

The Odonnell girls' mother has been told by a social worker that she will be gagged. There is a court hearing on Wednesday, April 27, during which DHS allegedly plans to request a gag order. Alexis was evaluated by her pediatrician last week, and lab results show that she is malnourished. However, there is no indication that she will be moved out of the Wolverine juvenile detention facility anytime soon.

The hearing is open to the public, and will take place at 9 am at the St. Clair County Courthouse at 201 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron, Michigan 48060. The latest hearing was heard by a referee, not a judge, so the Odonnell family has requested that the evidence be heard by a judge. Judge Elwood Brown will preside over Wednesday's hearing.

Since the Alexis Odonnell story was published by Health Impact News, Alexis has been seen by her pediatrician. Before her mother Laura Dalton was blocked from getting any more of her daughter's records, she was able to get the results of some labwork that was performed last week. The social worker texted Laura to tell her that "all reports came back good." However, that is not what the lab results show.

Her iron and red blood cell counts are low, and there is protein in her urine. There is not supposed to be protein in the urine at all, but Alexis' level is 30 mg/dL. Its presence signifies that the kidneys are not functioning properly.

When Alexis went into Wolverine 5 months ago, she was healthy. She was 5'8 and weighed 152. She now weighs about 128 lbs. Several nurses have contacted the family as well as the author of this article with great concerns for Alexis' health unless she receives medical attention right away.

Laura received a phone call on Monday to update her about the plans for her children. As it stands now, DHS appears willing to work to get the girls home, but the probation officer, Amy Bennett, has reportedly made it clear that she has no intention of allowing Alexis to leave Wolverine for at least 6 weeks to 2 months. The staff at the facility are not equipped or trained to deal with eating disorders such as bulimia. One supporter likened it to placing a child with cancer in a facility that has no staff trained in treating cancer. Another month or two there could literally be a death sentence for Alexis.

To Laura, it appears that the probation officer is on a “power trip” and is “trying to prove us all wrong.” The entire family greatly fears for Alexis. Her bulimia seems to be seen as a manipulative ploy to be disciplined away rather than as a real illness with very serious consequences.

Laura intends to keep fighting for her daughters and vows to never give up. Currently, she needs a good attorney to step up to help her in this fight.

Prayers are requested for Judge Elwood Brown to have a heart to make the right decision for the Odonnell girls. He has the power to end this. Prayers are also requested for the twins' health.

Supporters are asking that advocates contact Governor Rick Snyder, and ask for him to ensure that the girls be sent home where they can get proper care. Governors have the executive power to pardon even hardened criminals. Can he not use that power to pardon the Odonnell twins? Haven't they been punished enough?

Governor Rick Snyder may be reached at 517-335-7858 or

517-373-3400, or contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Michigan Teen Girl in CPS Custody Near Death – Twin Sister Pleads for Her Life

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

A Michigan teenager was close to death in CPS custody in December, but advocates worked together to fight for her life. Abbie Odonnell, now 15, is much better, but now her twin sister Alexis, who remains in a juvenile detention facility, has deteriorated to the point where her family fears for her life. Her mother says:

She won't survive another 7 months.

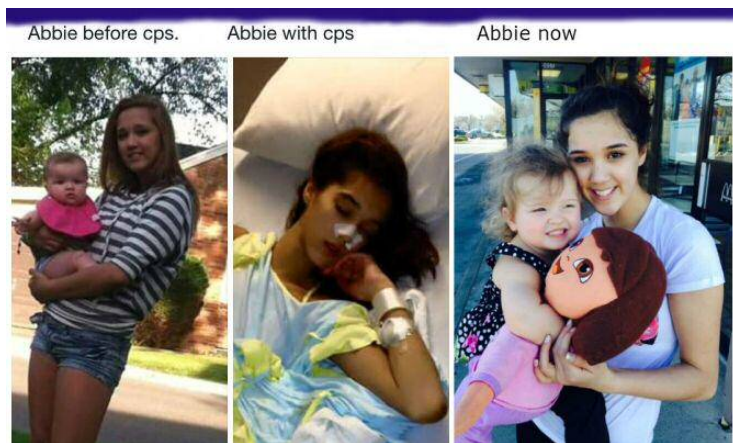
Before Child Protective Services and the state of Michigan became involved in their lives, the girls showed no signs of any eating disorders. After being taken from their home and family, Abbie has developed anorexia and bulimia, and Alexis has bulimia.

It took social media and [an article from Health Impact News](#) on their Medical Kidnap website to get help for Abbie, whose condition had become very serious in December, and she is now on the road to recovery.

When the [article](#) was written, she was in the hospital and was scheduled to go back to the Wolverine Secure Treatment Center upon her release from the hospital. Because of public attention and the efforts of many advocates, she was never

placed back into Wolverine. In mid-January, she was transferred to River Centre Clinic, an eating disorders treatment facility in Ohio.

Since that time, she is seeing trained therapists, and has now reached her goal weight. She had previously lost so much weight that she was down to only 92 lbs under CPS custody. Her mother has been able to visit her recently, and she is in the process of being reunified and going back home.



Source: Odonnell family.

Now it is her twin sister Alexis who desperately needs help. Her family was alarmed when they saw the condition Alexis was in at court last week in shackles, and the family has again reached out to Health Impact News and their readers for help. They have not been allowed to take pictures of Alexis, but the description of her current condition is shocking.

Girls Punished and Removed from Parental Custody for Smoking Marijuana One Time

Their story of CPS involvement began when Abbie and Alexis were 13 years old. Though their family does not excuse what the twins did, they have been devastated by the excessive consequences that the girls are suffering. The girls are being punished after admitting to smoking pot on one occasion. A photo of them with marijuana paraphernalia wound up on Instagram and Child Protective Services was contacted.

A social worker showed up on their doorstep and demanded that their mother, Laura Dalton, go to the courts and file charges on the twins for being “incorrigible” – in other words, not following the rules. If she didn’t, Laura was told that she risked having the girls taken from her. Laura believed that the system was trying to help her family.

She was wrong.

When the twins were sick and missed school one day shortly after that time, CPS showed up the next day and took the twins into custody. CPS also took their 15 year old sister Alyssa, who had nothing to do with the situation. Alyssa was placed in one foster home, and the twins in another.

The twins’ foster home proved to be an abusive placement. First Alexis, then Abbie ran away from the abusers. After they were found, instead of the “protective” system applauding them for being strong enough to leave an abusive situation, the probation officer and CPS demanded punishment. Abbie and Alexis were sentenced to a year at the Wolverine Secure Treatment Facility as a consequence for going AWOL from the abusive foster home.

See original story:

Once Thriving Michigan Teenager Now Facing Death in CPS Custody

The girls' grandmother wants to know what this is supposed to be teaching her granddaughters. She says that this goes way beyond teaching them a lesson. The trauma they have faced will affect them for the rest of their lives. With everything that is happening to Alexis, the rest of her life may not be very long unless things change.

Alexis – Hands and Legs Shackled, Forced Drugs, Health Deteriorating

Since being taken from her home, Alexis has become bulimic, and her condition has rapidly deteriorated in the 5 months of her incarceration at Wolverine. When she came to court last week, her legs were shackled. Her hands and her legs were shackled when she went to a dietitian the same week. Her hair is falling out. She has sores on her knuckles from forcing herself to throw up. Her tongue is black. Her menstrual cycles have stopped. During court last week, Laura learned that her daughter is now being given birth control pills, without her consent, in an effort to get her cycles started again. This ignores that the underlying cause of her amenorrhea is likely malnutrition from the bulimia.

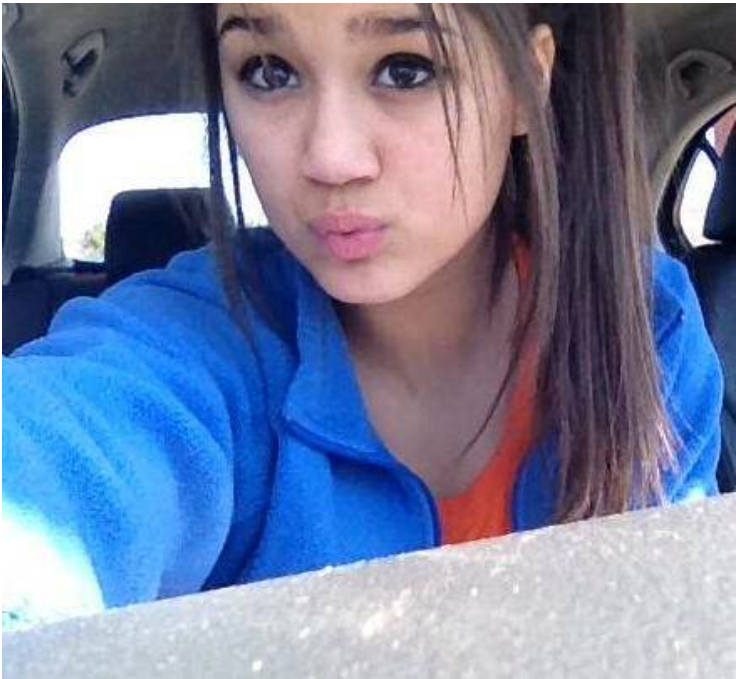
She is experiencing frequent nose bleeds. Her grandmother tells Health Impact News that her eyes are sagging, and that she looks anemic. The girls have an olive skin tone, but “she’s white now.”

There is no feeling in her eyes. They've taken her spirit out.

Her spirit is gone.

Her mother has learned that these are all symptoms of bulimia which indicate that the condition has been present for some time.

When Alexis saw a dietitian last Thursday, her blood sugar was down to 48. She hadn't eaten for 2 days. Normal fasting blood sugar is 80 to 110. Below 70 is considered hypoglycemic. After eating a banana, it came up to 52. She has passed out at least twice at the Wolverine facility. Laura says that the dietitian told her that, with these numbers, this is affecting Alexis's brain.



Alexis, before CPS. Source: Odonnell family.

Laura has pleaded with Wolverine to get her daughter help, but they still have not sent her to a doctor or hospital. She recently described Alexis's symptoms to Abbie's eating disorder therapist, who warned her that, while the effects of anorexia are readily apparent to anyone watching, the effects of bulimia can be even worse, insidiously so, because most of the damage is internal. Their esophagus can rupture from repeated vomiting. Bulimia can also lead to electrolyte imbalance and heart attack. Laura is frightened for Alexis:

The internal damage is even scarier. She could bleed internally and nobody would be there to help her. She would be locked away in her cell.

Laura has learned that the staff at Wolverine is not trained to deal with bulimia and other eating disorders, and she desperately wants Alexis to be transferred somewhere where they can help her, before it is too late. When Laura recently described Alexis's symptoms to an eating disorder therapist, she was told that Alexis is past the point of being able to pull herself out of this. Her body is conditioned to "purging after eating," and the bulimia has affected her mind. She requires help to get through this. But that help isn't happening at Wolverine. They do not have the training.

Instead of acknowledging the real mental health issue that is occurring, staff at Wolverine has stated to Laura that:

commenting on weight and her eating has been reinforcing the undesired behavior [of bulimia] ...

At the facility where Abbie is, meals are planned according to

specific guidelines. She is on a 2600 calorie diet in order to maintain her weight. When she eats, she generally has about an hour or so to eat, and someone is with her the entire time. She has made considerable progress in the 3 months she has been there.

In contrast, Alexis is on a 1300 calorie diet, and generally is given 10 to 15 minutes to eat. Her condition continues to deteriorate. She does not always have someone watching her when she eats.

The staff at Wolverine has allegedly been trained not to draw attention to the eating disorder, but this is not the way to handle it according to an eating disorder specialist consulted by Laura Dalton.

Pleas have allegedly fallen on deaf ears for Alexis to be transferred out of Wolverine and into a facility equipped to help her with her bulimia. According to court documents:

Recently, there have been concerns that Alexis is struggling with her eating disorder. Wolverine is taking the proper precautions, as recommended by this worker, to determine whether or not Alexis needs treatment elsewhere.

Both Alexis's mother and grandmother are asking how much more she will have to go through before they listen. They do not believe that Wolverine is concerned about Alexis's well being.

According to a court document, Wolverine staff wrote:

At this time, Alexis is not eligible for release due to being on the Sophomore level of a four level program (Freshman-Senior). Alexis would benefit from continuing treatment at WSTC Endeavors Program until all determined treatment goals have been completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is the recommendation of the Endeavors Program at WSTC that Alexis continue treatment until the completion of all outlined treatment goals.

How is Alexis benefiting from continued treatment at Wolverine when her health has deteriorated so badly? Would it not be more beneficial to not neglect her medical health and to place her in a facility equipped to help her deal with her bulimia, before it is too late?

The one positive thing is that Alexis is no longer being housed with a resident accused of murdering 7 people. After this frightening housing arrangement was reported in December by Health Impact News, Alexis was immediately transferred to the other side of the facility. This happened on the day the [article](#) was published. She is now in the Life Skills Endeavor program. Her family hopes that she will be transferred out of Wolverine altogether.

Separation of Twins is Very Hard on Them

The girls have been accused of using anorexia and bulimia for attention and as an attempt to manipulate the system into allowing them to be together. This has been repeated over several months by the social worker and the probation officer. The social worker now appears to recognize that it would be better for the twins to be together, but the probation officer has reportedly made it clear to the family and to the court that the intent is for Alexis to serve out the 7 remaining months of her sentence at Wolverine. She does not want both girls to be together in the same facility, even if it is an eating disorder clinic specially equipped to address their bulimia and/or anorexia.

Remember that the sentence is for escaping an abusive foster home.

According to the [Michigan Department of Corrections](#), adult prisoners in prison are allowed between 2 to 8 visits per month with family members, including siblings. Only the prisoners who are considered great threats to security are limited to 2 or 3 visits. All other prisoners are permitted between 4 and 8 visits, depending on their level.

Yet, these young, teenage girls have been repeatedly denied visits. State policy says that siblings in foster care are permitted one visit per month with each other.

It is unclear what has led to state policies allowing violent adult criminals far more visitation rights with family members and siblings than children who are in the foster care system.

There is ample data showing that children need time and relationship with parents and siblings, and twins even more so. There is no manipulation going on here; it is a valid psychological need.



Abbie and Alexis – identical twins. Always together, before CPS separated them. Source: Odonnell family.

Mounds of research show that separation of twins is extremely difficult on the twins, to a level which may be difficult for non-twins to comprehend. According to the book *Twin and Triplet Psychology: A Professional Guide to Working with Multiples*:

The most frightening prospect for many twins is the loss of the co-twin. Elizabeth Bryan (Chapter 11) shows how the death of a twin is probably the most traumatic event in the surviving twin's life, often greater than that of the death of a spouse. [Source](#).



Twins – always together. This is normal. Separation traumatizes them. Source: Odonnell family.

Patricia Herrmann is the mother of medically kidnapped teen Marcky Herrmann – “A Child in Canada.” Though Marcky is now free of Canadian Child Protective Services, he and his twin Nathan are still suffering the effects of being traumatized by the forced separation. While Marcky was held captive, his mother spoke many times of the devastation that both of her twin boys felt from being separated.

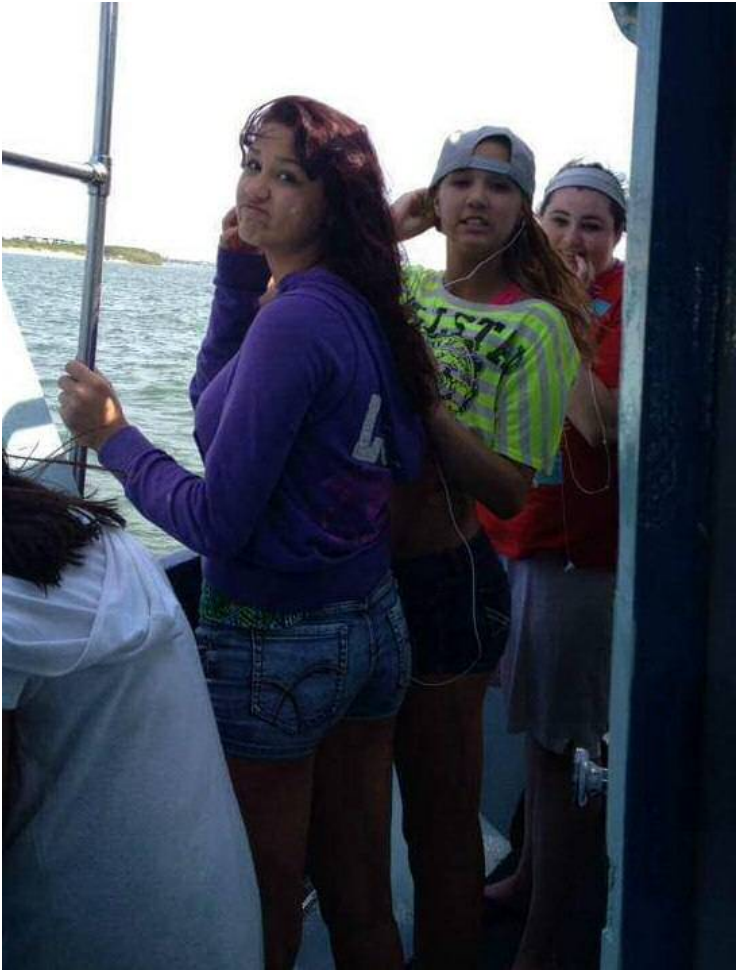
See Marcky’s story:

[Medically Kidnapped Teenager In Canada Pleads To Be Returned To His Family](#)

Medically Kidnapped Teen and Family Escape Canada: Speak Out on Abuses

There is a deep soul yearning between twins to be together; it is not manipulation. Before CPS entered their lives, Abbie and Alexis had never been separated from each other. Just before court last week, they had a brief visit for perhaps 10 minutes. This was their first time to see each other in 2 months.

It has been much longer than that since either twin has seen their older sister Alyssa.



Abbie, Alexis, and Alyssa – all together on vacation in Daytona Beach, just a month before CPS separated them. Source: Odonnell family.

Last weekend, both Abbie and Alyssa were at last able to see their young niece for the first time in almost a year and a half.

To what end does the state of Michigan keep these children and even the twins separated from each other? It seems apparent that the twins' health would benefit greatly from being reunited. What purpose does it serve to force Alexis to serve 7 more months in Wolverine at the grave risk of her health?

The social worker has reportedly recommended that the girls be reunited and return home, but the probation officer insists that the twins are displaying the eating disorders in order to be together. She has reportedly dug in her heels in her demand for Alexis to remain at Wolverine. Her mother doesn't know if her daughter will survive that long, unless she gets help – help which Wolverine is unable to provide.

Hope for Alyssa

The twins' older sister Alyssa is reportedly supposed to be coming home soon from the lock-down facility where she has been since she turned 17 (the legal age to live on her own). Despite all of the challenges she has faced, she is doing very well academically, and has a 4.0 GPA. She made the President's list. She has also reportedly reached 100% of her programs goals.

After the [Health Impact News article reported](#) that her wisdom teeth had become impacted and her gums were very swollen, Alyssa was taken to get her wisdom teeth out.

She enjoyed her first day pass at home this past weekend. She was able to go home and spend time with her mom and young niece.



Alyssa was delighted to spend time with her niece, finally.
Source: Odonnell family.

Laura was also able to visit Abbie this weekend. Abbie contacted Health Impact News to express her deep gratitude for all the prayers and the work that the advocates and media have done which she says literally saved her life. She also thanks the staff at the River Centre Clinic in Ohio for their love and support that they have shown.

Now, Abbie is pleading for help for her twin in this video message that she sent for our readers.

<https://youtu.be/FTt6yiHfVzc>

What You Can Do to Help Save Alexis' Life!

The family is asking for help. Friends have set up a Facebook page for the public to get involved in bringing these girls home – [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps.](#)



Abbie and her family believe that Abbie got the help that she needed because of the prayers by advocates and the many phone calls and letters on her behalf. They believe that media attention and the public has made a huge difference, and that now, that attention is needed once again to help save Alexis' life. She needs to go to a facility that is trained in treating eating disorders. Laura is very discouraged:

I just don't know what it takes to get her help! It's a whole repeat of Abbie!

Following are people who may be contacted on behalf of Alexis and her family:

Governor Rick Snyder may be reached at 517-335-7858 or

517-373-3400, or contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Phil Pavlov is the Senator serving the family's district. He may be reached at 517-373-7708, or contacted [here](#).

Paul Muxlow is their Representative. He may be reached at 517-373-0835, or contacted [here](#).

Representative Ken Goike serves the district of the Odonnell girls' grandmother, and may also be reached at 517-373-0820, or contacted [here](#).

[Wolverine Secure Treatment Facility](#) may be reached at 989-776-0400.

Also, supporters are welcome to mail cards and letters of encouragement to the girls, and the family will ensure that the girls get them.

Abbie, Alexis, or Alyssa Odonnell

PO Box 14864

Detroit, MI 48214

Michigan Forces Mom of Medically Kidnapped Teen to Sleep in Car - Issues Gag Order to Keep Story out of the Media

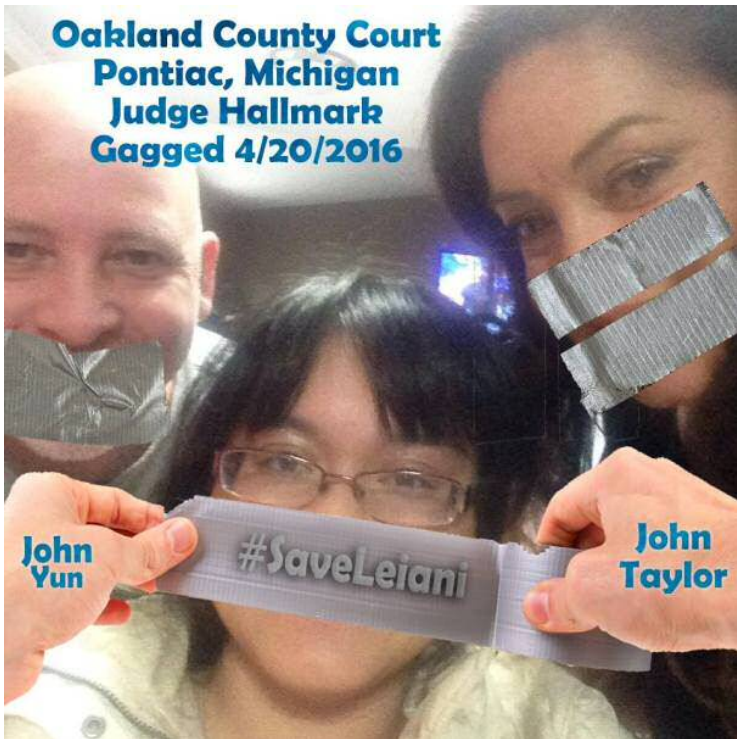


Image source from [Save Leiani Facebook page](#).

UPDATE 4/27/2016

[Local news](#) in Michigan has picked Leiani's story, and noted

how the gag order violates her 1st Amendment rights.

Video no longer available.

UPDATE 4/22/2016

Before the family was gagged, Rebecca Campos-Santana was a guest on Joseph Gibson's blog-talk radio show on Sunday, April 17. Because they are no longer able to speak out and tell the media and the public about the injustice that they continue to face, it is important that the public have access to their side of the story.

Here is a link to the archived blog-talk radio interview with Rebecca – [Understanding The Times In Which We live Today Joseph Gibson Examines Today](#)

It is fortunate that both Rebecca and Leiani were able to be interviewed just prior to the gag order. As Health Impact News previously reported, Leiani was a guest of "The Captain" on Monday night. Link – [Special Guest: Leiani McMichael: Medical Malpractice & Medical Kidnapping.](#)

Michigan Forces Mom of Medically Kidnapped Teen to Sleep in Car – Issues Gag Order to Keep Story out of the Media

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

Wednesday was a very disappointing day for a medically kidnapped teenager in Michigan and her family. Leiani McMichael, her mother Rebecca Campos-Santana, their

family, and supporters all over the nation hoped that the Oakland County Family Court would allow this family to be reunited at last. Their hopes were dashed when this did not happen, and the family is now being gagged from speaking out about the injustice that they continue to experience.

An advocate who attended court with the family posted this update on the [Save Leiani](#) Facebook page:

Here is an update as I and hubby left when they broke for lunch around 12:30 the Attorneys with GAL were trying to come out of a agreement plan that all can agree upon, the Agreement was it would take 6 weeks to reunite Leiani with her Mom, Rebecca ... wasn't happy nor Leiani which I can understand 6 weeks might [not be] much for CPS GAL etc... but it's a life time for Leiani and her Mom especially for their young 9 year old whom is waiting for her Mom to be a full loving Mom reunited with them living together

... my heart aches for you in order for your daughter Leiani to be home with her step dad and little sister you were forced out of the house being Homeless living in your truck 😞 because of your selfless sacrifice your cries as of your daughters will never go unheard God will prevail you guys.

as for your Sweet Leiani she is just an Angel she spoke cried out stating how unhappy she is of the whole situation I am so proud of her God bless her and protect her always...

[The wait was] too long, we've stayed from 8:15 till 12:30 just for the Attorneys to come out with an agreement before going before Judge Hallmark!!! OMG how can I forget to mention [WXYZ-TV Channel 7](#) Reporter Nima Shaffe with the Camera man in coming to the court and update on [#SaveLeiani](#) case as they had to do the interview before

Judge give a Gag order for Rebecca ... not to talk to the media as they claimed that Leiani would be harmed by the social media, well we all know what is going on CPS wanted the Gag order to keep the truth from coming out and expose all the corruption Leiani is almost 18 years older in Oct, and they think that she can't speak for herself as she really wanted to speak before the judge to inform her of her interest in wanting to be reunited with her Mom and wanting a normal family! I pray that [Save Leiani](#) was able to express her desires to the Judge.

This hearing and gag order is the latest development in a heartbreaking story that began when previously healthy 16 year old Leiani became sick in February 2015.

See original story:

[Michigan Teen Medically Kidnapped and Placed in Juvenile Detention Facility as Her Health Deteriorates](#)

She had numerous doctors appointments and tests to find out what was causing her abdominal pain. One surgery left her in worse shape than she was before. When a hospital gave her medicines to which she was allergic, the mishap left her in a coma. Instead of acknowledging the mistakes, Leiani was accused of making it all up. She was labeled with "conversion disorder," and her mother was accused of Munchausen by proxy, and later "medical neglect."



Rebecca before court – optimistic that the court would put the family back together. They didn't. Source: [Save Leiani](#) Facebook page.

Then, Child Protective Services stepped in.

CPS seized Leiani away from her family and placed her in a juvenile detention facility – Children's Village. This is the same "jail" that the Tsimhoni siblings were sentenced to by [Judge Lisa Gorcyca](#) after they refused to have lunch with their father.

Child Protective Services took a sick child away from her family and placed her in a place that Leiani describes as a dirty place with “bugs crawling all over,” where she was forced to sleep on a thin mattress on a concrete floor.

Leiani recently described her ordeal in an interview with “The Captain,” and she spoke out about the abuse she suffered, not at the hands of her mother, but at the hands of Child Protective Services. [Link](#).

Freedom Promised, but Only if Mom Left the Home

In January, the court appeared to reunite the family, and it appeared that Leiani was going to be free. The [Save Leiani](#) Facebook page reported:

Leiani is Free! As you might expect there were things that had to be bargained for. We appreciate all of your support.

Her freedom was apparently only an illusion.

In order for Leiani to escape her captivity in Children’s Village and move home with her step-father, there were strings attached. The cost of her daughter’s freedom meant that Rebecca would have to move out of the family home.

Leiani, who is now 17 1/2, is only permitted to see her mother for 30 minutes per week, and can have a 15 minute phone call with her mom each week. She was told that if she were to make contact with her mother other than during the approved visits, she would be sent back to Children’s Village.

Her health has not recovered completely. Leiani is still experiencing stomach troubles, and they still don't know what is causing her condition.

Mother Forced Out of Home, Sleeping in a Truck

With all available funds going to pay for attorneys, there was nothing left over to pay for a hotel. As a result, Rebecca sleeps in her truck, even during the cold Michigan winter.

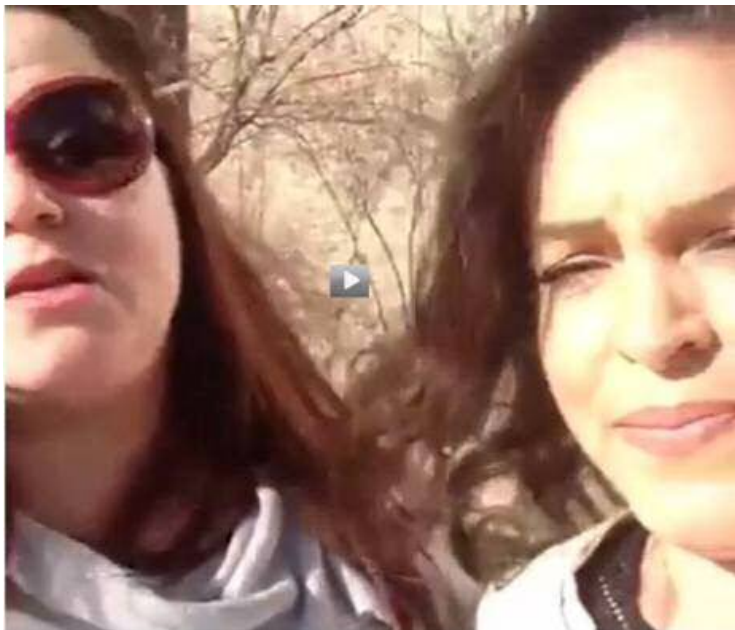


This is where Leiani's mother has been sleeping since her daughter was released from the juvenile detention facility. Source: [Save Leiani](#) Facebook page.

Family Had High Hopes for Court

Rebecca and Leiani had very high hopes for their court

hearing on Wednesday, and they were joined by family and supporters. They recorded a video that was posted to the [Save Leiani](#) Facebook page:



According to one of the supporters, lawyers discussed and debated in court. Despite the fact that Leiani wants her family to be reunited, and despite the fact that she asserts that her mother did nothing wrong, the family's desire for reunification is not happening immediately. It may happen in 6 weeks, but nothing is certain. In January, the court said they were going to begin reunification, but it hasn't happened yet.

Leiani misses spending time with her mother. She is a Junior in high school, with prom and other important activities coming up. But the state of Michigan does not allow her to enjoy the wisdom and company of her own mother as she

picks out dresses and plans her future. Leiani says that:

Family is always what's in the best interest of the child.

When she was seized from home, the removal was immediate. However, as many families report to Health Impact News, the “reunification” process takes weeks or months, or even years. Is the reason for this so that the state can maximize federal funds?

Unconstitutional Gag Order

Though uncertainty remains over the reunification plan, one thing is certain, the family is now forbidden from speaking to media or posting on social media about their family or case. They have been shackled with an unconstitutional gag order.

How much more injustice are they trying to hide? What do they not want the public to know?

What the Public Can Do to Help

Though Rebecca and her family are forbidden to share the truth on social media, supporters are welcome to encourage the family, and to network with each other to fight to restore this family. There is a Facebook page that has been set up by supporters called [Save Leiani](#).

I promise I'll **stop** posting the truth about **DHS/CPS** when these guys **start** reporting it.



Governor Rick Snyder may be reached at 517-335-7858 or 517-373-3400, or contacted [here](#).

Mike McCready represents the district that Leiani and her family live in. He may be reached at 517-373-8670, or contacted [here](#).

Their State Senator is Jim Marleau. He may be reached at 248-724-2442, or contacted [here](#).

Other Michigan families whose stories have been reported by Health Impact News include the shocking recent story of Alexis Odonnell, whose health has drastically deteriorated in state care, whose twin Abbie was close to death, but is faring much better after advocates fought for her to get proper medical care. See their story and other stories of CPS injustice in Michigan:

[Michigan Teen Girl in CPS Custody Near Death – Twin Sister Pleads for Her Life](#)

Other stories from Michigan:

[Once Thriving Michigan Teenager Now Facing Death in CPS Custody](#)

[10-Month Old Baby Medically Kidnapped in Michigan](#)

[Michigan Family Traumatized by CPS in Medical Kidnapping of Twins](#)

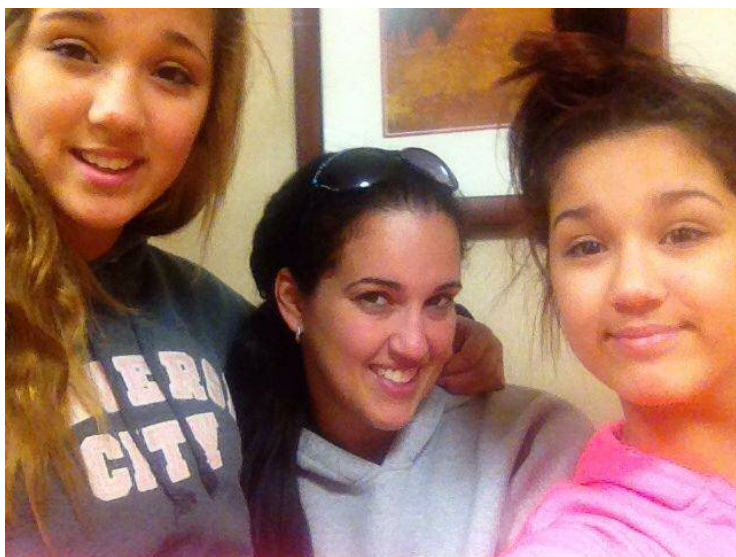
[Police in Michigan Seize 6 Children Because Family Was Camping in Tents](#)

[20 Year Old Autistic Girl in Michigan Medically Kidnapped Over Treatment Disagreement](#)

[State of Michigan Appeals Case Against Parents to Force Chemo on Cancer-free Child](#)

[Mother Faces Down Swat Team & Tank For Refusing to Drug Daughter](#)

Formerly Healthy Twins Now Wasting Away in Michigan Care for 2 Years After Allegedly Trying Marijuana



Abbie, Laura, and Alexis – before CPS. Photo courtesy Odonnell family.

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

The Odonnell twins were healthy teenage girls before they went into Michigan state custody 2 years ago at the age of 13. They were talented athletes who participated in national cheerleading and gymnastic competitions. Now, their mother is literally afraid for their lives. Laura Odonnell

reports that her girls are very ill, but the state seems to be neglecting their medical care. Since they were taken from their home, Abbie has developed anorexia, and Alexis has bulimia – both serious eating disorders that are wreaking catastrophic damage on their bodies.

They got into some trouble, but their family wants to know when the state of Michigan will stop punishing them. Their time away from home and from each other has taken a huge emotional and physical toll on the twins. However, instead of working to get them the help they need, the state seems intent on punishing them even more. At the last court hearing, Laura was told that the girls are to be sent to a facility in Boys Town, Nebraska. All visitation has been cut off, and she is no longer being given information about their condition.

Laura is terrified for her daughters, who are now 15 years old. What she wants more than anything is for them to get the medical care they need.

Health Declining Drastically in State Care

Health Impact News first reported this heartbreaking story when Abbie was lying in a hospital bed in very serious condition from anorexia, a condition she did not have before CPS involvement. The twins are tall – 5 feet 9 inches, but Abbie weighed only 102 lbs when we reported her story in December 2015. She was on a feeding tube and had begun passing out.

See original story:

Once Thriving Michigan Teenager Now Facing Death in CPS Custody

Abbie before cps.



Abbie with cps



Abbie before and after CPS. Photo source: [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps](#) Facebook page.

The state had planned to place her in Wolverine, a juvenile detention facility where they had already sent her twin sister Alexis. After this story broke, activists made phone calls and worked to free Abbie. Plans changed, and she was sent to an eating disorders facility in Ohio, where she began getting better. She wasn't with her twin, however.

Alexis remained at Wolverine, where her condition rapidly

deteriorated. In just a few months, it was Abbie's turn to plead for help for her twin. Alexis developed bulimia, and her blood sugar was frequently very low. She experienced episodes of passing out.

See Alexis' story, written in May:

Michigan Teen Girl in CPS Custody Near Death – Twin Sister Pleads for Her Life

Excessive Punishment

Their troubles began when the family moved away from the school that the girls had attended since kindergarten. The twins struggled with their new school, and they were having a difficult time adjusting to leaving their old school and old friends behind. Word reached their principal and their mother that they smoked marijuana on one occasion. Laura wanted to nip that kind of behavior in the bud. They were not drug addicts; they made a poor choice.

The school sent Child Protective Services out to their home. The social worker told the worried mother that she needed to file “incorrigible” charges on her daughters. Little did she know what a nightmare following that advice would bring on their family. The girls were now in the juvenile system, complete with a probation officer.

Note: for an adult in the state of Michigan, the penalty for marijuana use is a maximum of 90 days in jail, and a maximum \$100 fine. Apparently, for juveniles, the penalty is much steeper. They have been paying for their mistake for 2 years, with no end in sight.

The girls landed in a foster home where there was reported

abuse. After they ran away from the foster home, a probation officer, Amy Bennett, decided that the girls must pay dearly for their “crime” of running away. Child Protective Services and the juvenile system were both involved.

Since the previous articles (linked to above), there have been some alarming developments in their story. Laura, the mother, recently was interviewed on the National Safe Child show with host Tammi Stefano, where she gave an update on her two daughters. Listen to her interview:

<https://youtu.be/ZSZXc9zcDbE>

Abbie began to get some weekend visits home, and Alexis was finally allowed a home visit. By this time, there had been a great deal of trauma in the lives of the girls. Both were, and are, seriously ill.

They are identical twins. The magnitude of harm that separation of twins has on their emotions is something that appears to be vastly under-appreciated by juvenile and child protective workers, despite the amount of research that is readily available. For Abbie and Alexis, their separation has been devastating.



This was the only time that Alexis got a home pass from Wolverine. Source: Odonnell family.

They were going through a difficult season in their lives when this saga began. Had the family been supported in dealing with that season, things might be very different now. Instead, the girls have been beaten down and broken in the system, separated from each other and their family and friends. Both were fearful for the other's life.

The state finally started working on a reunification plan to get the girls home, but there was a serious flaw in the plan –

there was no provision for paying for the badly-needed medical care of the girls.

Probation officer Amy Bennett reportedly insisted that the girls be in a juvenile day program to serve their time, where they would come home at nights, under the watchful eye of the state. This plan involved having a worker come to the house every night at varying times in the middle of the night to check and make sure they were home. Bennett reportedly wanted them to serve a minimum of 10 months in this arrangement.

During a few of the meetings, it was discussed that the plan would also include sending Alexis to an eating disorder program similar to the one that had helped Abbie. However, Laura says that they told her that the state did not have funding for such a program. Laura wanted to make sure that the serious medical needs of her previously healthy children would be addressed. Meanwhile, Alexis was suffering at the Wolverine facility.

Mother Arrested

When Laura Dalton walked into the courtroom on June 13, she was presented with a long list of court ordered requirements in order to get her daughters home. When she looked over the list, she realized that the cost of the eating disorder treatment for Alexis at the University of Michigan Motts would be placed on her. However, because the girls were under state custody, Laura no longer had insurance on the girls, and did not qualify to get Medicaid on them. The cost for their care should have been the responsibility of the state, but the probation officer Amy Bennett reportedly told Laura:

If she is getting treatment, you are paying for it.

This was consistent with a text that Laura had received earlier from the probation officer.

Amy Bennett

Good morning Laura, the girls had different Medicaid coverage when they were in residential placement as opposed to the juvenile center. You're right, it did cover it when they were in residential but it will not cover it now that they are at the juvenile center. we can still try to keep the appointments, however, the financial burden will lie with you. Please advise on how you would like to proceed. Thank you.

AB



iMessage



The program at U of M would cost at least \$40,000 for an 8 week period. (Abbie's similar treatment was to have lasted a minimum of 8 weeks, but it took 6 months.) Laura was told that she could make payments if she paid 25% down payment.

She simply did not have the money, or any way of coming up with that sum of money. However, she says that Alexis has now had bulimia for so long (since September) that experts are telling her that Alexis CANNOT get over it on her own; it will take therapy and treatment. Her body is accustomed to throwing up every meal. Her health is suffering and she is passing out frequently.

Laura says that there is no question that she needs a treatment program. The problem is that she doesn't have tens of thousands of dollars lying around. If the state would close their case, then she could get them back on insurance or Medicaid.

They were setting us up to fail. There was no way that I could do everything.

When she told the judge that she couldn't meet the requirements of the reunification plan, he apparently interpreted her inability to comply as refusal to comply. He threw her in jail for 3 days for contempt of court. (Laura has never before been in trouble with the law or been arrested.)

From Bad to Worse

Just before she was arrested, Laura showed case workers a photo of bruising that was on Alexis' legs. Thus, while her mother was in jail, Alexis was moved out of Wolverine into a

foster home. On the following Monday, June 20, Abbie was released from the eating disorder clinic in Ohio and placed into a foster home.



Alexis had bruises all over her legs when she came home from Wolverine for a weekend pass. Source: Odonnell family

Their older sister Alyssa was also released from the lockdown facility she had been in, and Laura was looking forward to a fun evening with all 3 of the sisters together again, because they all were going to be home for the evening. Laura planned to take the girls to a local carnival.

However, the trauma of the past 2 years had deeply affected the twins. No matter what they did, CPS and the probation officer always seemed to demand more and more of the girls. They have lost hope and are having a difficult time seeing any light at the end of the tunnel. The tunnel has shown no signs of ending.

It is in that context that the next events must be seen. Numerous families have reported to Health Impact News that being in the CPS/state system has scarred their children deeply. Numerous studies of foster children show that separation from their family and institutionalization causes deep seated trauma that can take a lifetime to overcome. Even when children return home after brief times in the CPS system, the impact of foster care can be profound.

When the foster mom brought Abbie to Laura on Saturday afternoon, Laura noticed that her daughter was acting very tired. By the time they got to the carnival, it was clear that something was very wrong, and Laura contact paramedics, and Abbie was transported to the emergency room. They found that while Abbie was still at the foster home, she had taken a bunch of Mucinex pills (cough medicine). She was depressed, feeling like nobody cares. This was not any kind of attempt to get high; she was attempting to commit suicide. It was certainly a cry for help.



Abbie, Alexis, and Alyssa – all together on vacation in Daytona Beach, just a month before CPS separated them. Source: Odonnell family.

Once they were at the hospital, Alexis had a meltdown. She wanted to go to the back with her twin, but they wouldn't let her. Laura says that she has never seen Alexis act like she did

that night. She was enraged, screaming, and punching concrete walls in her frustration at not being able to be with her sister. When she said that she, too, felt suicidal, she was admitted to the hospital. She never did get to see her twin that night. Abbie was released to go back to the foster home in the wee hours of the morning, while Alexis was admitted to a psychiatric hospital for several days.

Both girls were on several prescription medications by this point in time, and it is not clear how much of a role they played in the events of that night. Alexis would later testify that she was currently on at least 9 medications, including anti-depressants, and that was just the ones that she could name. Abbie had been prescribed high doses of Adderall, which can cause panic, depression, and irregular heartbeat.

Alexis has had many days in the past few months where her blood sugar has bottomed out, and Laura wonders if that may have played a role in her behavior that night. Both girls have had frequent episodes of passing out.

Alleged Probation Violations

The girls had court on July 5 and 8, and they were each charged with violating their probation. Abbie's violation was her suicide attempt, and Alexis' was that she had the meltdown in the hospital lobby. They were sentenced to 5 days in juvenile detention. However, they are currently still there. Continuing the pattern of being held indefinitely by the state of Michigan, their 5 days has now stretched into 3 weeks.

The only bright spot in this is that, finally, after 2 years, the twins are in the same facility for the first time. However, they are reportedly being held in different cells.

Repeatedly over the past 2 years, Laura says that when she complains about the excessive punishment of her daughters, she has been told:

This isn't adult court. It doesn't run the same way.

In adult court, they would have rights. They would not still be serving time 2 years later for an offense that would have earned an adult no more than 3 months in jail.

Girls to Go to Nebraska Facility

At the July 8 hearing, Laura learned that the court is wanting to send her daughters to a facility in Boys Town, Nebraska. They did not explain why. She has no family or friends in the state. She suspects that it is so that they can be rid of the financial obligation for the girls, because they keep telling her that there is no funding to get the medical care the twins need. The facility is not an eating disorder therapy facility, and Laura has no idea if the girls' medical needs would be met there.

At the latest court hearing, they also told the mother that her visits are terminated with the twins. She is now under a "no contact order." Amy Bennett blames Laura for "refusing" to take the girls home.

Alexis reportedly had another outburst at the hospital after a phone call with her mother. Laura told her that she wanted her to be taken off of all the psych meds. A social worker called Laura to explain the need for the medications, and Laura agreed to them. Over an hour after the phone call with her mom, Alexis had a meltdown. As often happens, the child's response was blamed on the mother, rather than the

more likely culprit – anger and frustration at the current situation and over the fact that she cannot go home, where she wants to be.

However, the phone call was cited in court as the reason for the no contact order on both twins.

Laura feels that her girls just want their life back. Because the system continually beats them down and takes their loved ones away, they are depressed and suicidal. Laura believes that if she could get the girls the care that they need and if she could get them home, the girls would eventually be OK.

Instead of seeing Alexis and Abbie's actions as cries for help, they are being punished even more. The mother wants to know, "when does it end?" When will Amy Bennett think that they have paid enough penance for trying marijuana? Laura only hopes and prays that it will not be too late.

Neglected Medical Care

In April, doctors at the Ohio River Clinic ordered a heart monitor test for Abbie to be done by May 18 to test her heart after her many episodes of fainting and her irregular heartbeat. That test has not been done.

Doctors for both girls have ordered an EGD scope to look at the inside of their esophagus and stomach to check for damage from the anorexia and bulimia. However, the state has canceled the recent appointments. There is another procedure scheduled for July 25. It remains to be seen whether that appointment will be kept or cancelled.

Since the no-contact order went into effect, Laura has not

been able to get any information about her daughters' condition. During recent calls, she has been told that she must now go through Amy Bennett to get any information on the girls. Amy Bennett has reportedly not been returning Laura's calls.

Religious Freedom Denied?

Laura Dalton reports that she has been speaking with a pastor who has been attempting to see Abbie and Alexis. It appears that the probation officer Amy Bennett is the gatekeeper who determines who can see the girls, and she has not returned any of the pastor's calls. He has not been able to see the Odonnell twins at all to encourage them or minister to their spiritual needs.

Help the Odonnell Twins Get the Help They Need

The girls were completely healthy when they went into state custody. They were not on any medications. Now, they are on numerous psychotropic medications, and their health has deteriorated drastically. Why isn't the state paying for their needed medical care? They are still wards of the state, and as such, they are responsible for ensuring that the girls' medical needs are taken care of. Why aren't they doing so?

When will enough be enough?

There is a court hearing on Friday, July 29, at 10 a.m. at the St. Clair County Courthouse at 201 McMorran Blvd, Port Huron, Michigan. The family feels that this may be the last opportunity to save the girls. Court watchers are invited, and Laura would love for an attorney to step forward to help them.

There is a Facebook page set up for supporters to follow the story called [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps](#).



Following are people who may be contacted on behalf of the Odonnell twins:

Governor Rick Snyder may be reached at 517-335-7858 or 517-373-3400, or contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

Phil Pavlov is the Senator serving the family's district. He may be reached at 517-373-7708, or contacted [here](#).

Paul Muxlow is their Representative. He may be reached at 517-373-0835, or contacted [here](#).

Representative Ken Goike serves the district of the Odonnell girls' grandmother, and may also be reached at 517-373-0820, or contacted [here](#).

Kidnapped Twins in Michigan Physically Abused: Being Shipped out of State to Destroy Family Ties



Odonnell twins Abbie (left) and Alexis (right) just before court on Friday, July 29. The family was told that Alexis is bruised from “restraints.” Source: [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps](#) Facebook page.

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

Laura Odonnell was shocked to see her 15 year old daughter Alexis arrived to court with a huge bruise on her face. Both twins show signs of being abused in state custody.

The Odonnell twins just want to go home and be together as a family again, but on Friday July 29th Judge Elwood Brown has approved a request from the state to send the Michigan teens to a juvenile facility in Boys Town, Nebraska. When Alyssa, 17, learned that her sisters were going to be sent 19 hours away from home for the next 4 years, she stormed out of the courtroom, visibly upset. For that, a bailiff threatened her with a tazer.

The Odonnell children were healthy before they were taken into state custody 2 years ago after allegedly trying marijuana. They were having a bit of difficulty adjusting to a new school, but the pot incident started a snowball of state intervention which keeps getting worse. Now, the twins are reportedly on a suicide watch, and are spending almost every hour of the day in isolation.

They never had any psychiatric or mental health concerns before entering state custody, but now Abbie has anorexia and Alexis has bulimia. Abbie seems to be turning the trauma inward, but Alexis, always the bolder of the two, is very angry and has been having meltdowns. Little wonder. Every time there is hope of coming home and being together again, their hopes are dashed. Laura wonders how they are going to hold on.

See recent article:

Formerly Healthy Twins Now Wasting Away in Michigan Care for 2 Years After Allegedly Trying Marijuana

Why Are the Twins Being Sent out of Their Home State?

On the July 22nd airing of the National Safe Child Show with host Tammi Stefano, the twins' case in Michigan was discussed with a reporter that writes for MedicalKidnap.com. Ms. Stefano related how she had a telephone conversation with a social worker supervisor within Michigan CPS, a Chris Anderson, who was apparently willing to discuss the Odonnell twins' case. Ms. Anderson acknowledged that CPS was considering sending the twins out of state, and was considering Nebraska as a place to send the girls, to "meet their needs."

When Ms. Stefano asked what those "needs" were that Michigan could not provide, Ms. Anderson replied it was their "juvenile justice needs" and the need to:

develop autonomy from the dysfunction of their interaction with their family.

Ms. Anderson stated that the girls were "bonded to their mother" and that "they love their mother, and their mother loves them" and therefore intervention is needed as this was not apparently healthy.

Interestingly, Ms. Stefano talked to another social worker in Michigan CPS right after her call with Chris Anderson, and this person, Erica Quelay, who is apparently a spokesperson

for the department, made some general comments about the department's policy of sending children under the care of CPS out of state. When asked if the department would send children under the care of Michigan CPS out of the state for treatment, Ms. Quelay reportedly stated:

No, for kids in foster care we do everything we can to keep them in the state, in their community.

When asked about some kids being sent to Nebraska for services, Erica Quelay replied:

No, that is not anything I am familiar with at all... I don't have any reason to believe that would be the case.

The comments about the Michigan story with the Odonnell twins starts at the 20 minute mark in the show:

https://youtu.be/ZX_vqrHWApA?t=1200

Twins Restrained and Harmed Under State Care

Big sister Alyssa was able to visit her sisters before court Friday morning for about a half hour. Their mother was verbally issued a “no-contact” order recently. When their mother came into court, Alyssa warned her mom that the twins did not look good.

That was an understatement.

Abbie's arms are cut up, and Alexis has bruises on her face, shoulders, and ankles. Alyssa was told that this was "from restraints."

Laura wants to know what kind of restraints they could possibly be using on her daughter for there to be bruising on her face. The children were never abused, beaten, or bruised up in her care. This is happening under the watchful eye of the juvenile system.

Sister Threatened with Tazer

During court, Judge Brown told the family that the twins would be sent to a facility in Boys Town, Nebraska, where they would be spending the next 4 years, until they are 19 years old. At that point, 17 year old Alyssa, who misses her sisters terribly, reportedly got up very upset and walked out of the room, shoving the door to the court open. The bailiff reportedly shouted after her:

You push the door again like that, and I'll taze you!

The twins' older brother defended his sister, telling him that he didn't need to threaten her like that, and the bailiff reportedly shoved him.

Court was very emotional for the close-knit family. They still cannot believe the extreme measures taken by the state, and the state's neglect of the twins' health. Understandably, they are upset. Laura is afraid that, as upset as Alexis was today at court, that someone might use a tazer on Alexis.

Separation Devastating

Laura says that the judge has told her that she will be permitted one “good-bye visit” just before they ship off to Nebraska. She says that her children are her life, and that they matter more to her than anything in the world. Her twins are attached to each other (as is very normal) and they are attached to her. The girls have told their handlers that they cannot survive being separated from each other, and, indeed, their current health reflects that assertion.



The family was happy together before state intervention.
Source: Odonnell family

Medical Needs Continue to Be Ignored

There is still no plan for the twins to receive treatment for their eating disorders, even though previous court orders called for it. Both girls have low iron, fainting spells, and health issues relating to the eating disorders. Alexis, to date, has never been treated for her bulimia. Abbie asked the court this morning for help, telling the judge:

I need help. I can't get my calorie counts in.

Her pleas reportedly fell on deaf ears and were not addressed.



Separation is devastating for twins. Source: Odonnell family

Laura Dalton says that she was told in court that the social workers and parole officers have “worked so hard” on the case, but that there has been “no progress.” But the family has been split apart, their health neglected, twins separated, and they have lost hope. At every turn, those in the system have seemed determined to keep them IN the system. What they believe will help them get better is to be together and have their eating disorders and health needs addressed. But they haven’t been given that chance.

Kangaroo Court, But Probation Officer Off the Case

As they were walking into court Friday morning, they were handed notice of another hearing that also occurred that same morning, which gave them no time to prepare any kind of response. Laura has reported this type of behavior from the court on numerous occasions. Recently, she received a notice in the mail of a hearing that had already passed.

Note: An earlier version reported information that based on things said in court on July 29:

The CPS case on the twins has been dismissed. The neglect charges against their mother was dismissed. They were previously under the jurisdiction of both the juvenile system and Child Protective Services. Now, they are solely under the jurisdiction of the juvenile system.

However, according to the court order that was received more than a week later, that is not the case. The CPS case remains open. The family is being told conflicting information.

The family learned recently that Amy Bennett is no longer on the case, but it has to do with a jurisdictional transfer to county probation from DHS probation. It is not because of her alleged misdeeds on the case.

Parental Rights Violated

The judge has reportedly accused Laura of not wanting her children, but that has never been true. He has allegedly accused her of not being able to keep her girls from going AWOL, but Laura reminds us that they ran away from abusive foster care, under state watch. They have never run away from her home. She wants to know how she is being held responsible for what they did while in state care.

Even though the neglect portion of the CPS case is now dismissed, the girls' mother is still ordered to continue individual therapy, and continue weekly drug testing. Laura believes that the drug testing is a waste of state resources, since she has never taken a single drug, never even smoked a joint, in her life. Every drug test has come back clean.

Laura Odonnell's parental rights have technically not been terminated (TPR); however, the actions of the court, in effect, have done the same thing, without putting it in those terms legally. Is it because the state recognizes that they do not have, nor ever have had, grounds to terminate parental rights?

She would like to appeal the court's decisions, but needs an attorney to help with the process.

When will justice actually be served for the Odonnell girls?
When is enough enough?

There is a Facebook page set up for supporters to follow the story called [Free the Odonnell Girls from cps](#).



Following are people who may be contacted on behalf of the Odonnell twins:

Governor Rick Snyder may be reached at 517-335-7858 or 517-373-3400, or contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#).

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University of Michigan Law School Awarded \$250K to Learn How to Defend Shaken Baby Syndrome Cases



The Michigan Supreme Court Unanimously Overturned Leo Ackley's Shaken Baby Syndrome Conviction in 2015. Image source: [Battle Creek Enquirer](#).

Brian Shilhavy
Editor, Health Impact News

The University of Michigan's Innocence Clinic, part of the University's law school, has just been awarded \$250,000 to fight wrongful shaken baby syndrome convictions. The Associated Press is reporting that the grant came from the Department of Justice.

[NPR Radio in Michigan](#) reports that attorneys with the

Innocence Clinic already helped exonerate one person in a shaken baby syndrome case. In 2010, Julie Baumer was retried and found not guilty of abusing her infant nephew.

In 2015, the Michigan Supreme Court unanimously overturned a murder conviction in a shaken baby syndrome case. The court found that Leo Ackley's defense attorney did not properly challenge the conviction with evidence that contradicts the science of shaken baby syndrome, and that the prosecutor produced no witness that Ackley was abusive.

The Assistant Director of the Michigan Innocence Clinic, Imran Syed, stated:

So these shaken baby syndrome cases really appear to be in that category of shifting science, where juries at trial were told things that seemed uncontroversial. But really there's a lot of controversy involved.

And really the most important thing, at least from our perspective as lawyers, isn't who's right or wrong. It's did both sides get aired out in trial? Because our [state] supreme court ruled last year that in an SBS case, both sides have the right to present their side of the debate, and let the jury decide who they believe is more credible: was it an accident, or was it intentional abuse?

And in the vast majority of these cases that we look at, there are no defense experts. The jury only hears one side of the case. ([Source](#).)

Shaken Baby Syndrome Science Credibility Increasingly being Challenged in Courts

The University of Michigan's interest in retrying wrongful shaken baby syndrome convictions follows what is also happening in many other states, where judges are increasingly being confronted with the lack of evidence to support the shaken baby syndrome diagnosis, and that there are other valid medical reasons for childhood injuries that are not the result of parental or caretaker abuse.

In September 2015, [The University of Utah](#) stated:

September 15, 2015, Professor Carissa Hessick was interviewed by Fox13 News about the controversy surrounding the changing diagnosis of shaken baby syndrome and the impacts on prosecutions.

'Shaken Baby Syndrome has become very controversial in the legal field,' said Carissa Byrne Hassick, a law professor at the University of Utah.

'There's no doubt that child abuse is a real problem in this country,' Hassick explained. 'But it's also pretty clear, however, the experts who were originally being advised, they've since come to the conclusion that there's a lot more at play here than originally thought.' [sic]

And in May, 2016 the [West Virginia University](#) reported that:

Hampshire County, West Virginia, native Jeremiah Mongold is a free man today after serving 11 years of a 40-year

sentence for the death of his stepdaughter thanks to the [West Virginia Innocence Project](#) at the [West Virginia University College of Law](#).

In June of 2016, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, Ralph Gants, ordered a new trial on a shaken baby syndrome conviction that was based on the testimony of a doctor, a “Child Abuse Specialist,” [Dr. Alice Newton](#). In so doing, Chief Justice Gants gave extensive advice to attorneys on how to fight against shaken baby syndrome convictions.

In one footnote alone, Gants spent 400 words describing numerous scholarly articles that cast doubt on the diagnosis.

‘A defense expert could have assisted a competent defense attorney in mounting a significant challenge at trial on cross-examination by identifying the methodological shortcomings of the studies they cited,’

Gants wrote.

‘Other attorneys who have successfully staved off a shaken-baby conviction saw the ruling as significant.’

‘The fact that the court is saying that there is a huge debate in the medical and legal communities on this theory of shaken baby syndrome is important,’ said Melinda Thompson, one of McCarthy’s attorneys.

‘And the debate is far from over.’ (Source)

New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Need to Find Child Abuse to Justify Their Jobs?

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

The study came to the following conclusions:

1. The duty of physicians not to become law enforcement officers or to engage in interrogations is violated by practices under which children are detained at hospitals while medical staff (child abuse pediatricians or social worker under their direction) interrogate parents using police-type tactics that have no place in a medical treatment context (Discussion Section I).
2. After a Hotline call has been made, parents’ decision-making as to their children’s medical care and their access to their child may be impaired by misplaced assumptions about parental responsibility for suspected child abuse. This impairment deprives children of their rights to have their parents make essential health care decisions on their behalves. (Discussion Sections II and VI.) In addition, doctors have an ethical duty to protect the child’s familial relationships. If physicians become advocates or willing partners in state child protection actions seeking restricted contact between parents and their children or the removal of a child from her parents, they are acting contrary to medical ethical principles recognizing the importance of “family-centered care” to children. (Discussion Section VI.)
3. The development of the child abuse pediatrics subspecialty, which was recognized by the American Board of Pediatrics in 2009, has led to the child abuse pediatrician

becoming the lead voice with child protection agencies in their determination of whether they believe child abuse occurred and parental access to children should be restricted. The idea that the child abuse pediatrician's has greater expertise than other subspecialists has been more broadly accepted than is justified, especially if the child abuse pediatrician fails to fully consult with subspecialists in forming her abuse conclusions. (Discussion Section III, VIII.)

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

5. The rights to privacy and confidentiality of medical information are not supposed to be lost as a result of child abuse reporting, though current practices appear to assume a right to share a child's confidential medical information may be shared with state and local authorities and with forensic evaluators without parental consent whenever a child abuse report has been made. This overbroad sharing of information beyond the Hotline call itself is a potentially serious breach of medical ethics (Discussion Section V).

6. Physicians and medical institutions who hold contracts with child protection agencies have a duty to notify parents of children who are being evaluated for child abuse as to

these third-party contractual relationships. When parents are not informed of the role of the child abuse pediatrician, or given the informed rights to participate or decline to participate in the child abuse pediatrician's assessment of the Hotline call, including the right to refuse consent to access to records, medical ethics requirements of disclosure and informed consent are violated. (Discussion Section VII.)

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

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

For more information, see:

**Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists”
Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?**

**Child Abuse Pediatricians: An “Ethically
Bankrupt” Profession that Destroys Families**

CPS Kidnapped Michigan Twins Return Home - In Worse Shape Than When the State Took Them



O'Donnell twins before court July 29. Their situation looked hopeless, then suddenly reversed mid-August. Photo supplied by family.

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

In a dramatic turn of events, Michigan twins Abbie and Alexis Odonnell have been returned home to their family.

In July, the family court told the teens' family that they were considering sending them to a facility in Boystown, Nebraska, and their family feared for their safety. (See [story here](#).) All contact had been cut off between the twins and their mother Laura Odonnell, and there was a difficult 6 week period when Laura had no word about the twins at all. The situation looked hopeless.

But now the girls are home.

Laura reports that, out of the blue, she got a phone call telling her that the girls were not doing well, and that the state was going to release Abbie and Alexis from CPS custody and send them home. Alexis came home on August 16, and her twin was released the next day. Their older sister Alyssa had already been coming home for some visits by this point, and she was released from CPS 4 days after she turned 18 on September 2.



O'Donnell sisters. Photo supplied by family.

Nothing prepared Laura for the condition that her twins were in when they were returned to her.

When the state seized custody of the girls following an incident where the twins admitted to smoking a joint, the girls were all healthy. The twins were involved in cheerleading, gymnastics, and swimming. There were no health concerns at all.

Now, the twins have suffered permanent damage to their health. Abbie has developed anorexia, and Alexis has bulimia – serious eating disorders that are often triggered by trauma. The twins came home with numerous bruises and cuts all over their bodies.



Twins' arms when they arrived home

Photos of Abbie's and Alexis' arms when they arrived home from state custody – abused and bruised from shackles. Source: Odonnell family.

It has taken some time for Health Impact News to be able to cover the story of their homecoming, because the girls have been in and out of hospitals and emergency rooms since they

have been home. Numerous interviews have been scheduled and postponed because one or the other or both twins had to be taken back to the emergency room.

The family is thankful that the girls are finally home. However, it has not been smooth sailing. Laura has expressed frustration that by the time the state sent Abbie and Alexis home, their health had deteriorated quite severely. She has been working hard since then to get them well. She wishes that the state had not waited so long. Some of the damage to their health is permanent.

The system did not help my kids at all. What was the point of them being there? They were HEALTHY when the state took them.

Their mother believes that the girls had completely lost hope. They had been told that the state was considering terminating Laura's parental rights, and that they wanted to send them away to a facility in Boystown, Nebraska. In July, probation officer Amy Bennett petitioned the judge for all visits with their mother to cease, and a "no contact" order was issued. She did not see or speak with Abbie or Alexis for 6 long weeks, and no one in the system would tell her how her daughters were doing. Meanwhile, she had regular overnight visits with her older daughter Alyssa.

During that time period, Tammi Stefano, executive director of National Safe Child, spoke with a supervisor with Michigan CPS about the Odonnell children (see [link](#)). The supervisor assured Tammi that they were monitoring the twins' health and that they were "absolutely" OK, and that the twins had the tools that they needed to do the meal planning appropriate for their eating disorders. This claim

was made despite the fact that they were in a lockdown facility with workers who had no training in eating disorders.

Laura had no idea that Abbie had regressed into her anorexia. During her final 6 weeks in state care, Abbie lost 12 lbs.

Despite the assertion by the CPS supervisor, the twins were apparently not doing well at all.

Home! And Straight to the Emergency Room

On Abbie's very first night back home, her heart rate was so low that she had to be taken to the E.R. Both girls had contracted an infection in the detention center. Alexis says that she had told workers at the center about it, but they were unconcerned. After they were home, doctors quickly realized that the infection was life-threatening. They spent most of their first week home in and out of the hospital due to the infection.



Abbie at the E.R. on her first night home. Photo source: Odonnell family.

The girls have inflammation and damage to their esophagus and gastrointestinal tract. They experience periods of fainting, as well as low blood pressure and low blood sugar. Testing shows that there is damage to Abbie's heart. Both twins came home anemic.

Since they have been home, Abbie has spent a total of 19 days in the hospital, primarily for bradycardia resulting from the anorexia. She has been admitted twice to the hospital.

Alexis has also made several trips to the emergency room as well. Bulimia has taken a toll on her body. When they came home, Alexis was on 13 different psychotropic medications. She has now been weaned off of the drugs.

Gaps in Medical Coverage

Despite the many health concerns, the girls were left without medical coverage for most of their issues. Before they were taken by the state, they had full-coverage with Medicaid. Because they went into the juvenile system, they have what one social worker termed “jail Medicaid,” which only covers emergency room visits and hospital admissions. Therefore, they cannot simply visit a doctor when there are problems; they are forced to go to the emergency room.

The current plan leaves huge gaps in their coverage. Laura hopes that they will close the girls’ juvenile case soon. Then, she should be able to get full Medicaid coverage. Until then, she has to scramble to get the twins care for the harm that came to them while they were in Michigan state custody.

Emotional Trauma from Being Away from Home

The twins were traumatized in state custody. The love and nurture of their family is helping them, but they are experiencing what many families have reported to Health Impact News. It is not all sunshine and roses when children come back home after being seized from their families. It is a sometimes long and arduous process to emotional wholeness. Children, whether separated for a matter of hours or for several years, suffer trauma because of that separation. Rarely are these stories “happy ever after,” even when they have a good ending.



Emotional reunion between Alexis and her young niece. Photo courtesy of Odonnell family.

This is an indictment on the “just in case” approach often used by social workers and judges, where they seize children before gathering adequate evidence. That theory reassures the workers that they are doing a good thing and exercising caution “in the best interest of the child.” The experience of many innocent families who have to work to help their children put their lives back together shows that this is not, in fact, in the best interest of the children at all. Even a few hours or days of foster care can cause damage that can take months or years to heal.

Alexis, who spent more time than her sister in Wolverine detention center, suffered from nightmares when she first got home. The girls are only just now sleeping without the light on.

Girls Behind in School

Alexis missed an entire year of school while in state care, and Abbie missed two years. They will now have to play catch-up and plan to do homebound school. Under Michigan state law, they don't qualify to do online schooling, since the state issued IEPs on them. Individualized Educational Plans are designed so that states can get federal funding for children with disabilities. The girls were never considered disabled before they entered state custody, but, as many families have reported to Health Impact News, often their children are labeled disabled once they enter the system, allegedly so that the state can "maximize funding" on the children. The IEP on Abbie was requested, and granted, by Wolverine detention center after Abbie was no longer there.

Even though they are identical twins, they are no longer in the same grade.

Their older sister Alyssa was able to remain in school during her time in foster care. Laura is proud of the fact that she maintained a 4.0 average. (She notes that Alyssa was not under probation officer Amy Bennett's authority, as the twins were.)

However, Alyssa is now missing the first semester of her senior year due to issues with CPS. Her father flew to Michigan from Hawaii to pick her up during the summer according to an agreed-upon plan. When he arrived, the department told him that they didn't have the paperwork ready. The paperwork was not ready until right at the beginning of the school year for Michigan, just after Alyssa turned 18. When she finally arrived in Hawaii, she had already missed too much of the school year, because they started in August. She cannot enroll until next semester,

which means she will not graduate on time unless they can figure out a way to make up the credits.

Some members of the family believe that the state kept Alyssa in the system as long as they possibly could in order to get the maximum federal funds for her. They also believe that they finally released the twins from CPS custody when it became clear that their health was so poor that it would cost the state more to care for them than to let them go. (Note: the CPS case is closed, but the juvenile court case is still open.)

Still Not Completely Free

When the twins were returned home, they were due to be on a day/night watch program as part of their probation. Probation officer Amy Bennett had long been determined to make them serve a full 12 month sentence for their crime – they had run away from an abusive foster home. Many times Bennett made it clear to the family that the girls were not going to “get out of” their sentence by getting sick and throwing up.



Probation Officer Amy Bennett. Photo source: Facebook.

At some point after the court hearing in July, Bennett was removed from the case. Laura started dealing directly with the probation director, who seems to be more reasonable.

The probation program severely restricted the family's freedom. The twins were to stay at home 24/7 unless they had received prior permission to leave for doctor's appointments and such. They were assigned a curfew. The night watch program means that workers come by at all hours of the night, and the girls must come to the door and show that they are home, even if it is 4:00 in the morning.

They still did not have the freedom to go hang out with friends or go to the mall. They were frustrated, and told the workers that they just wanted to be normal teenagers again

and have a normal life. They had already lost the past 2 years of their lives.

This lack of freedom caused a great deal of anxiety. Triggers still lurk around many corners. A simple trip to the day watch facility resulted in a meltdown, when one of the girls simply walked into the restroom. Something triggered a traumatic memory. Fortunately, the probation director recognized the event as trauma and didn't attempt to punish her further. They have slowly been giving the girls more freedom during the day, even though the night watch program remains.

This appears to be helping. The twins are beginning to show signs of improvement. Because of the severity of the eating disorder, their mother must monitor them after each meal to make sure that they don't purge. They have meal plans to follow. In the past few days, they have been keeping down more meals, where previously every meal was coming back up, especially for Abbie. The vomiting had become so bad that it was involuntary.

Laura has done a great deal of research on their eating disorders. The nature of anorexia and bulimia is such that they cannot get past it without help. It is not something that people "get over" and stop on their own.

Amy Bennett had allegedly told her and the twins that they were simply being manipulative so that they could be together, and so that they could go home. Laura has learned that anorexia and bulimia often arise out of trauma. They become coping mechanisms for dealing with the trauma, and, if not addressed early on, can become habitual and very difficult to overcome. Her daughters certainly experienced trauma in juvenile detention and foster care, where excessive punishments seem to be the norm. Separation of

twins in and of itself can be quite traumatic.

Laura has searched high and low to get them into a residential eating disorders facility, but has not found one in her state. She has, however, found a group of doctors who specialize in treating the disorders, and they are working together.

Last week, after a consultation with the doctors, Abbie was admitted to the hospital again because her heart rate was so low. This was her second hospital admission since coming home August 17. There were some apparent triggers as she was admitted into the hospital, and she began having a meltdown. This time, however, the eating disorder specialist recognized the meltdown for what it was. Instead of punishing her, she worked to reassure her and calm her down.

Laura believes that neither Abbie's nor Alexis' behavior in the past couple of years has been the result of rebellion; it was the cry of kids who were emotionally wounded and traumatized after being removed from her care by the state. Having an adult authority understand that, who chose not to punish Abbie for hurting, has made a significant difference. Having some freedom to act like normal teenagers is helping. The girls are showing positive signs of beginning to work through their problems.

Advocates Made a Difference

Health Impact News first learned of the family when this heartbreaking photo reached us, showing Abbie near death from anorexia. The 5'9 teen weighed only 103 lbs, and her heart rate and blood pressure were dangerously low.

Abbie before cps.



Abbie with cps



Abbie happy and healthy, holding her niece, before CPS. After CPS, her life was in danger. Photo source: Odonnell family.

See original story:

Once Thriving Michigan Teenager Now Facing Death in CPS Custody

Activists all over the country got involved, calling and writing legislators, sharing their story, and praying. By April, Abbie had been placed into an eating disorders clinic in Ohio and her health was improving.

But Alexis appeared to the court to be in shocking condition. Her hair was falling out and she had sores on her hands from the bulimia and causing herself to throw up. Her blood sugar was dangerously low. Abbie recorded a video asking for the public to help her twin as they had helped her.

See story:

Michigan Teen Girl in CPS Custody Near Death – Twin Sister Pleads for Her Life

It has been a long and difficult journey. Now the Odonnell girls are finally home. The family wants to thank everyone who has called legislators, written letters, prayed, or worked to bring their children home.

Being away from everyone that they loved has changed them forever, and they have lost much. It will be a process to recovery, just as it is for every child who is returned to their family after being legally or medically kidnapped.

At one point last week, Laura reported that she felt that people expected the girls to automatically be fine once they got home, and that something was wrong with her as a mother if the girls had any struggles.

But their family was broken by the system. Healing doesn't happen overnight, but with love and support, their family is hopeful that their health will improve. They are thankful to finally be together as a family again.

Michigan Parents Falsely Accused of Abusing Own Child by Child Abuse Specialist Have Case Dismissed



Photo from video at ABC 7, WXYZ.com.

Health Impact News

Heather Catallo of ABC7 in Detroit is [reporting](#) that a family falsely accused of child abuse by Dr. [Bethany Mohr](#) of Mott Children's Hospital has had their case dismissed in court.

A family from Westland says when they noticed a mark on their newborn's stomach, they took him to the doctor right away. But Allie and Jimmy Parker were stunned when a University of Michigan doctor accused them of abusing their baby.

Instead of sending them to the emergency room closest to their home, their doctor told them to go to University of Michigan hospital.

“I thought we lived in America where you were innocent until you were proven guilty,” Allie Parker told 7 Investigator Heather Catallo. “We were guilty until we proved we were innocent.”

The Parkers say they later found out that the Child Protection Team at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital had already been activated. It’s a team made up of social workers and specialists known as Child Abuse Pediatricians. Dr. Bethany Mohr is the director of that team.

The Parkers say they later learned Dylan was born with rickets and had very fragile bones. However, at the time, they could not explain his injuries to Dr. Mohr.

Child Protective Services workers removed Dylan and 1-year-old Isabella from the Parkers’ care, and for 3 weeks Allie and Jimmy were not allowed to see their babies at all.

“Parents have a constitutional right to parent their children,” said attorney Lisa Kirsch Satawa. “And when you interrupt a breast-feeding mom and child you are disrupting the bond, you’re disrupting the ability to parent.”

Satawa says she knew she needed to bring in outside experts when she saw Dr. Mohr’s statement in her report that “Dylan’s bruising is diagnostic of physical abuse.”

After 8 months and a lengthy trial, a Wayne County judge dismissed the case and apologized to the Parkers saying in his ruling, “I heard a lot deeper science from some of the

other witnesses than I heard from Dr. Mohr.”

Read the full article at WXYZ.com.



Dr. [Bethany Mohr](#), Mott Children’s Hospital. [Image source](#).

This is not the first time readers of MedicalKidnap.com have heard about Child Abuse Specialist Dr. Bethany Mohr.

In 2016 we brought you the story of Michigan parents Josh Soto and Alexandria Burgess who had a similar experience with Dr. Mohr. See:

10-Month Old Baby Medically Kidnapped in Michigan



Photo supplied by family.

More and More People Are Beginning to See the Problems with Child Abuse Specialists Who Rip Families Apart

Heather Catallo of ABC7 in Detroit did not stop at simply reporting on the Parker's story.

She looked further into the role of Child Abuse Specialists in the field of pediatrics, and interviewed other experts as well.

They are called Child Abuse Pediatricians, and they say their mission is to protect children. However, local parents, attorneys and even some doctors say some of these specialists are tearing families apart.

The Parker family says they were emotionally and financially devastated after a false accusation of child abuse. Their lawyer says she's had to fight against the same Child Abuse Pediatrician who accused the Parkers about 20 times, and they want to warn other families.

"I said why can't we get a second opinion, why is this one physician's opinion the end all be all to your decision to terminate our parental rights," Allie said, adding that it was just how things go because the doctor was the expert.

The Parkers are talking about Child Abuse Pediatrician Bethany Mohr from the University of Michigan's C. S. Mott Children's Hospital. They're not the only family who says Dr. Mohr's accusation of child abuse tore their family apart.

Dr. Smith volunteers his expertise for families facing abuse allegations from Child Abuse Pediatricians, including eight who have been accused by Dr. Mohr.

"I think Dr. Mohr misleads families," Dr. Smith said. "She examines the child but she doesn't treat any of the injuries. She will be the number one witness against the family if they're prosecuted."

When a Child Abuse Pediatrician interviews you, legal experts say you won't be advised of your rights like you would if you were in police custody. However, you should know that anything you tell someone like Dr. Mohr can be used against you.

A law professor at the University of Wisconsin says Dr. Mohr's way is a recipe for disaster.

"It's just a recipe for error and for injustice," said University

of Wisconsin Law School Professor Keith Findley.

Findley says Child Abuse Pediatricians have a huge amount of influence with the jury, and when they make a medical diagnosis of abuse, your presumption of innocence is gone.

“So to say that doctors can diagnose the conduct and intent of some third party actor is really beyond, beyond what medicine can support,” Findley said.

Read the [full article at WXYZ.com](#).

Health Impact News has been exposing the role of pediatric sub-specialty of Child Abuse Specialists since 2015, and their role in breaking up families. See:

[Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?](#)

[Child Abuse Pediatricians: An “Ethically Bankrupt” Profession that Destroys Families](#)

[Pediatric Child Abuse “Experts” are NOT Experts in Anything](#)

[Elite Medical Doctors Seek to Control the Media and Public’s Perception of Child Abuse Specialists](#)

[Exposing How Child Abuse Pediatricians Medically Kidnap Children: A Guide for Parents](#)