#### **Health Impact News**

## Medical Kidnapping Children in the United States: Oklahoma

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#### Oklahoma



# Oklahoma Takes 3 Children Away from Parents When One is Found with Possible Brittle Bone Disease



Whinery family collage, image from <u>Please Give Me My</u> <u>Babies Back Facebook Page</u>

#### **Health Impact News**

April and Joshua Whinery report that they won't ever give up fighting for their children whom they say were medically kidnapped by DHS in Oklahoma. According to Joshua, it started "all because I took my child to the hospital."

Degenerative bone disease runs in his family, yet the couple was accused of abuse. Though the family has repeatedly asked for him to be tested, DHS has allegedly refused to allow the test, attempting instead to terminate all of the couple's parental rights.

The last they heard, Hazel, who is almost 5 now, was praying every morning and night to be able to see her parents. It has been almost a year now since the Whinerys have been permitted to see their kids. All visits were cut off last March with Hazel, Travis, 3 1/2, and Aiden, who turned 2 in December. DHS reportedly told the family:

"You're never going to get your kids back, so it is best to cut it off now and get the kids in counseling."

## Baby with Health Issues, Showing Possible Signs of Bone Issues Which Run in the Family

April says that Hazel and Travis were always in good health. Things were different when Aiden was born to April and Joshua, because this baby had a few health issues that she hadn't experienced with the others. There was thrush, then a period of projectile vomiting, which stopped after his doctor diagnosed him as lactose intolerant and switched formulas.

At the two month checkup, April says that they asked about a couple of knots they had found on Aiden's ribs. There are a number of degenerative bone issues in Joshua's family, and they were concerned. Aiden is Joshua's first child, thus the only one of the children to be affected by his family history. The other two children are April's from a previous relationship. The doctor reportedly assured the Whinerys that the knots were nothing, chalking them up to the baby

growing.



Photos supplied by family.

At three months, Aiden had a rough month. He had pneumonia, bronchitis, then pneumonia again.

He began running a high fever, so April and Joshua reportedly took Aiden to the ER at Jackson County Memorial Hospital. By this time, the baby had reportedly already been to the doctor or hospital about a dozen times, and had two sets of chest x-rays. On this occasion, they say another x-ray was taken, and the doctors found four rib fractures. This was allegedly reported as abuse to DHS.

## DHS Takes All the Children From their Family, Refuses to Test Baby to Find Explanation

April and Joshua tried to figure out how this could have

happened, and they told the social workers that Travis, who was not yet 2 at the time, had tripped and fallen recently, landing on the baby. However, there was no bruising, and no marks. Aiden never acted like he was in pain, so they didn't think anything was wrong. <u>Videos</u> of Aiden show a <u>happy</u>, cooing baby. They were very puzzled.

The Whinerys say they later learned that the rib fractures showed up on the previous two x-rays, but no one ever said anything to them about it.

After Aiden was released from the hospital, the family went home, preparing to celebrate Hazel's birthday. However, shortly after they got home, DHS called and told them to bring all three children to their doctor at Oklahoma City Children's Hospital, Dr. John Stuemky. He found nothing wrong with Hazel or Travis. However, based solely on Aiden's x-rays, allegedly without even looking at his medical history or family history, the doctor ruled that it was abuse.

That was the day that DHS seized all three children, on March 25, 2013, Hazel never even got to open her birthday presents.



Hazel, Travis, and Aiden

April and Joshua have been trying to get their son tested ever since, to no avail.

According to Joshua's mother Kelli Mossier, there are a great deal of fragile bone conditions in their family. A couple of cousins have osteogenesis imperfecta, which is defined as "a genetic disorder characterized by bones that break easily, often from little or no apparent cause." Other family members have Marfan syndrome, and Joshua's grandmother and Joshua himself have pectis carinatum, an abnormal protrusion of the chestbones. Despite this history, DHS allegedly fought against a judge's order to have the baby tested for any kind of bone disease or rickets.

#### Signs of Rickets Could Be Vaccine-Related

DHS acknowledges that Aiden has one of the classic signs of rickets, bowed legs, but allegedly Dr. Stuemky has testified that the Whinerys actually caused the bowed legs. Even though his accusation of abuse is what led to the separation of three children from everyone that they know, Dr. Stuemky has refused to testify in person in court against the parents. Though the judge was reportedly not happy about it, he was permitted to testify via Skype.

According to a recent report by <u>Health Impact News</u>, Dr. David Ayoub has connected infantile rickets with vaccine injury. Aiden was fully vaccinated according to the recommended schedule. He says that a number of parents have been falsely accused of abuse when the real culprit is vaccine-induced infantile rickets. To date, Aiden has never been checked for Vitamin D or C deficiency.

### No Charges Filed, Yet Family Kept from the Children

April reports that the children's physician, Dr. Abdallah Dawod, has "stated that if [the Whinerys] had purposely hurt him he would not have been brought to the hospital so many times."

No charges have been pressed against the family, and the original allegation by DHS of abuse has disappeared. According to April, when they "started going to court over this, they changed their story and said our children are deprived. The day they took them from us they said we abused him. My question is where did their abuse claim go?"

The family says there is not, nor ever has been, proof of abuse or neglect.

Allegedly, DHS has also accused Joshua of presenting a "threat of harm," based on the fact that he went to every doctor's appointment with April. However, Kelli says that April didn't yet have her driver's license at the time, so naturally Joshua drove them to appointments. Suspicion was also cast upon him when he refused to sign anything or speak to DHS without an attorney present.

Joshua's mother Kelli has asked for the children to be placed with her, and she was approved by DHS for foster care in her county. However, the DHS in the county with custody has denied her application. She told *Health Impact News* that they won't let her have the children because she believes that Joshua and April are innocent.

"All I want is my grandkids."

## Health Concerns with the Children Since Going into Foster Care

The family is upset about the medical care, or lack thereof, that their children have received since being in foster care. When Aiden was a year old, April reports that they found, during a visit, that Aiden had a large knot on the left side of his ribs. They called in a caseworker.

After much insistence, Aiden was seen by a doctor, who said that it was nothing. Another time his parents found him to be bloated and covered in red spots, but again the doctor DHS took him to allegedly said it was nothing.

Interestingly, later x-rays allegedly taken after the children were in foster care allegedly show 15, 21, and 24 rib fractures, in contrast to the original 4 that showed up on the x-ray that formed the basis for the children's removal from their parents.

Travis was reportedly rarely sick before, but began having ear infections and not eating, and losing weight in foster care. He was even hospitalized while in foster care without anyone informing his parents.

Joshua told us that Hazel used to always be a very happy, healthy little girl, but after she was taken by CPS, she started getting sick frequently. During the first visit after their removal, he says that she screamed to go back home with her parents. They say that the social worker offered to buy her McDonald's.



Hazel with Her Mommy

Near the end of a Skype visit last year with her parents, Hazel's foster parents told her it was time to go to bed. Hazel cried out to April: "I don't want to go to sleep. I want YOU, Mommy. I want to go home with you. Why can't I go home with Mommy?"

#### **Attorney Bullied by Assistant DA?**

According to April, the first attorney on their case was threatened by someone in the DA's office. The attorney allegedly had a son about the same age as Aiden.

Kelli (grandmother of the children) told *Health Impact News* that "<u>Stephen Booker</u>, the assistant DA, scared her off of the case," by threatening to come after her baby.

The family was referred to another attorney, who reportedly never met with them. Now they are with their third attorney.

## Parents Pressured to Sign over Rights for Strangers to Adopt Their Kids

A hearing for termination of parental rights was originally scheduled for November 17 – 21, but the state cancelled that trial, opting for a mediation hearing instead. That hearing was on January 13. The family said that they were hopeful that things would turn around for them. That didn't happen.

In the hearing they were reportedly told, "Just make it easy on yourself, and sign your rights over." Their new attorney reportedly encouraged them to take the deal, because they were offering an open adoption, and they would be able to see their children occasionally, as opposed to risking never seeing them again if they chose to go to trial.

The foster family was present with their attorney. They are allegedly ready to adopt the children. Even though

September was the first time that all three children were in the same foster home, the Whinery's heard in court that the state doesn't "want to move them from the environment they are stable in." April points out that they had no problem removing them from the stability of their own home.

Joshua wanted no part of that option. He said he had been under the impression that the mediation hearing was going to be about mediation. Instead, he says, they were offered Plan A – giving their children to someone else, or Plan B – go to court. The option of the children going to a family member, per federal law, was never presented.

"They were all like stunned because I guess they thought we were just going to sign the rights over."

The foster parents brought a photo album to the hearing, and April and Joshua "sat and bawled our eyes out."

## Family Broken-Hearted, But Refusing to Give Up!

They are devastated at not being able to see their children. April told us,

"It's hard. All I knew was being a mom, and now I sit here every day wondering what to do with myself."

They miss their babies terribly and still cannot wrap their brains around how all of their children could have been

taken from them, with the possibility of that being forever, because of something that no doctor thought anything of the first months of Aiden's life, which they believe is the result of a genetic bone disease. Doctors allegedly saw those same rib fractures twice before and never even mentioned them. Yet, while out of their care, more fractures have allegedly shown up, but those have been dismissed as nothing.

## DHS Caseworker Quits because "She couldn't stand to watch families go through what my family is going through"

People who know the couple insist that there is no way that April or Joshua would ever hurt their children.

April reports that a former DHS caseworker who used to be on their case came into her work, saying that

"she quit working for DHS because they don't live up to their mission statement. She told me she quit because she couldn't stand to watch families go through what my family is going through."



Christmas 2013 Visitation. Three months later all visits were cut off.

#### Support this Family

The date has not yet been set for the next hearing, but it is expected to take place in late March or early April. Supporters are hoping for people to get involved and help this young couple fight for their children. Little Hazel has prayed for a long time to go back home.

There is a **Facebook page** set up by supporters to show support and encourage the Whinerys as they face this battle, called <u>Please Give Me My Babies Back</u>.

Mary Fallin is the Governor of Oklahoma, and may be reached at (405) 521-2342. She can be contacted via <a href="mailto:emailt

Governor Fallin has a <u>Facebook</u> account, and is on Twitter <u>@GovMaryFallin</u>.

According to her Twitter page, she has made a commitment to work to reduce heart disease. April and Joshua Whinery have a serious heart problem – broken hearts, because their children have been unjustly taken from them.

Congressman David Perryman represents the Whinerys' district, and may be reached at (405) 557-7401 or <u>emailed</u> from here.

# Cleared of Criminal Charges, Yet Infant Taken Away from Family for Failure to Thrive



Baby Hope. Source: Hope Inspires "Hope" Facebook page.

#### by Terri LaPoint Health Impact News

They kicked her out of the hospital and took her baby away from her over a month ago. She hasn't seen her since. They won't even tell her where her daughter is. Jamie Martin took her baby Hope to the hospital because she and the doctors were concerned about Hope not gaining weight, no matter

what they tried. Instead of finding answers, she lost her baby and she is devastated. Now DHS of Oklahoma is trying to terminate Jamie's parental rights to her baby girl.

"I have done nothing wrong to my baby. She is my miracle child. I need my daughter back!"

Jamie Martin is the typical girl-next-door in America's heartland. Before this pregnancy, she worked as a substitute teacher in her local elementary school. She volunteers and is on the board of a tornado disaster relief organization. She chaperones kids' field trips to the zoo and dresses up as an Easter bunny for the local library. Her 8 year old son was thrilled when he found out that he was going to be a big brother.



He was so excited about becoming a big brother! Source: Martin family.

Yet now Jamie has found herself in the middle of every parent's worst nightmare – her baby has been taken away from her.

#### Weight Issues Began After Birth

Hope Elizabeth Marie Martin was born on September 15,

2014, and weighed a healthy 7 lbs, 5 oz. She had difficulty breastfeeding, so Jamie began pumping her milk to give her baby. Her son had also experienced difficulties with nursing at first, but everything worked itself out with him. However, Hope lost 12% of her body weight before leaving the hospital. She was discharged anyway after receiving all of her standard vaccines. After consulting with a family doctor, Jamie began supplementing with formula. Hope threw up at every feeding, no matter what she ate.

#### **ER Visit Creates New Problems**

By the time Hope was 5 days old, she had not yet had any bowel movements following the initial one after birth. Concerned that this was not normal, Jamie took her to the Emergency Room at OU Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City. Her boyfriend and son were with them, as the ER physician examined her, inserting 2 fingers into her rectum to examine her. Jamie reports that they were horrified, but the doctor assured them that the bleeding was normal. Her anus was torn from the exam, and her mother reports that she cried a lot when it happened.

By two months of age, it reportedly "progressed into a full-blown rectal prolapse." At Christmastime, Jamie met with a pediatric surgeon about the prolapse. She was told that Hope would likely outgrow it by the time she was 2 to 4 years old. It was "bad," and "they said if I had to continue pushing her colon back inside then they would consider doing surgery."

#### Happy Baby Bonded with Big Brother

Despite all this, Jamie reports that Hope was a happy baby. She choked up as she described the sweet relationship between her 2 children. They bonded immediately. When he

first saw her in the hospital, he smiled at her as he held her, and she smiled back at him. Since then, she says that they will sit and smile and laugh at each other, like they have their own language for each other. It is "amazing," according to their mom.



Such a proud big brother with his little sister and mom! Source: Martin family.

## Weight Issues Continue and Hope Is Hospitalized

Hope remained tiny, and still threw up at every feeding. Jamie stayed in close contact with their family doctor, and they tried changing formulas, changing the timing of feedings from 2 to 4 hours, and trying different amounts at a time. Nothing she tried made a difference. She kept careful records of every feeding and all output. In January, she was admitted to the hospital for a 5 day period. They ran a number of tests, including a cystic fibrosis test, but they all

came up negative. They switched formulas again.

After they came home from the hospital, they took Hope in to the pediatrician for weekly weight checks. On February 6, Hope was readmitted to OU Children's Hospital because she still was not gaining weight, no matter what her mother did.

#### **DHS Steps In**

At the hospital, they changed Hope's formula again, but she wouldn't take it. On the 11th, they inserted a feeding tube. On the 13th of February, things got much worse.

By this time, they had inserted a catheter into Hope's body, twice, and there was some irritation to her sensitive skin. She was also having a problem with painful bowel movements. During one particularly difficult episode, she began bleeding while urinating. Jamie was on one side of the crib and her boyfriend was on the other as they tried to console her. She says that her boyfriend was putting a couple of diaper wipes over her diaper area to absorb the blood, when a nurse walked in and accused them of sexual abuse.

While DHS and the authorities came into the room, Jamie wanted the doctors to figure out where the blood was coming from. An ultrasound reportedly revealed that there was debris in her bladder.

Nevertheless, DHS was already there. They demanded that the family keep the hospital room door open at all times, and that a nurse supervise all diaper changes. This demand reportedly resulted in baby Hope lying in soiled diapers for longer times than she would have otherwise. Sometimes they would have to wait a half hour for a nurse to come in to supervise the diaper changes.



Baby Hope. Source: Hope Inspires "Hope" Facebook page.

Jamie thought things were settling down, and she finally got Hope to take a bottle several times on February 20th. Then DHS abruptly came in again at 6:30 that Friday evening and seized custody, kicking Jamie out of the hospital. When she got someone to agree to let her say goodbye to her baby, she found that the social worker had already abandoned the bottle and was feeding her through her feeding tube.

The allegations are failure to thrive, and lack of supervision on the part of Jamie and her boyfriend. The failure to thrive diagnosis is the reason that Hope's mother brought her the hospital, looking for answers that never came.

The charge of lack of supervision has to do with Hope's preferred comfort measure. Ever since she was about a month old, Jamie reports that she somehow manages to pull her receiving blanket up over her head whenever possible. They have tried to stop it, and remove the blanket from over her face when she does it, but to no avail. One of her doctors

reportedly observed Hope pulling the blanket over her face all by herself, and told them that he isn't concerned because she is still moving and breathing under there. Other doctors on the team were allegedly unconcerned as well. One of the nurses, however, was allegedly very unhappy with them over the blanket, accusing Jamie of deliberately covering her up and trying to hurt her baby. Jamie readily agreed to an pulse oximeter, which would detect if the blanket were causing breathing issues.



Hope and her mommy at a Christmas party. Source: Martin family.

Jamie described the frustration of one of Hope's physicians, who allegedly came into the hospital room and threw the charts in the air, telling the nurses that a mother who keeps track like this of the baby's feedings is not abusing her child.

Police allegedly investigated allegations of sexual abuse, which arose from the vaginal area bleeding following the catheters, and the rectal prolapse, which began happening after the exam in the ER which tore her according to Jamie. Jamie says that DHS appeared to be ignoring the records of that ER visit. Earlier this week the police investigation concluded, allegedly saying that there was no evidence of sexual assault and that the case is closed. However, DHS still has her baby, and is proceeding with the attempt to terminate Jamie's parental rights.

#### **Genetic Component Ignored**

Since DHS initially came into the situation on February 13, Jamie believes that the search for the reasons for her baby's lack of gaining weight has halted. During the week before they seized custody, Jamie teamed up with family members to try to research any possible causes for Hope's issues. They realized that several family members have experienced similar "failure to thrive" issues that were eventually overcome, her little brother included. She says that her mother had tried all kinds of different formula's with him. He finally was able to keep down goat's milk. However, Hope's doctor nixed the option of goat's milk. He also said no to the suggestion of adding cereal or baby food to Hope's diet.

Jamie's paternal uncle's daughter had similar issues and was put on a feeding tube. Her half-sister's daughter's baby was diagnosed with failure to thrive because she wasn't absorbing nutrients. In each of the cases, Child Protective Services was called in, and the family members had to fight for their children. They each won their battles and their children are thriving today.

There is a newborn screening test that Jamie says was not done on Hope, for a genetic condition called methylmalonic acidemia (MMA disease). She believes that the symptoms appear to fit, but her request for this and other genetic tests have been denied.

This is the same DHS department and hospital that seized the children of April and Joshua Whinery, accusing them of abuse, and ignoring the apparent genetic component. Their children remain in DHS custody to this day:

"Degenerative bone disease runs in his family, yet the couple was accused of abuse. Though the family has repeatedly asked for him to be tested, DHS has allegedly refused to allow the test, attempting instead to terminate all of the couple's parental rights."

See the Whinery's story: Oklahoma Takes 3
Children Away from Parents When One is Found
with Possible Brittle Bone Disease

#### A Mother's Concerns and Suspicions

Before Hope was taken from her parents at the hospital, doctors had directed that her unused IV port be removed. However, it was three days later before that happened. During that time, it was unused and unflushed. When a nurse finally removed it on February 20, Jamie reports that Hope's skin around it just fell off, and there was an abscess there. Her skin had become very sensitive and wasn't healing properly.

Jamie is deeply concerned about her daughter, and doesn't understand why she hasn't been able to see her baby even once since she was taken on February 20. She believes: "They're trying to cover something up. There is something that they've done and they don't want me to know about it."

## Federal Laws about Relative Placement Ignored

Family and friends have been dumbfounded about the treatment of Jamie and her baby. Jamie is a well-respected member of the community, who is always willing to step up and help in times of need.



Jamie Martin, substitute school teacher, volunteers for tornado disaster relief. Source: Martin family.

Despite federal laws that mandate that children taken by Child Protective Services be placed with relatives as a first choice, with friends of the family following, no one in the family knows where baby Hope has been placed. Jamie's mother has not been permitted to see her grandbaby since the family was removed from the hospital in February. Jamie

listed a number of options for her little girl to be placed with, including her mother, brothers, other relatives, and even close friends. Only one friend on the list was even contacted by DHS, but they never heard back from the agency.

#### **Priest Forbidden to See Hope**

A Catholic priest has become close to the family through Jamie's volunteer work with tornado disaster relief. He reportedly attended the emergency hearing after Hope was taken, requesting a visit with Hope for religious reasons. He was denied.

#### **Parental Termination Hearing Fast-track**

It was on February 20, 2015, that DHS took custody of baby Hope. She is very much loved by her family, who is distraught over not seeing their tiniest loved one. Her brother keeps asking when his sister will come home.

Yet if DHS has their way, he will never see her again. The family has been offered no reunification plan, treatment plan, or steps that they can do to get her back. They haven't even seen her once since that dark day in February, nor have they received any information about her whereabouts.

On March 25, Jamie was notified that the state intends to terminate her parental rights to Hope, an option that is unthinkable to Jamie and her family. The arraignment hearing is set for April 1 at 10:30 am, at the Cleveland County Courthouse in Norman, Oklahoma. The address is 200 S Peters Ave, Norman, OK 73069.

There is a Facebook page set up by supporters to show support and encourage the family as they face this battle,

called <u>Hope Inspires "Hope</u>". She currently has a courtappointed attorney and is trying to raise funds to hire a private attorney.



Hope Inspires "Hope" Facebook page.

Mary Fallin is the Governor of Oklahoma, and may be reached at (405) 521-2342. She can be contacted via <a href="mailto:emailt

Governor Fallin has a <u>Facebook</u> account, and is on Twitter <u>@GovMaryFallin</u>.

Jamie Martin's Congressman is Representative Josh Cockroft. He may be reached at (405) 557-7349 or contacted here.

The Senator for her district is Senator Rob Standridge. He may be reached at (405) 521–5535 or contacted <u>here</u>.

# Oklahoma City Parents Lose Their 2 Children to CPS Due to "Shaken Baby" Allegation



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

Bayork Mills of Oklahoma City is a mother frightened for the safety of her children. In her own words she describes the terrible fear that overtook her husband as he tried desperately to revive their son while she was away from home at the time.

These parents are not doctors. They are typical loving parents who when confronted with an unnatural occurrence in the health of their child sought medical help as any reasonable person would do. In her own words, Bayork expresses the helplessness her husband felt while trying to care for their son:

Our son (2 months old at the time) was in a bouncy chair blowing bubbles and making baby talk like usual. Their father heard a thud and our son begin to cry as if he had gotten hurt but their father did not see anything with his two eyes. Our daughter was on the floor as if she may have fallen and landed next to his bouncy chair or may have even fallen on him. No one was sure as to what the thud was about. [sic]

The father took their child to the emergency room where he was seen by medical staff. Bayork joined her husband and they were told only that there was a possible head injury and that the parents should take him home and observe him. They did as told, but were concerned about their son's health as his condition worsened:

He had worsen so we took him back to the same E.R. and told them our concerns grew bigger for our son and we wanting something done. At this time they preformed an ultrasound, CT, Spinal tap, and X-ray on our son. The results told to us were that he had a Subdural Hematoma. They told us they needed to send us to another hospital that would have "specialists" that could take better care of him. We were upset they did not tell us to go to specialists the first day but only sent him back home. They had also informed me at this time that they had to get CPS involved as the "story" or "explanation" we had given about our concerns would not cause any bleeding in his head.[sic]



Aleck with his father. Image supplied by family.

During the return visit, the hospital staff ran the necessary tests to make a determination of the child's condition listing it as "Venous Thrombosis." However, the parents state they were never told what the term meant. "They never told us what the term Venous Thrombosis meant...They knew he had a stroke, but didn't tell us."

This stroke allegedly went untreated for some time as Bayork and her husband waited to be seen by the specialist at the new hospital who would later only explain the difference between new and old blood coloration in the child's brain while questioning her regarding her husband's story about the incident and an alleged broken rib:

At this time they had given him 3 more X-rays as if they were looking for something but was not being open to their father or me about anything they were looking for or seeing. We kept asking questions which we would either not get clear answers or we would be told to direct the questions to a head doctor that was almost always too busy to answer our questions unless we had scheduled a time to see this doctor.

He needed an MRI is what we were told but the doctors did not want the weekend crew to perform this MRI so my son was scheduled for his first MRI after his weekend wait ...even though my son hadn't had his first MRI done that night a CPS worker was in his room and an officer asked his dad to walk to another room with him to discuss what had happen to our son. The CPS worker wanted to only speak with me. She told me they had a court order to take my daughter in. While I was upset she was trying to ensure me my daughter would be taken care of but I knew what DHS was like in Oklahoma as I was a past victim of the shelter they put children in.[sic]

### **CPS Steps in and Takes Custody of Both Children**



Image from <u>Victimized by SBS, Medical Kidnap, and Forced Adoption Facebook Page</u>.

Oklahoma City Child Protective Services allegedly removed not only their son, but also their daughter from her sleep while at her grandmother's house. Bayork wrote that she was threatened with not being able to stay with her son in the hospital if she did not disclose the whereabouts of her daughter.

Both children were taken from their parents. The immediate fear of the parents to find the cause of their child's blackout, became multiplied with the implementation of an unwritten CPS allegation of "Shaken Baby Syndrome," and the doctors' attempt to find physical evidence of "non-accidental trauma":

We had to wait a day before we could view his MRI results he had done that Monday. The head doctor that was over seeing his care came into his room and logged onto the computer that was kept in his room. She pulled up two images alone. One was his X-ray and the other was his MRI. Going over the X-ray image she picked up a pen and began to count his ribs. She wasn't sure where the location of their concern was but she informed me they believed my son had an "old healing rib fracture." She found it hard to find the location and told me "I think this is where the rib fracture should be." I couldn't believe she couldn't recognize where they believed they seen anything at all! I expressed that I did not believe they diagnosed this right as he was a happy and normal baby instead of a baby that would be fussy or show some type of sign of pain from such an injury.

Next she pulled up one MRI image and told me that the grey blood was older blood. The white blood was the newest. He had about 95% of it grey and 5% of it white. I asked what time frame could this image explain to us but even after her answer I was still left with a lot of questions as she told me

"they couldn't be 100% sure but they believed it all was very recent and could not be over a week old."

After their son was placed in CPS custody and admitted to the hospital, the parents stated that he was not being cared for properly.

When we were at the hospital and our son had an I-V, it didn't look right so we got someone to check it. When they took the I-V out, his arm was three times the size of the other. The medicine that could have helped him never got to him. It was sitting in his arm.

## A Trial and Termination of Parental Rights

Bayork and her husband stated they were never told what *Venous Thrombosis* meant, but the doctors had made this diagnosis during their return trip to the initial hospital and several days had passed—time that is precious for any stroke victim. They also stated that stroke information was withheld from CPS paperwork and from the subsequent trial that would terminate their parental rights.

This all took place in September 2014. Our rights were terminated due to a jury trial that was designed to screw us. Our attorneys that worked for CPS (Called court appointed attorneys) did not submit any evidence we could have used. Neither objected to anything said against us. Neither one recommended we find expert witnesses and we had no witnesses on our behalf at all! ... Their father is being accused of Shaking Aleck and case is being called "Shaken Baby Syndrome" in court but not on paperwork that was not even

shown or introduced in jury trial that terminated our rights... [sic]

The attorneys did little to nothing more than just show up and my attorney wanted to ask the DA and children's attorney what color shirts they would be wearing so she could decide for herself what color shirt to wear instead of actually representing me in my jury trial. So it was no surprise the jury made their decision to terminate. Only witnesses that took the stand beside myself and their father was 4 doctors, two of which we never met a day in our lives that supposedly took over our son's care after he was taken into custody, the case worker herself and the original CPS worker that took my babies before anyone else came into play. Of course all they had to say were lies against us. Lies that we could have proven wrong if our attorneys had actually allowed us to submit any evidence. One very important detail is while the jury trial was taking place not once did any of my son's medical paperwork ever make it into the trial. Not once did any of his test results be discussed or shown at the jury trial either.

We kept going to the hospital to request my son's medical records. Once we weren't in the hospital with him anymore they blocked us from any of his medical records and denied us access to them. Until...June 15th 2015. Their father gained access and we pulled the information. I found an attorney in Seattle, WA by the name Heather Kirkwood that has been very successful in winning "Baby Shaken Syndrome" cases and proving the innocence of the parents involved in them cases. So I found an e-mail and thought it was a risk worth taking. She wasted no time in getting back to me. Asked me to speak with her over the phone later and we did. She thought the paper work would be vital so we gathered it together and sent her the medical records for our son. She read over it and sent me a message stating, "They are

describing probable thrombosis on MRI, unbelievable." She set up a time for us to speak over the phone again. She explained to me what the paperwork was stating and the information was all too new to me as none of the doctors that have been handling my son has ever mentioned any of this. My son had suffered from a stroke. He had a clot in his vein. When his brain couldn't get the oxygen it needed began bleeding on the inside because of this. Sadly my son does have some brain damage that can never be fixed.

As for this new information it is outrageous to us that we did not get to know all the information for us to even defend ourselves. It has been outrageous they could go so far with violating our rights we did not know we had and now even knowing the information we know now we will have to start the long process of getting this new information out and saving our babies that were clearly medically kidnapped from us by the system that was supposed to be created to protect them and the doctors that covered their tracks and handed our babies to CPS all t together! We will not stop until our babies get the justice they deserve and are released to the only family that ever loved them, their biological family that is fighting for them.[sic]

## New Attorney Steps in to Help Fight for Their Children

Bayork alleges that her children were taken by child protective services after their two month old son was taken to the hospital when he became unconscious while sitting in a bouncy seat. The

child reportedly suffered a stroke, but the parents wrote that they only learned of the stroke after getting in touch with a new attorney whom they called for help to fight their case after their rights were terminated.

They said we never told them our son lost consciousness, but we did. The attorney who is helping us is an angel. She told us what the term meant.

It has been duly noted by physicians that a bouncy chair can mimic the alleged injuries due to shaking a baby, and although the emergency room technicians were said to have stated that the injuries were not concurrent with the scenario presented by the parents as the probable cause for the blackout, "Shaken Baby Syndrome" became the whispered allegation that would stop the hospital's search for the true cause of the stroke or "Venous Thrombosis" in baby Aleck.

Bayork Mills and her husband have not seen their babies Aleck and Mariposa since they were taken under state supervision on February 17, 2015. Bayork says that there is no pending court date only

the appeal which has been submitted for review over the next six months. The Mills children have now been placed into foster care and pending adoption. The only thing keeping the Mill's children from being adopted is the appeal put into place with the help of Attorney Kirkwood.

The Mills are still fighting to regain their rights to raise their own children in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma with the generous aid of Heather Kirkwood. Bayork informs us that they are putting together a site and want it to be available to all who have been "victims like myself and my husband." They vow to continue the fight even after their children are returned:

I would love to share the resources i have. I feel there is a lot that i would love to bring to world's attention. I have set up a facebook page for all these resources and for victims i could help if i did so. I believe it would be great as we plan to keep fighting even if we gain our custody back to our children because we understand even if we were to win in court, no matter where in this country we could possibly go they will always be put at risk of these monsters coming back into their lives and kidnapping them once again! [sic]

The Mills want their voices to be heard throughout the world:

"...I am a mother of two beautiful babies. I call them babies not only because they will always be my babies but also because they are still at the age of being called so. My daughter turned 2 this year and my son will turn one in a few weeks." (Bayork)

The Mills Family Facebook Support Page:



The Mills Family Support Facebook Page

To aid the Mills in their fight for their family, make sure her story is heard.

Contact the Oklahoma Governor, Mary Fallin here.

The Mills family State Representative is Richard Daniel Morrissette. <u>Contact him here</u>.

The Mills family State Senator is Kay Floyd. Contact her here.

# Oklahoma Mom Gives Legal Cannabis Oil to Epileptic Daughter to Stop Seizures - Now all 5 Children Medically Kidnapped







Life is better when you're laughing.









Searcy family photo collage – all photos taken before DHS involvement. Collage provided by family.

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

Advocacy for effective medical treatment of her epileptic daughter has led to the medical kidnapping of an Oklahoma homeschool mom's 5 children.

When ordinary medical treatments failed to help her child, Tammy Searcy learned that cannabis oil might be able to help her daughter's life-threatening seizures.

She was not willing to break any laws, so she worked to change laws in her state. Only after medical cannabis use became legal did she begin treatment for 14 year old Brianna, and the results were almost miraculous.

Now, all 5 of Tammy's children have been seized by Child Protective Services, and many believe that this was retaliation for her activism. Her children have been separated and Tammy fears for their safety.

Brianna's health has declined sharply, and social workers want to force-vaccinate her children.

## Here Is Their Story:

As a parent, one of the most important honors that we possess is advocating for our children. Parents speak for their children, especially those children that cannot speak for themselves because of age or disability. If there is something that is harming our children, parents are on the front line defending their rights and their lives.

Tammy Searcy is a 37 year old, single mother of 5 children: Kaitlyn, age 17; Brianna, age 14; Destiny, age 13; DeeAnna, age 12; and Melvin, age 8. She has spent the last four years advocating to the State of Oklahoma for the health and life of her daughter, Brianna, who has suffered the entirety of her 14 short years from Lennox Gastaut Syndrome.

Lennox Gastaut Syndrome is a rare genetic dysfunction in the brain that begins in infancy and is lifelong. Otherwise healthy infants can acquire Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome. Also known as LGS, it is a type of epilepsy with multiple different types of seizures, particularly tonic (stiffening) and atonic (drop) seizures. These can include lengthy grand mal seizures, or myoclonic seizures, which are brief shock-like jerks of their body. Seizures may be long and repetitive, are life altering, and can be fatal.

This extremely rare type of epilepsy is said to be well-known to both pediatric and adult neurologists, because seizures are hard to control and patients will need life-long treatment. The intellectual and behavioral problems add to the complexity of this syndrome. There are often difficulties in managing life with LGS as impaired intellectual development is common in those diagnosed. Brianna also suffers from autism and is non-verbal.

Tammy is a well-known cannabis advocate in her small community in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She has pounded pavement at the statehouse and advocated for the reform of cannabis laws in her home state. Tammy believes compounds found in the cannabis plant can help alleviate the extreme seizures of her daughter's chronic condition.

The use of hemp CBD products is legal under Oklahoma law since Governor Fallin signed HB 2154 in April 2015. Since then, Tammy has been able to provide miraculous relief for her daughter's intractable seizures.

HB 2154 was also known as Katie and Cayman's Law and allows physicians in Oklahoma to recommend a high-CBD cannabis oil (less than 0.3% THC) to minors suffering from a severe epilepsy disorder like Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome or Dravet Syndrome.

In 2016, the state also adopted HB 2835, which expanded legal protections to patients of all ages and added several new qualifying conditions including "spasticity due to multiple sclerosis or due to paraplegia, intractable nausea and vomiting, and appetite stimulation with chronic wasting diseases."

On August 30th, 2016, a rally was held at the Capitol over Oklahoma State Question 788, a Medical Marijuana Legalization Initiative, that will be on the ballot in Oklahoma on November 6, 2018. Tammy, Brianna and her sister attended the rally in support of SQ 788 and the option to choose a safer medicine for Brianna's seizure disorder.

#### https://youtu.be/LWHCz1e6xQk

Tammy says that after the rally, she came across a company making CBD hemp oil products that are completely THC FREE. After giving a small amount to Briana, Tammy says that:

within 24 hours she was riding a horse and within 48 hours she was able to dance!

A family friend, Shelley, who witnessed the dramatic changes in Briana after being given hemp CBD oil, says Briana was improving with the continued treatment.

This same child over a year ago was in a wheelchair unable to walk or hold herself up on her own, having dozens of seizures every single day!



Searcy children. Before CBD treatment, Brianna was in a wheelchair. Photo provided by family.

But what should have been a happy step forward in Briana's medical treatment has turned into a living nightmare for the entire family.

On the afternoon of December 11th, 2017, Canadian County Oklahoma Child Protective Services came to the home of Tammy's boyfriend in Mustang, Oklahoma. Tammy and her kids have stayed at the home frequently over the course of their 2 year relationship, alternating between his home and their home in Oklahoma City.

Without notice and allegedly wielding nothing more than a hearsay statement from a strictly anonymous source reporting child endangerment, Oklahoma DHS social worker Tamara Powell entered the home without permission. Despite Tammy's repeated objections and requests for an attorney to be present, Ms. Powell allegedly questioned the Searcy children without consent.



Social worker Tamara Powell. Photo source - Facebook.

According to Ms. Powell, the anonymous report was based entirely on a video that Ms. Searcy posted to Facebook demonstrating the severity of her daughter's seizures. She also mentioned Briana's use of non-hallucinogenic, non-

THC, hemp-grade CBD oil, which is completely legal in all 50 states, as the sale of hemp products is not prohibited federally, only marijuana.

#### https://youtu.be/f1aBydbNcyA

Ms. Powell also alleged that Tammy was not giving Briana medical treatment for her seizures. With Ms. Powell present, Tammy allegedly called the doctor's office and verified Briana as a patient.

Ms. Searcy also offered documentation and witness testimony to show that, in addition to the legal CBD oil, she administered doctor prescribed pharmaceutical medication to her daughter. Her offers were ignored.

After hours of refusing to work with Tammy to keep her children, Ms. Powell alleged to have obtained a court order and forcibly removed Tammy's 5 children from their mother just before midnight, even as the children screamed, cried, and begged not to be taken away.

No warrant, court order, or written documentation of any kind was ever provided to Tammy. She says she only received a business card from Tamara Powell, who had conducted the investigation and removal.

According to family friend Shelly, this is an illegal abduction on the part of the Canadian County DHS, carried out on the grounds of a baseless complaint.

If that beautiful child's smile is the face of neglect, well they better pickup every child out of every loving home in OKLAHOMA! Because all I see on that child's face is happiness and love with her mother!



Brianna and her mom on horseback, after CBD oil made a dramatic difference for her. Photo provided by family.



Tammy and Brianna enjoying a ride on the lake. Photo provided by family.

According to a letter received by Tammy from her oldest daughter Kaitlyn after Tamara Powell removed the children from their mother, they were taken to a DHS office in El Reno, Oklahoma, denied food and water, and forced to sleep on the floor.

well DHS showed up and took us cause they Said they was concerned Bout BRIANNA and they Removed us at 11.00 pm MONDAY DECEMBER 11th 2017 and From the moment MS tamara the worker Removed me From my loving Mother and took me and Brianna and DESTINY, DJ, and melvin to the OFFICE el Reno, OKIa Homa and tamara powell DID NOT give us any FOOD OR water matter How many times Have with Dirawis Still DiDN+ give BRIANNA HER MEI the later it got the moise we to go to Bed and that's when ms to make Had me and Birlannia ? IN the Floor of the OFFice, AND when i asked FOR Something and to eat and DRINK , would either Be ignored or told NO.

The children were split apart and sent to separate foster homes. Briana was suspected to have been placed alone at the Laura Dester Children's Shelter, a facility that has made headlines in the last few years over its lack of funding. (Source.)

On December 14th, Tammy was allegedly denied counsel for the duration of the "Show Cause" hearing, often known as Shelter Care, which is a direct violation of her constitutionally protected 6th amendment right to an attorney. Tammy says she was given a choice to proceed by herself or ask for a continuance of 2 days for a public defender to be appointed. When she requested the continuance, she says that the court told her it would actually take 2 weeks, and under duress, Tammy was forced to continue by herself to attempt to bring her children home again.

Supporters who were present at the hearing said that the DA made it known that their problem is with Tammy's support of Oklahoma's upcoming vote for Medical Marijuana in 2018 with SQ 788. He confirmed that part of the issue is also that Tammy supposedly cannot post a video of her daughter's seizures on social media, even though there is no law against such.

Tammy was required to provide a urinary analysis to show that she herself did not consume marijuana. She is not a marijuana user herself. She only uses the cannabis oil without THC to treat her daughter's seizures that other medications did not adequately help.

She was forced, under duress and without an attorney present, to sign approximately 15-20 unknown documents before the hearing could even occur.

The next court date had apparently already been scheduled for January 23rd, 2018, before the Show Cause hearing had even occurred. Despite her objections and arguments against the allegations, the judge approved the shelter care of the children and Tammy was forced to go home without them.

On December 14th, 2017, Tammy was finally able to video chat with Briana. Screenshots taken of the visit show the disheveled and obviously distressed teenager, who was wearing the same clothing from when she was taken 4 days

prior.



Photos from video chat with Brianna 4 days after being taken from her family – obviously not the same happy child. Source – <u>Bring the Searcy Children Home</u> Facebook page.

Commentary on the Bring the Searcy Children Home Facebook page states:

4 days later in the same clothes in state care, no bath or shower given, obvious terror in the child's eyes, lost, confused, heavily medicated, terrified, scared, confused, and lost without a mother's love, this is the face of abuse by CPS stripping an autistic and beautiful baby girl from their mother who did nothing wrong other than loving her as any mother would.

Tammy says she is falling apart from fear for the safety of her children, especially vulnerable Brianna who has never before been away from her mother or family.

I'm a very very tough country raised woman I've rode bulls and bucking horses and break horses and I'm a medic and have been for many years. I've seen horrible things and NOTHING scares me but I'm terrified for Brianna right now!!

Brianna is severely special needs who has no idea why everyone around her is now a complete stranger!! And what's going on and why and where mommy is! Kaitlyn and I are all she knows!!

They put her in a shelter all alone from my older daughter and Brianna can't communicate at all so anyone could do anything to her. Not to mention these people don't know her. They will have no way of knowing her needs and wants

My older daughter is capable of caring for her and knows everything about her! Why would they put her all alone instead of leaving Kaitlyn with her!?!

She's highly over medicated and still wearing same clothes as when she left me 4 days before and clearly hasn't been

bathed or anything and looks aweful [sic]" @@@@@@@@@



Supporters of the Searcys are calling for a communal outcry for what they see as political attack on Tammy for supporting Medical Marijuana in Oklahoma. One supporter wrote on the <a href="Bring the Searcy Children home Facebook">Bring the Searcy Children home Facebook</a> page:

This miscarriage of justice not only violates the rights of Ms. Searcy and her children, but also puts her sick child at risk. Join us in the demand for justice.

What the state of Oklahoma has done is illegal, immoral, and is simply for political gain! They are using Tammy and her 5 children to push a false narrative!

When your only crime as a mother is loving your children with all that you have to offer in the world, than the state comes and rips them from your arms, heart, soul, and home leaving you an empty shell behind, than there is the real crime committed!

Tammy Searcy, and her children have broken zero laws but instead the state of Oklahoma has broken many laws including the constitution they have sworn to uphold. We will not rest until they are back home where they belong.

We want criminal charges brought upon all those involved for the neglectful care that has been done and irreversible damage done to Brianna while in illegal custody of the state! The next court date is currently scheduled for January 23rd, 2018, which 43 days since they were removed by Oklahoma DHS. A pick up order signed by a judge has still reportedly never been given to Tammy.



Tammy (center) with her daughter and a supporter at the state house. Photo provided by family.

## Social Workers Plan to Vaccinate Children and Place Them in Public School

Tammy has not been allowed in person visitation, and social workers allegedly refused to provide information regarding Brianna's health.

Tammy feels helpless in the decisions being made regarding her children and their care.

She says one of her daughters has informed her the department intends to vaccinate all of the children, despite their mother's belief and decision to not vaccinate her children.

They are also allegedly enrolling them in public school, despite their being homeschooled for most of their lives in accordance with Oklahoma law. Tammy was allegedly told if the children do not test at grade level, she will not be allowed to homeschool if they come home again.

# Social Worker Asks Permission for Teen Girl to Go Hunting in the Woods Alone with Foster Father

Tammy was also informed by her kids that the foster placements are becoming issues for the children, as they've been placed in conditions they feel are unsuitable because of firearms and alcohol use – something that they were not used to in their mother's care.

One foster home reportedly has a shotgun kept by the front door.

In an audio recording provided to *Health Impact News*, social worker Tamara Powell can be heard requesting Tammy's permission for 13- year-old Desiree to go hunting alone with her foster father – a stranger to the Searcy family.

#### Other Serious Concerns with Foster Care

The youngest two Searcy children have also reportedly been sleeping in the DHS Office again because their first foster placement did not work out.

Several of her other children informed her that they won't even be in the state of Oklahoma for Christmas this weekend, due to visiting the foster family's extended family in another state, so a Christmas visit is out of the question.

At least one of the children has been told by DHS staff that they are "never going home."

On December 19th, Tammy was finally able to see Brianna at a medical visit. Tammy learned of a doctor's appointment that Brianna was due to attend, but was not told any further details. After almost 24 hours of demanding to know when and where the appointment would take place, and calling up the hierarchy of Oklahoma DHS, the social workers finally gave her the information. She writes:

I called all the way to regional supervisor having a fit so supervisor finally called me and told me when and where the appt was and that I could be at any appt.

I also specifically asked if I was still in charge of medical decisions and he tried not to answer me but I demanded a yes or no answer and told him I'm not playing these word

games with u "am I, her mother, still in charge of all medical decisions" simple yes or no

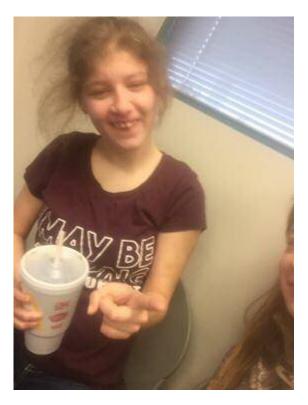
And he said yes and tried to start rambling something but I shut him down

She showed up drugged up bruises on her

But I'm very grateful she's alive and breathing

Dr asked what the reason was for this visit and worker didn't know at first then said to get her meds then said a physcologist is only dr Brianna sees then gave the neuro doc name then didn't even know what meds she's on. I had to correct everything and tell them all her meds

Dr documented the bruises and those documents are being emailed to me and hard mailed to me.



Brianna was very happy to finally see her mother. Photo provided by family.



This is one of the bruises on Brianna. It looks to her mother as though she was forcibly held down. She also shows signs of possible sexual abuse. Photo provided by family.

Recent news coverage of the events by Oklahoma News 4 includes a statement from Oklahoma DHS regarding the case:

While we cannot divulge specifics in child welfare cases, we can say that what the family is alleging about why their children were removed is untrue. DHS does not have the authority to remove children without a court order. While DHS can make recommendations, the removal of children, including emergency removal orders, are directed by the court. In addition, families are given due process when working through the court system, including the ability to present their case before a judge within 72 hours of the children's removal.

Some supporters feel that what they left out of the DHS statement is crucial to the Searcy's case. The rules of

evidence typically associated by the public with court orders do not apply in emergency orders in family court. In what is supposed to be in the "Best Interest of the Child," the allegations of medical neglect are enough to receive a pick up order, even when based on false allegations and fraudulnt affidavits.

Until an adjudication of the dependency petition can occur in family court, a social worker's words alone can remove children from loving homes and keep them in Foster Care with strangers, or in this case and many others around the country – office buildings – until court can occur.

Even if the words are lies (hearsay).

As we have noted many times at *Health Impact News*, social workers routinely lie in reports and in court. Even though the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that social workers do not have the right to lie, the practice is still very common and very widespread.

See:

## <u>Judges Reject Claim That Social Workers Didn't Know Lying In Court to Remove Children Was Wrong</u>

A few courageous lawmakers such as Rep. Kelly Townsend in Arizona have been fighting to change this dangerous practice. See:

## Arizona Lawmakers Block Bill To Protect Parents From Dishonest Child Protection Social Workers

With the delays, postponements, and busy court dockets,

children are often kept from their homes on false allegations for months, and even years, while parents attempt to navigate and fight the system.

The Searcys are not due in court again until January 23rd, 2018, a very long month and a half after the children were taken from their mother in the late hours of a cold December night.

## How You Can Help

There is a Facebook page set up for the family where you can find out how to get involved – <u>Bring the Searcy Children Home</u>.



There is a petition for the family at Change.org. (Here)

According to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services website:

Director Ed Lake would like to receive your concerns or questions regarding the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. So here is your opportunity to "Ask Ed."

DHS Director Ed Lake may be reached at (405) 521-2779 or 1-877-751-2972, or contacted <u>here</u>.

Mallory Poplin is the District Director for DHS. She may be reached at (405) 295-2000 or 1-866-806-1056.

Mary Fallin is the governor of Oklahoma. She may be reached at (405) 521-2342, or contacted <u>here</u>. She is also on Facebook

The Representative for the Searcy Family's home county is Rep. Willam Fourkiller. He may be reached at (405) 557-7394, or contacted <a href="here">here</a>. His legislative assistant's name is Leslie Smith-Haddad.

The Representative for Mustang County, the location from which the children were removed, is Rep. Leslie Osborn. She may be reached at (405) 557–7333, or contacted <a href="here">here</a> legislative assistant is Zack Swift (405) 557–7333.

Oklahoma House Representative Jon Echols has shown interest in the case. He may be reached at (405) 557-7354, or contacted <u>here</u>. His legislative assistant is Kaye Beach.