

## **Health Impact News**

# **Medical Kidnapping Children in the United States: Pennsylvania**

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# Pennsylvania



# Children Taken Away from Christian Parents to Receive Forced Vaccinations



The Christian Martyrs' Last Prayer, by Jean-Léon Gérôme (1883). Public Domain.

**Brian Shilhavy**  
**Health Impact News**

The New York Times has published an opinion piece from a pro-vaccine doctor who earns millions of dollars in royalties from the sale of childhood vaccines. The title of the article is: "What Would Jesus Do About Measles?"

According to this medical doctor, Jesus would force everyone to vaccinate their children for the sake of the "greater good." This pharmaceutical industry insider is calling on all states in the U.S. to remove the religious exemptions for

vaccines that currently exist in 48 states.

Could the day come in the United States of America where parents who refuse to vaccinate their children will have their children removed from their home by force and injected with vaccines they do not approve of against their desire?

Yes. Not only *could it happen*, it already *has happened*.

## **Parents in Philadelphia Lost Custody of Their Children Who Were Forced to Receive the Measles Vaccine**

In 1991, Philadelphia had a measles outbreak that reportedly infected 1400 people. Nine children reportedly died during this time, and seven of them reportedly were from two “fundamentalist Christian churches” where most members did not vaccinate their children. So during the media frenzy surrounding the measles and the MMR combo vaccine that includes measles, much like we are seeing today over the Disney outbreak in California, public health officials stepped in and convinced a court to allow them to take the children from their parents and force them to be vaccinated:

*Public health officials turned to the courts to intervene. First, they got a court order to examine the churches’ children in their homes, then to admit children to the hospital for medical care. Finally, they did something that had never been done before or since: They got a court order to vaccinate children against their parents’ will. Children were briefly made wards of the state, vaccinated and returned to their parents. At the time, a religious exemption to vaccination had been on the books in Pennsylvania for about a decade.*

[1]

As is the case today, not everyone who came down with the measles in 1991 was unvaccinated. Some of the cases occurred among those fully vaccinated as well. The vaccine is not a 100% guarantee that it will prevent the measles, and there are documented cases showing that the measles vaccine itself can “shed” and cause measles among those fully vaccinated. (See: [Dr. Suzanne Humphries, M.D. – Vaccine Strain of Measles Virus Found in Measles Outbreaks.](#))

In reading the accounts of the 1991 measles outbreak in Philadelphia, much is written about how certain church members did not treat their children after they became infected with the measles. There are also reports of pre-existing health conditions among the children who died.

The opinion piece in the New York Times this week mentions how the ACLU allegedly refused to get involved with the civil rights issue involved in taking children away from their parents and forcing them to become vaccinated. However, the whole story is not reported.

The New York Times itself reported back in 1991 that BOTH city officials and the ACLU complained about the judge’s order which went way beyond even what city health officials had requested. Here is a quote:

*But the order, written by Judge Edward Summers on Monday and made public today, went far beyond the scope of the city’s request. The order also requires all families in the Faith Tabernacle Congregation in North Philadelphia to notify the city whenever a child misses three days of school and to have public-health doctors examine preschool children once a month, even after immunization.*

*The judge also ordered the city to locate all other churches in the city that spurn medical care as an article of faith, but the order was vague on whether the city would have to impose the same reporting requirements on those other churches.*

*Lawyers for the city, saying they were surprised by the ruling, said they would proceed with the immunizations and would ask the court to reconsider all other provisions of the decision.*

*The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania called the extra requirements unconstitutional and said it would appeal to the Federal courts if the Family Court rejected the city's request to reconsider the extra requirements. [2]*

Apparently, this judge took a request from public health officials to look at a few families from two churches who had children with measles, and used that to issue an order that applied to ALL churches in Philadelphia.

Should judges with no medical training be making such broad decisions regarding taking away Constitutionally protected freedoms of religion and privacy, by ordering children be taken away from parents who disagree with doctors, as happened in Philadelphia in 1991?

Should medical professionals with conflicts of interest due to the fact that they profit from the manufacture of vaccines be allowed to impose their beliefs in their products on others who choose not to purchase or use their products?

This is called medical tyranny, and it is already happening in the United States. All across this country, every day, social services and judges are taking action to remove children



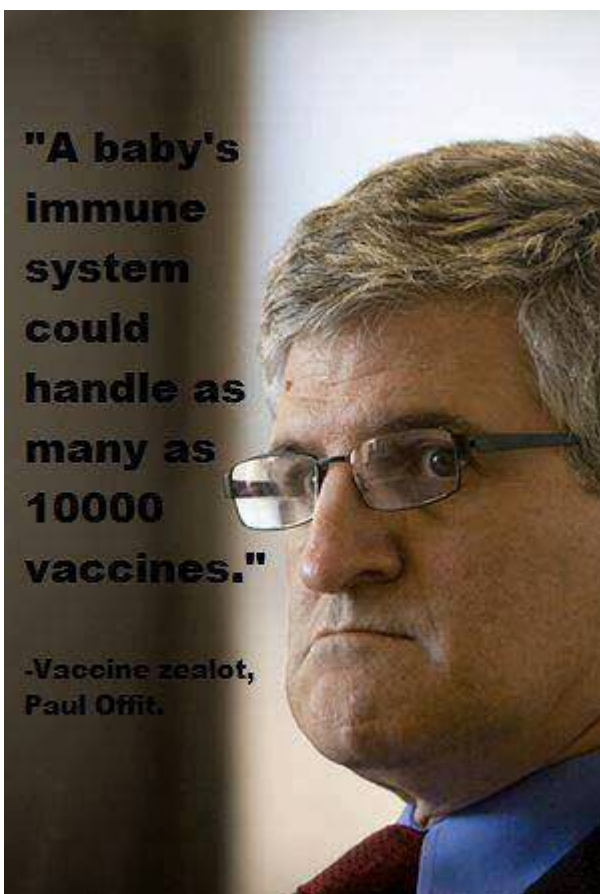
from their homes and take them away from their parents over disagreements on medical treatments. We have documented just a tiny fraction of these stories at [MedicalKidnap.com](http://MedicalKidnap.com).

## **Dr. Offit's War on Religion and Vaccine Dissenters**

This is not the first time Dr. Offit has used a highly publicized health outbreak to try to further his agenda of removing all vaccine exemptions. Dr. Paul Offit holds a patent on a vaccine he developed with Merck, and has earned millions of dollars in royalties. When Sharyl Attkisson still worked for CBS, she ran a story with then anchor Katie Couric about his massive conflict of interest:

Video no longer available.

Dr. Offit has gone on record stating that he believes a baby can handle as many as 10,000 vaccines during infancy.



In addition to his repeated calls to end all vaccine exemptions, he has gone on record to state that all information on the risks and dangers of vaccines should be censored from the media, and that journalists who question vaccines should go to “journalism jail.” [3]

Is this man really qualified to answer the question “What would Jesus do about measles?”

**References**

1. *What Would Jesus Do About Measles?* – PAUL A. OFFIT – New York Times, Feb. 10, 2015
2. *Judge Orders Measles Shots in Philadelphia* – MICHAEL deCOURCY HINDS – New York Times, March 6, 1991
3. *'Journalism Jail' For Faulty Medical Reporting* – Dr. Paul Offit – Forbes, March 19, 2014

# Medical Kidnapping in Pennsylvania: Parents of Baby with Rickets Accused of Abuse



Jessica holding Cesar. Source: Battiatto family

UPDATE 9/21/2015

From the [#ReuniteandFight4Cesar](#) Facebook page today:

*Dr. Holick has confirmed Cesar has Ehlers–Danlos Syndrome and he had the infantile rickets In which caused bone fragility.*

As Health Impact News has previously reported,

*On June 29, she says she traveled to Boston to meet with world-renowned Dr. Michael Holick, Ph.D. M.D., who counts among his accomplishments pioneering ground-breaking research on vitamin D. After obtaining Cesar and Jessica’s family history and examining Jessica, he reportedly diagnosed her with Ehlers–Danlos Syndrome III, which is a hypermobile type of EDS. Because she has the disorder, the likelihood of a similar medical condition in her son is increased. [See [here](#).]*

Earlier in September, a judge approved for Jessica Battiato to take her son Cesar to Dr. Holick for a visit on September 21, where he has now confirmed the diagnosis of Ehlers–Danlos.

She is hopeful that this finding will help her get her son back home quickly.

She still has to face a court battle, where CPS may try to discount the testimony of Dr. Holick and other experts. Their case is based on the testimony of child abuse specialist Dr. Kathryn Crowell, who has previously “misrepresented” medical evidence in the past, resulting in an innocent father

being sent to prison before he was exonerated by the facts.

UPDATE 8/14/2015

### [Medically Kidnapped Baby in Pennsylvania Diagnosed with Rickets – CPS Keeps Child Anyway](#)

UPDATE 7/9/2015

### [Pennsylvania Mom of Medically Kidnapped Child With Rickets Tells Her Story to FOX News](#)

By Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

Pennsylvania mother Jessica Battiato is frustrated with a doctor and a system that refuses to look for the medical cause of her baby's condition, instead placing the blame on the parents. Since her son Cesar, now 5 months old, was taken by child protective services 2 months ago, her son has been diagnosed with rickets and hypotonia by a radiology expert. However, CPS seized custody of Cesar in April, based on accusations by Penn State child abuse specialist, Dr. Kathryn Crowell, that Cesar's injuries could only be caused by abuse.

Dr. Crowell has been accused of falsely testifying against parents before. In [a 2009 case](#) she accused a parent of child abuse which led to a father spending over a year in jail. [A jury later found him not guilty.](#)

Jessica wants answers for her baby, and she wants her baby back home, not in a foster home.

*“My son needs medical attention. He doesn’t need to be neglected by the state. They are delaying him in his care.”*

## Difficult Pregnancy

Jessica says that she has always loved children, and has a heart for children. She has worked with kids in Scouts and in Boys & Girls Clubs. She was excited about being pregnant, and tried to eat right for her baby. Because she leans toward natural and holistic approaches, she planned to have a natural childbirth and to breastfeed.

Things didn’t go as she planned. She learned that she had a blood disorder, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (IDP), which involves low platelets. The IVIG treatment that her doctors recommended didn’t work for her, and she had to receive platelet transfusions. She also developed preeclampsia. Her “handsome baby boy Cesar” was born on January 6, 2015, via cesarean section under general anesthesia.

He had difficulty latching on to breastfeed, but Jessica was determined. Cesar finally got the hang of things; after that he was exclusively breastfed.

He also had a bump on his head that concerned his parents, Jessica and Cosme. Doctors said it was normal, but it didn’t go away until after their concerns led them to check him with a neurologist. Tests were ordered and it was ruled as fine.

## Problems Began with a Swollen Leg After Vaccines

On March 4th, Cesar received 7 vaccines in one doctor visit: DTap (3 combo shot), Hib, Prevnar, IPV, Rotavirus. A few weeks after Cesar's vaccines, Jessica was shopping with Cesar, trying out different baby carriers. When her normally happy, calm, "coo-ey" baby suddenly became fussy, she noticed that his leg was swollen. When milk and a diaper change didn't calm him, she headed home. She reports that his leg looked red and tight when she buckled him into his car seat, but he stopped crying and went to sleep.

As he slept, she searched online to try to figure out what could be wrong. She gave him Tylenol and elevated his leg, but later he woke up crying again. That was the point at which she knew they needed to get it checked out, so they called the pediatrician and took him to St. Joseph Hospital in Reading, Pennsylvania.

He was admitted to the Pediatric ward on April 19. Doctors at first believed that it was an infection in his leg, but testing showed that was not the case. They could not see any breaks in his x-ray or ultrasound, but they said they didn't know what was wrong, telling the parents:

*"If we can't find out what is wrong with him, we will send him to Hershey Children's Hospital."*

Jessica and Cosme readily agreed, because Hershey was supposed to be the best. They asked to have Cesar transferred. Jessica was scared for her baby, as he was transported by ambulance to Hershey.



*“I admit I was terrified what was to come. I didn’t know if it was a mystery diagnosis, or if I would finally get some answers as to why my son’s leg was swollen.”*



Jessica and baby Cesar. Source: Battiato family.

## **Vitamin D Levels Low – Parents Accused of Abuse**

At Hershey Children’s Hospital, x-rays were taken and some tests were ordered. Cesar’s bloodwork showed that his Vitamin D levels were low, and his calcium was high. Other

levels were off as well. But the most alarming part happened when Dr. Kathryn Crowell, Hersheys Child Abuse specialist, came in. She told them that Cesar had 18 fractures in several parts of his body, and they were allegedly between 3 to 8 weeks old. This was about 6 weeks after his 2-month-old vaccines were administered on March 4th.

*“My heart sunk to my stomach. My world felt like it came crashing down. I felt I lost my heart and soul.”*

The distraught mom started questioning what could cause this kind of thing, and asked for more testing to be done for possible bone diseases. Jessica says that Dr. Crowell told her that testing had been done, and that the only thing that could have caused Cesar’s injuries is abuse. However, medical reports that Jessica accessed later show that a number of relevant tests were allegedly not performed at all.

## **Baby Seized by CPS and Placed in Foster Care**

Hospital staff called in Berks County Children and Youth (child protective services), and Cesar was taken from his parents’ custody on April 21, 2015, and placed in a foster home, where he remains today. No charges have been filed against the couple.

Though the family has requested kinship placement, that request has been denied. There are family members who have been approved by the kinship department. Despite federal law mandating that children taken by CPS go to family first, and foster care as a last resort, the family has allegedly yet to be told a valid reason for Cesar’s placement with strangers instead of family.

## Other Symptoms Indicate True Medical Condition

Since Cesar was taken from his family, he has been given formula and supplemented with Vitamin D. Yet his Vitamin D levels went down instead of up after supplementation began. Puzzled, Jessica asked why. Dr. Crowell simply answered that “blood work fluctuates.” This does not make sense to Ms. Battiato.

Cesar has been diagnosed with tibia vera, or bowing of the legs, at Hersheys. Though the doctors at Hershey Medical Center deny any connection to a bone disorder, another doctor would later describe the bowing of the legs as a symptom of rickets. Dr. Crowell has insisted to Cesar’s family that, “No, it is not rickets.”

Jessica remembers one resident at the hospital saying that he felt “clicking in his ankles,” which is consistent with clicking and popping in his joints that she and subsequent caregivers have noted. These concerns were “brushed off” by doctors at Hersheys.

## Parents Still Want Answers, Turn to Experts



Baby Cesar. Source: Battiato family

Jessica began looking into the family history and her own medical symptoms. When she got her Vitamin D levels tested, she was found to have “Vitamin D insufficiency.” During pregnancy, she took antacids – something which some experts say can wreak havoc with Vitamin D levels and cause severely weakened bones in the baby in the womb. ([Source](#)) She regrets not having her levels checked during pregnancy.

Jessica’s mother has a history of osteoporosis, scoliosis, and Vitamin D deficiency. Her brothers and some cousins show symptoms of joint hypermobility, which is a feature of

Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. This is a connective tissue disorder that can present with multiple fractures in infants, such as those seen in Cesar Battiato. However, Dr. Crowell told Jessica that Ehlers-Danlos cannot cause fractures, a statement which contradicts the experts on the syndrome.

He still struggles with tummy time, even now at 5 months, and has difficulty with head control. He gets tired and weak easily.



Source: Battiato family

Recently, Jessica went to a geneticist to see if symptoms that she has had could mean that she has an underlying

connective tissue disorder or other condition that her son could have inherited. Dr. Roger Latta found that she, indeed, does have joint hypermobility, a collagen disorder, and features of the genetic Ehlers–Danlos Syndrome. Because he is not an expert on Ehlers–Danlos, he stopped short of that diagnosis. Jessica is scheduled to go to Boston next week for further testing with an expert on the condition.

## Radiology Expert Dr. Ayoub – Diagnosis Rickets

Meanwhile, the family consulted with [radiology expert Dr. David Ayoub](#). Dr. Ayoub is a national expert in [infantile rickets](#). He has reviewed Cesar’s labwork, medical records, x-rays, family history, and CPS records. In his report, he concludes:

*“Given the radiological evidence of rickets and subclinical fractures, I believe it is virtually irrefutable that Cesar suffered from skeletal rickets and unrecognized bone fragility and thus received an inappropriate diagnosis of a victim of abuse.”*

Dr. Ayoub states that he is highly certain of his conclusion and is “willing to testify to such in court.” He notes that much of the standard medical training that doctors receive about rickets is based on flawed research and modern textbooks that leave out the majority of the information about rickets that textbooks from 50 years ago included. ([Source](#)) In his report, he states that the “default diagnosis” when an infant has broken bones is child abuse, despite the fact that there is no other evidence of abuse, or witnesses or confessions of abuse.

That statement is, unfortunately for innocent parents, consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines for evaluating fractures in children. The default diagnosis is child abuse, according to AAP standards. Despite this, doctors are cautioned that:

*“Pre-existing medical conditions and bone disease may make a child’s bones more vulnerable to fracture. It is important for pediatricians to take a complete medical history, family history and social history to determine how an injury occurred.”*

Learn more about Dr. Ayoub and [watch his videos here](#).

## **Child Abuse Specialist Refuses to Look at Evidence?**

Once Dr. Crowell made her declaration that Cesar’s injuries were the result of child abuse, Jessica says the doctors stopped looking for any other explanation. When Jessica brought other possibilities to Dr. Kathryn Crowell,

*“she did not want to budge. She believed it was still child abuse.”*



Source: [Penn State Hershey](#)

The family was stunned at the doctor's insistence that there is no other explanation. Jessica says that at one point, she asked Dr. Crowell where she got her education, telling her that she obviously was not educating herself about some of the newer things like rickets or Ehlers-Danlos.

*"I'm in disbelief with this doctor. The EVIDENCE is there, but she doesn't want to see it. She just doesn't want to say, 'I was wrong.'"*

There is increasing evidence, and concerns in the medical community, that innocent parents have been punished by the "default diagnosis" of child abuse based on bone fractures. See:



## Is Shaken Baby Syndrome Often Misdiagnosed and Caused by Vaccine-Induced Rickets?

## Are Vaccines Altering Our Genes Causing Brittle Bones in Infants?

## Are Parents Going to Jail for Vaccine Injuries?

## **Dr. Crowell's Testimony Previously Sent An Innocent Father To Prison**

However, Dr. Kathryn Crowell has been determined wrong in the past by the courts. In 2009, it was her testimony that sent a young father, [Jamel Billups](#), to jail for 414 days, before a jury found him not guilty. According to a [complaint](#) filed in 2011,

*“Defendant Kathryn R. Crowell, M.D. ... issued a consult report on October 29, 2009, with reckless indifference to the truth, in which she falsely concluded that L.B.’s congenital rickets and childhood venous stroke were caused by abuse. ...*

*“Dr. Crowell holds herself out as an expert in investigating suspected child abuse who can determine whether an injury was caused by abuse. ...*

*“Dr. Crowell acknowledged under oath at Jamel’s criminal trial that she misrepresented medical evidence critical to L.B.’s case when she testified at Jamel’s preliminary hearing.”*

abuse before. Crowell testified, “if you don’t do a complete workup to eliminate metabolic and genetic causes why children might have fractures or might have bleeding, that you can sometimes miss kids who have other difficulties.” Crowell further testified falsely that L.B. had “an extensive screening” for “coagulation problems” and “an extensive screening for bleeding disorders” that were “normal” and that L.B.’s “metabolic workup was normal”.

Source: [Shaken Baby Defense Civil Rights Complaint](#)

## **Like Other Parents, Battiatos Determined to Get to the Truth**

The Battiatos were also told that extensive testing had been performed on Cesar, when, in fact, they say it has not. Jessica notes that one test, for osteogenesis imperfecta, or brittle bone disease, came back negative. But a number of other tests have yet to be performed.

Many parents are finding themselves in similar situations. Two families who were eventually cleared of child abuse accusations appeared on the Katic Couric show in 2013, but this was only after one father had spent time in jail after being falsely accused. Both families had a child who was eventually diagnosed with Ehlers–Danlos Syndrome.

<https://youtu.be/FWBKoN58754>

Other families face similar accusations and the loss of their children because of the default diagnosis of abuse:

## **Baby Found with Broken Bones – Parents Assumed Guilty of Abuse and Lose Custody**

## [Maryland Father Accused of Abuse over Broken Bones – Both Children Removed from Home of Loving Parents](#)

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

## [Medical Kidnapping in Maine: Child with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome & Sister Seized – Grandfather Commits Suicide](#)

## [Another Medical Kidnap in Illinois: Infant Twins Seized from Parents over Medical Dispute](#)

## **Her Faith Sustains Her in the Most Difficult Time of Her Life**

Despite all the opposition that they are facing, Jessica is determined to keep searching for answers, and for help for her baby. She says that she knew it was “something medical” as soon as she learned about the fractures.

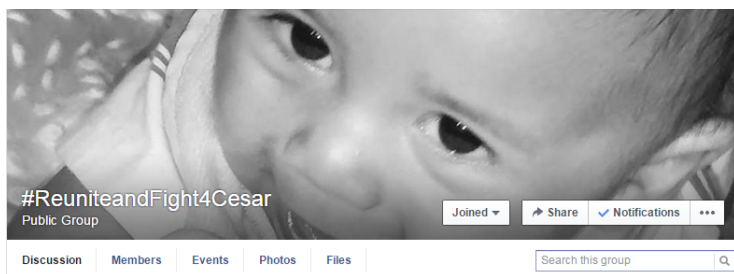
*“This is one of the toughest things that I have ever dealt with. But I am trying to be positive.”*

Her faith is helping her to make it through, and she humbly acknowledges that God must have a reason for allowing them to go through this. Through her research and social media, she realizes that she and Cosme are not alone in this, and she wants to do all she can to make people aware of what is happening to innocent families like hers, all over the

country.

## How You Can Help

Supporters can follow their story at their Facebook page [#ReuniteandFight4Cesar](#). The next court hearing is scheduled for July 29, 2015, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Jessica is praying that the evidence will clear her and lead to her being reunited with her baby.



Supporters are asked to contact the governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, and ask that Baby Cesar be returned to his family. He may be reached at 717-787-2500, or contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Battiatos are represented by Rep. Mark Gillen, who may be reached at (610) 775-5130, contacted [here](#), or reached via [Facebook](#).

Senator Judith Schwank is the senator for the Battiatos' district. She may be reached at (717) 787-8925, contacted [here](#), or reached via [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

# Pennsylvania Mom of Medically Kidnapped Child With Rickets Tells Her Story to FOX News



Source: Battiato family

UPDATE 9/21/2015

From the [#ReuniteandFight4Cesar](#) Facebook page today:

*Dr. Holick has confirmed Cesar has Ehlers–Danlos Syndrome and he had the infantile rickets In which caused bone fragility.*

As Health Impact News has previously reported,

*On June 29, she says she traveled to Boston to meet with world-renowned Dr. Michael Holick, Ph.D. M.D., who counts among his accomplishments pioneering ground-breaking research on vitamin D. After obtaining Cesar and Jessica’s family history and examining Jessica, he reportedly diagnosed her with Ehlers–Danlos Syndrome III, which is a hypermobile type of EDS. Because she has the disorder, the likelihood of a similar medical condition in her son is increased.*

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She is hopeful that this finding will help her get her son back home quickly.

She still has to face a court battle, where CPS may try to discount the testimony of Dr. Holick and other experts. Their case is based on the testimony of child abuse specialist Dr. Kathryn Crowell, who has previously “misrepresented” medical evidence in the past, resulting in an innocent father being sent to prison before he was exonerated by the facts. (See original story [here](#))

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

A Pennsylvania mother now reportedly has the backing of a

couple of world-renowned medical experts who say that the evidence supports her story that there is a medical reason for her baby boy's injuries, and that she did not abuse her son. Local media, including FOX 29 in Philadelphia, is now picking up Jessica Battiato's story, which was first reported by MedicalKidnap.com.

Original story here:

### **[Medical Kidnapping in Pennsylvania: Parents of Baby with Rickets Accused of Abuse](#)**

Child abuse specialist Dr. Kathryn Crowell of Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital reported Jessica to child protective services, asserting that baby Cesar's injuries had to be the result of child abuse. She assured the shocked family that all the tests had been run to rule out any other explanation. Jessica reports that she has learned that simply isn't true. Her own family history does not appear to have been taken into consideration, either.

Based on the testimony of Dr. Crowell, Cesar was seized and taken into state custody on April 21, 2015. The 6 month old remains in a foster home to this day, with only limited visitation with his parents.

After MedicalKidnap.com reported the Battiatos' story, Bill Anderson of FOX 29 in Philadelphia met with Jessica for [an interview](#), which aired on Monday, July 6.



Source: [FOX 29 Interview](#)

## FOX News Coverage of the Battiato Story

FOX Anchor Iain Page opened their news story with this statement:

*“A mother takes her young son to be treated for injuries at the hospital and leaves devastated.”*

Co-anchor Lucy Noland added:

*“The young mom says doctors accused her of abusing her little boy, but she says that is completely wrong.”*

[Watch the interview here.](#)

Reporter Bill Anderson met with Jessica for the interview, giving the “heartbroken mom” the opportunity to have her



side heard publicly.

*“When she took him to the hospital for a leg irritation, she told me she was shocked when they accused her of child abuse.”*

According to Jessica,

*“They told us that he had 18 fractures and 2 they were unsure about. I didn’t understand what was going on and didn’t know what to think.”*



Source: [FOX 29 Interview](#)

Anderson continues:

*“Jessica Battiato maintains she did not abuse her child. ... At least one doctor believes her. Dr. David Ayoub, a radiology specialist from Illinois who helps parents that he says are wrongly accused of child abuse, because doctors don’t always*

*know what else to look for. After reviewing Cesar's records, Dr. Ayoub said, 'Given the radiological evidence of rickets and subclinical fractures, I believe it is virtually irrefutable that Cesar suffered from skeletal rickets and unrecognized bone fragility and thus received an inappropriate diagnosis of a victim of abuse.'*"

## **Mother Goes to Boston, Diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome**

Dr. Ayoub apparently isn't the only expert doctor who believes Jessica. On June 29, she says she traveled to Boston to meet with world-renowned Dr. Michael Holick, Ph.D. M.D., who counts among his accomplishments pioneering ground-breaking research on vitamin D. After obtaining Cesar and Jessica's family history and examining Jessica, he reportedly diagnosed her with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome III, which is a hypermobile type of EDS. Because she has the disorder, the likelihood of a similar medical condition in her son is increased.

*"I've always been hypermobile in my knees, but I always thought it was because I was double jointed. What concerned me was the clicking and popping in my son's body. I realized too I had clicking and popping and always felt older than I am. I've always had achy pains in my joints and thought it was an early onset of arthritis. However, when I brought it up to others I was told I was too young to have arthritis. Dr. Ayoub referred me to Dr. Holick because he says sometimes they can correlate [with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome]. Dr. Holick requested blood work and a bone density scan.*

*"Dr. Holick requested to see my son in Boston. I asked him*

*why the Geneticist at Hershey couldn't confirm EDS. He basically summed it up as, a lot of doctors make a differential diagnosis and a lot of them don't know much or at all of EDS. I am praying once I receive Dr. Holick's report, that BCCYS [Berks County Children & Youth Services] will give me permission to take Cesar to see Dr. Holick sometime soon in Boston.*

*"BCCYS needs to step up and realize after being handed these reports, if it is a medical diagnosis such as EDS and Rickets, they really need to take action. I am doing everything possible to get my son the medical attention he needs. If BCCYS is handed these reports and nothing is done, that's negligence and they are the real child abusers."*

## **Dr. Ayoub: Hershey Doctors Missed Early Signs of Rickets**

In addition, Dr. Ayoub reportedly reviewed Cesar's CT scan that was done in February. Cesar had an abnormal hematoma after birth, which concerned his parents. Shortly after, they requested to be sent to a specialist because it "didn't seem right." Doctors at Hershey assured the Battiatos that everything was fine at that time, but "Dr. Ayoub states otherwise." When he studied the CT scan, he found that the infantile rickets was already apparent.



Source: Battiato family

According to Jessica:

*“I’m very disappointed that Hershey missed the first sign of rickets in the hematoma that was discovered when he was born. After reviewing my son’s CT of his head, Dr. Ayoub discovered the rickets shows even worse in his skull. This CT was done on Feb. 5 and only a month after my son was born. Hershey was the first to be aware of this. I brought my son to their hospital trusting they would figure out what was wrong, and I was sent home with my son being told, ‘He is fine.’”*

## **Is the Child Abuse Doctor Ignoring Evidence?**

Despite the growing body of evidence that there is a true medical explanation for baby Cesar’s condition, Dr. Crowell of Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital allegedly maintains that it has to be child abuse.

However, she has been wrong before. As previously reported, Dr. Crowell’s testimony led to another innocent parent spending more than a year behind bars for abuse that never happened.

In 2009, it was her testimony that sent a young father, [Jamel Billups](#), to jail for 414 days, before a jury found him not guilty. According to a [complaint](#) filed in 2011,

*“Defendant Kathryn R. Crowell, M.D. ... issued a consult report on October 29, 2009, with reckless indifference to the truth, in which she falsely concluded that L.B.’s congenital rickets and childhood venous stroke were caused by abuse. ...*

*“Dr. Crowell holds herself out as an expert in investigating suspected child abuse who can determine whether an injury was caused by abuse. ...*

*“Dr. Crowell acknowledged under oath at Jamel’s criminal trial that she misrepresented medical evidence critical to L.B.’s case when she testified at Jamel’s preliminary hearing.”*

## How You Can Help

Supporters can follow their story at their Facebook page [#ReuniteandFight4Cesar](#). The next court hearing is scheduled for July 29, 2015, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Jessica is encouraged by each medical expert who is helping to figure out what is actually going on with her son, and she is hopeful that the court will see the evidence and return her son home to her.



Supporters are asked to contact the governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, and ask that Baby Cesar be returned to his family. He may be reached at 717-787-2500, or contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Battiatos are represented by Rep. Mark Gillen, who may

be reached at (610) 775-5130, contacted [here](#), or reached via [Facebook](#).

Senator Judith Schwank is the senator for the Battiatos' district. She may be reached at (717) 787-8925, contacted [here](#), or reached via [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Also, please thank Iain Page at Fox 29 for covering this story! His [Facebook Page is here](#) (show him some love!)

# Medically Kidnapped Baby in Pennsylvania Diagnosed with Rickets - CPS Keeps Child Anyway



Baby Cesar in foster care. “Such an innocent child being exposed to injustice and neglect. Every picture tells a story. Every picture of him from when he was born till now shows a big warm smile. Babies may not be able to talk, but my son has been always happy. I can’t wait to get my baby boy back and turn this situation around and help others. Mommy and Daddy loves you!” Source: [#ReuniteandFight4Cesar](#) Facebook page

By Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff



Pennsylvania baby Cesar Battiato is still in foster care, even though medical experts report that his injuries are the result of infantile rickets, not child abuse. His mother Jessica was recently diagnosed with Ehlers–Danlos syndrome, a rare inherited connective tissue disorder, one which is likely to be passed on to her child.

The Battiato’s went to court on their case July 29, hoping that this evidence would result in a verdict that would bring their baby home. Instead, there is another hearing scheduled for October 22.

See original story:

**[Medical Kidnapping in Pennsylvania: Parents of Baby with Rickets Accused of Abuse](#)**

**[Pennsylvania Mom of Medically Kidnapped Child With Rickets Tells Her Story to FOX News](#)**

Matt Kopecki is now the lead lawyer on this case. At the hearing on July 29, Attorney Kopecki requested that the court allow arrangements for baby Cesar to see [Dr. Michael Holick](#) in his office in Boston. Dr. Holick is the leading expert on Vitamin D. The world-renowned endocrinologist and author is the same specialist who recently diagnosed Jessica with Ehlers–Danlos Syndrome.



Source: Battiato family

CPS countered and stated their Hershey Doctor Crowell had suggested a second opinion from another child abuse expert

at Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania (CHOP). Crowell previously diagnosed Cesar's injuries as child abuse, rejecting any possibility of another medical reason for his injuries. She is a child abuse specialist, a recently certified field of pediatric medicine. These specialists are trained to see child abuse, and there are many reports of specialists in this field overlooking medical explanations for conditions in the patients they see.

### **Are New Pediatric "Child Abuse Specialists" Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?**

Attorney Kopecki countered, stating that this is a narrow field with very few true experts. Judge Ullman suggested that there be communication between CHOP, Hershey and the family's experts performing tests locally and sending reports. However, Judge Ullman did tell Matt a trip to Boston is not out of the question, but she would like to see "significant reason" for the trip.

### **CPS Not Living Up to its Mission Statement, Calls Expert a "Quack"**

Jessica Battiato takes issue with the mission statement of the local CPS, stating that the statement "promotes false hope" for baby Cesar. Their website states:

*"The Mission of the Berks County Children and Youth Services is to protect children and assure their physical & emotional well-being as provided by law, and to preserve, strengthen & empower their families."*

According to Ms. Battiato:

*Berks County Children and Youth Services fails to assure baby Cesar's physical and emotional well-being. Instead, BCCYS and Hershey started name calling our expert, Dr. Holick, a "Quack."*

*They're not focused on my son's physical and emotional well-being; instead, they are attacking our experts. It seems my son's medical condition has become a joke to BCCYS team and Hershey Medical Center. They are more focused on covering themselves, than concluding with the correct diagnosis of Cesar. It seems they are ready for war and it has become a battle of the experts. But, when it comes to a mother's love for her child, it is one of the most powerful feelings that has given me strength to be fearless for my son. I am ready, I am prepared, and I am his advocate.*

## **Recent X-Ray of "Fracture" Actually an Error**

While Cesar has been in foster care, he had some further x-rays taken. One of them showed another fracture. However, upon further examination, there was no fracture at all. Instead, it was an "artifact" on the x-ray. An artifact is a shadow or mark which shows up on the image, and may resemble a fracture. It may be due to a hardware failure, software issue, or dust or even static electricity on the film.

Human error can also account for artifacts.

## **Mother's Brilliant Response to Polygraph Request**

From the beginning, Detective Ivan Martinez has asked Jessica if she would be willing to take a polygraph. Jessica says that she has never had anything to hide and has always

told him, “Yes.” Recently, Jessica received a phone call from Detective Martinez requesting a polygraph. She was able to document the conversation, in which she would agree to the polygraph if it would help her get her son back.



Jessica with her baby Cesar. Source: Battiato family

*Jessica: “If I pass this polygraph, I will have my son returned home to me.”*

*Detective Martinez: “I cannot promise you that. I would be lying to you if that would be the case. Cesar being taken*

*away from you that has to do with CYS (Children and Youth Services). That has nothing to do with the criminal investigation. They round together, but essentially they make those determination. You understand that right?"*

*Jessica: "I do, but at the same time, I don't, because if you are doing the investigation, CYS should be notified of the truth.*

*Detective Martinez: "That's a tough question to be asked. I can't promise you that."*

*Jessica: "If I can't be promised for my son to return home, then I'm not willing to do one. If I am promised my son will be returned, and it's written in documentation he will be returned home, then Yes. But if not, No! There's no promises for me then. If I pass this test, then what is going to happen? Nothing, nothing is going to happen.*

*Detective Martinez: "Well, this is a process of elimination.*

*Jessica: "It's not even admissible in court."*

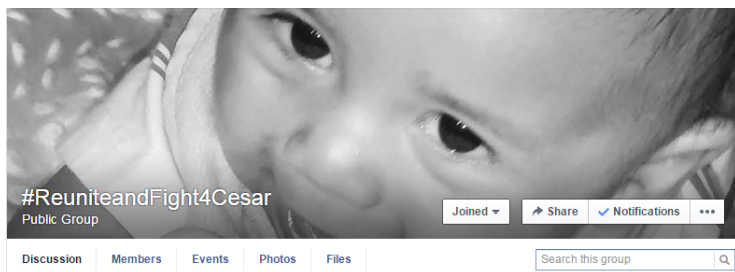
Because there is no benefit in this mother taking a test demonstrating her innocence, she is refusing to take the polygraph test. She has been advised that such tests can be

manipulated and used against innocent parties by unscrupulous authorities. Without assurance that the information will help her get her son back, it appears that innocent parents are wise to refuse such testing by the state.

## State Referral to CHOPS a Cover-Up?

Jessica believes that the requests by the state to send her son to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are an effort to cover up the failures of Dr. Crowell, the Hershey child abuse doctor who diagnosed child abuse without looking deeper to find the medical causes of baby Cesar's condition. The experts that Jessica Battiato have found believe that there is ample evidence that Crowell and CPS are missing valid medical reasons for his condition.

*"This is my son. Stop worrying about covering your behinds. Give me my son back."*



The next court hearing is scheduled for October 22. Jessica hopes by then to have taken Cesar to expert specialist Dr. Michael Holick for evaluation. Expert Dr. David Ayoub has already stated that he is willing to testify that Cesar's injuries are the result of infantile rickets, not child abuse. Jessica Battiato is praying that the court will decide to look at

the evidence that is available, and return her baby to her.

Supporters are asked to contact the governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, and ask that Baby Cesar be returned to his family. He may be reached at 717-787-2500, or contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Battiatos are represented by Rep. Mark Gillen, who may be reached at (610) 775-5130, contacted [here](#), or reached via [Facebook](#).

Senator Judith Schwank is the senator for the Battiatos' district. She may be reached at (717) 787-8925, contacted [here](#), or reached via [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



# Pennsylvania Navy Veteran Mom Loses her 7 Children Because She Moved them out of a Moldy House



Binkley Children. Photo supplied by family.

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

A Navy veteran is in the fight of her life to get her 7 children back home and out of foster care. While Roxanne Binkley was having to move her family from hotel to hotel after finding that their rental home was making them all sick, Child and Youth Services of Pennsylvania (CYS) stepped in and seized the children in January 2016.

When Roxanne realized that her children were becoming sick because of the condition of the rental house, she sought to

get her children out of the bad environment.

That is not the way that CYS of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, sees it. In their petition to the court, CYS accuses Roxanne of being “unable to assure the children’s safety and well being.” The petition alleges that the children:

*missed school due to medical issues that are not confirmed by medical provider. Transient family-moving from hotel to hotel. She is struggling to provide for their basic needs. Absent effective preventative services foster care is the planned placement for these children. Continuation in the home is contrary to safety, welfare and best interests of the children and placement in foster care is necessary.*

## **7 Children Seized because Mother Moved them out of a Moldy House**

Roxanne and her children began experiencing odd symptoms after moving into a rental home. She discovered that the house had an unclean ventilation system which wasn’t properly filtering the fiberglass particles from the insulation. Particles of fiberglass and hidden mold were everywhere. The children became sick with fevers, skin rashes and skin pain that turned out to be infections from hidden mold and particles of fiberglass that had gotten embedded in their skin.

When Roxanne went to a doctor to try to figure out what was causing the mysterious rashes, the secretary in the doctor’s office called CYS to report that Roxanne seemed to be “schizophrenic” because she was picking at her skin on her

arms. However, Dr. Riptinski documented the fact there was actually glass in the skin on her arms. Subsequently, the case worker Cindy Corning met with the children and unfounded the report. Unfortunately, that accusation was enough to get them into the system.

After that, another report was made by the ex-wife of Roxanne's partner who claimed to CYS that the children were not eating. A school principal was interviewed who said that Lorraine Gutierrez was the new investigator. The children were all picked up without warning from their schools one afternoon and taken into the state's custody.

## **Children Have Medical Problems which Allegedly Worsen in State Care, Vaccinated Against Will**

Roxanne explained that she works very hard to feed her children appropriate diets that accommodate gluten intolerance and type 1 diabetes in her children without making anyone feel different because of it. She prepares meals from scratch and uses ingredients that are healthy for everyone.

The children's dietary needs are reportedly not being met now that they are in foster care.

At the time the children were taken into state care, Lorna – age 7 – was being treated for MRSA but was nearly through the medicine and was healing. She also has type 1 diabetes, which in Roxanne's care was kept in remission with a proper diet.

After being in the state's care, Lorna had to be hospitalized for her diabetes, which is back and now she has to take

insulin daily. Her diet is not being observed. She has been traumatized by the hospital stay.

In addition to the lack of proper diet, the children have been forced to have vaccines against Roxanne's will and against her religious exemption, which is allowed in the state of Pennsylvania.

Roxanne's son Gavin is not allowed to see his siblings and is being kept separate from everyone else in his family.

The children are scared and confused and just want to go home. Trauma is child abuse and taking children away from good parents is child abuse.



Gavin hasn't been allowed to see his siblings since being taken by the state. Image provided by family.

Now the state is planning to adopt them out.

## **Mother's Desperate Plea – “Please Stop Traumatizing my Babies”**



J.C. suffers from PTSD. Image provided by family.

In a letter she has written to everyone she can think of in Pennsylvania who might have some power to help, Roxanne explains that the case worker, Lorraine Gutierrez, is not doing her job and as a result her children are suffering in the care of their abusive paternal grandparents.

Roxanne says,

*Having had the medical doctor excuses for the children's absences from school in her hands the morning of the shelter care hearing, the night before agreeing with me, in front of two witnesses, that the allegations were indeed contradictory and promising she would reassess and bring it to her supervisors before going into the court room, she proved herself a liar by never even looking at the medical documentation, continuing on with the hearing and breaking her word.*

Roxanne continues,

*The constant disregard of my concerns and the valuable information I have, as their mother, I believe my children to be neglected in placement through CYS, where before they were properly and adequately cared for and loved.*

Out of frustration, in a letter to the case worker, Roxanne writes:

*Ms. Gutierrez,*

*As I stated in the beginning of this mess: you took my*

*children right before several appointments. Many of them need their eyes checked. I have always taken them to lens-crafters. One of the children broke their glasses beyond repair the night before your elaborate heist. The others either need updated prescriptions, or a new pair anyway. Except for Faye. Faye's eyes still test at 20/20.*

*I would like to remind you that I am NOT in agreement with any shots of any kind at this time. This is expressly against my most deeply felt religious and spiritual feelings.*

*Also, if you will do the research, if the patient has NOT been consuming gluten during the past 30 days any testing to determine gluten intolerance or allergy tests will be invalid. Tests on children are not reliable to begin with. However, if you and Kathy do the food elimination diet and journal, that would be much more reliable and LESS TRAUMATIC for the children.*

*Please stop traumatizing my babies. They are miserable enough. You have done enough damage.*

*Sincerely,  
Roxanne Binkley*

*P.S. You have now in your records 3 drug screens in a row. I will consider it harrasment if you continue to ask without just cause. I remind you, I had tried to give you all of their health information – you refused to take notes, or contact any of the references I gave.*

## State Sets Up Mother to Fail: Wants to Put Roxanne's Children up for Adoption

Roxanne reports that CY5 has asked the court for the children to be placed up for adoption if she fails to complete her permanency plan by July 28, 2016.

The permanency plan entails a very long list of tasks.

As previously explained by Health Impact News, these tasks can be burdensome and unreasonable (See: [CPS Kidnaps 11 Children from Texas Homeschool Family](#)):

*When one thinks of "services" being "offered," the implication of the words are that they are helpful benefits that one may either accept or refuse. Not so with CPS services. Few Americans realize what these taxpayer-funded services actually are, and most believe that their purpose is simply to help struggling families. However, as many families from all over the nation report to Health Impact News, the "services" that CPS "offer" seem to amount to tyranny, slavery, and blackmail to them. The underlying threat is: Submit, or lose your children.*

*Other parents and attorneys have described them as being the equivalent of a fishing expedition. When CPS doesn't have enough grounds to take or keep the children, services are ordered in order to "catch" the parents in something that they can use.*

The plan that Roxanne is required to meet seems to follow this pattern.



Despite the fact that Roxanne has never had any drug addictions or problems with drugs, she has been ordered to take drug tests every week, and so far they have all been negative. She feels that they are attempting to build a case accusing her of being a drug addict and claiming that she is using her child support for purchasing drugs – because they have no legitimate basis for taking the children away. She believes that they are intentionally harassing her by continuing to require more drug tests when drug abuse has never been an issue for her.

In what appears to be a contradictory requirement, the state may require her to take drugs that they want her to take. She is ordered to have a bio-psycho-social evaluation and take whatever medications are prescribed to her as a result of that testing, despite never having had any mental health issues.

The CYS permanency plan requires Roxanne to have a Parenting Capacity Assessment as well as to attend all parenting classes assigned to her.

She is also required to attend all classes to control her alleged anger and to complete counseling for her anger. On top of all of the classes and testing and counseling they ordered, she must cooperate with CYS case workers and sign any releases so that the case worker can communicate with all mental health providers.

In addition, she is required to apply for child support despite the fact that she was already getting child support. She must secure income by getting a job and must verify that income to the case worker regularly. She must secure a lease on a place to live. And she must cooperate and “refrain from mistreating anyone.” (There is no evidence that she has mistreated anyone.)

## Children are Begging to Go Home to Their Mother, Continuing to Suffer in State Care

All seven children continue to deteriorate in foster care. CYS is reportedly making plans to put the children up for adoption.

Roxanne is doing everything the state is asking. All of her children are reportedly suffering, stressed, and traumatized. Their grades are slipping and their health is declining.

Roxanne's pleas for her children seem to be falling on deaf ears. Her children are begging to go home. Each one has a precious and unique personality, all artists and poets. They are allegedly being traumatized and suffering in foster care, possibly destroying their faith in humanity forever.

### How You Can Help

Roxanne needs legal help, prayer, and for people to stand up and tell the State of Pennsylvania to let the Binkley children go home.

Poverty is not a crime in this country. Poverty is not, and should never be, a standard by which we deem parents qualified, and yet in Roxanne's case it appears to be the only reason her children were taken away by the State.

The governor of Pennsylvania is [Tom Wolf](#). He can be [contacted here](#). His [Facebook page is here](#).

Ryan P. Aument is the Senator representing Roxanne Binkley's district. He may be reached at (717) 787-4420 or [contacted here](#). His [Facebook page is here](#).

The Representative for her district is P. Michael Sturla. He may be reached at (717) 295-3157 or [contacted here](#).

# Pennsylvania Children with Genetic Disorder Medically Kidnapped, Mother Falsely Accused of Abuse



Cesar Battiato with his new baby brother Julius. Source: Battiato family

By Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

Pennsylvania mother Jessica Battiato has been diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome – a rare inherited connective

tissue disorder which can cause brittle bones which may be easily broken. When she took her first-born son to the doctor more than a year ago for a swollen leg, she was shocked to learn that he had 18 to 20 fractures in his body. Cesar was seized by child protective services.

Since that time, experts have diagnosed him with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, low vitamin D, and infantile rickets. However, after more than a year, the state has still not released Cesar back to his parents.

In April, Jessica gave birth to another baby. That baby, too, was taken by Berks County Children and Family Services, and the parents Jessica Battiato and Cosme Aviles are once again being accused of child abuse.

See original story:

### **[Medical Kidnapping in Pennsylvania: Parents of Baby with Rickets Accused of Abuse](#)**

Doctors have confirmed Jessica Battiato's medical condition, with its myriad of symptoms including hypermobility, joint pain, TMJ instability, reflux, and easy bruising. She has several family members with similar symptoms. Experts in Ehlers-Danlos syndrome report that the condition often runs in families. However, ever since Child Abuse Specialist Dr. Kathryn Crowell made the accusation that Cesar's fractures were caused by abuse, Jessica believes that doctors and the court are ignoring her sons' conditions.

### **[Mother Fearful Social Workers Would Take New Baby](#)**

As [ABC 6 News](#) reports, Jessica hid her pregnancy from Berks

County social workers out of fear that they would take her baby from her as soon as he was born. This fear appears justified, as social workers around the country often seize babies, even breastfeeding babies, right from the hospital, especially if another child in the family is already in the system.

Jessica was afraid, so she sought prenatal care and gave birth on April 27 in another county. She and her new baby were able to bond and spend those very important early weeks bonding together. Then, when baby Julius was 7 weeks old, Jessica says that she applied for Medicaid for him. That was when their family time ended.

## **Baby Seized by Child Protective Services**

Social workers moved swiftly to file for an emergency hearing and remove Julius from his home.

They also ordered a full body scan on the baby, which was performed on June 9, the same day he was taken, by CHOP – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Blood work revealed that Julius had low vitamin D levels and a high platelet count. After the examination, he was sent to the same foster home as his brother Cesar.



Newborn Julius. Source: Battiato family

The scan reportedly showed that Julius had a broken tibia, but nothing was reportedly said about this that day, and the foster mother took him home without knowing about the fracture. It wasn't until he returned to the hospital for an appointment on June 14, almost a week later, that the fracture was mentioned. At that time, the doctors wrapped the leg in gauze, not a cast, and said that the fracture was in

the healing stage.

Jessica reports that at no time when he was in her custody did he appear to be in any kind of pain and had never given any indication that his leg was broken. This is consistent with reports by many other parents of children with broken bones who have some type of brittle bone disorder. Their bones break easily, but usually the child does not act like they are in pain.

Jessica also reports that no one connected with evaluating Julius asked about her pregnancy or medical history. Just as with Cesar, her vitamin D levels were low. But this time, she was aware that the deficiency could cause problems in her baby, so she made sure to supplement. However, her levels still remained low, leading her to theorize that she could have some kind of condition that interferes with her body's ability to absorb nutrients. She also had idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) during both pregnancies. ITP is a bleeding disorder that results in low platelets.

## **Expert – Diagnosis Ehlers-Danlos, Vitamin D Deficiency**

After learning that Julius had a broken bone, Jessica was able to arrange for her baby to be seen by Dr. Michael Holick in Boston, the same specialist who evaluated Jessica and Cesar a year ago, diagnosing them with Ehlers-Danlos/hypermobility syndrome type 3. Julius was accompanied on that trip by the foster parents and a social worker.





World renowned expert Dr. Michael Holick. [Source](#).

According to Dr. Holick's report, the sclerae of Julius' eyes are bluish, and he has a "doughy elastic texture" to his skin, both of which are associated with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. He reported:

*Based on his clinical history from both mother and foster parents of joint clicking and popping, maneuvering his legs in unusual positions and easily maneuvering out of a swaddling position he has hypermobility of his joints. I confirmed this on physical examination with being able to hyperextend his shoulders and fingers. Therefore it is with a high degree of medical certainty that he has Ehlers-Danlos syndrome type 3. This genetic disorder of the collagen-elastin matrix of the skeleton would've resulted in a skeleton that was extremely fragile and could have fractured during birthing and with normal handling. This genetic insult to the skeleton could explain the cause for Julius' tibial bucket handle fracture. In addition to Julius was vitamin D insufficient at the time of his fractures and therefore likely*

*vitamin D deficient at birth. The combination of vitamin D deficiency and Ehlers–Danlos/hypermobility syndrome independently increased risk for fragility fractures.*

Dr. Michael Holick is a highly respected expert in endocrinology, vitamin D, and bone metabolism at Boston University Medical Center. He serves on several National Institute of Health (NIH) study sections and has chaired NASA's research committee on human health and performance. He has published more than 500 manuscripts in top peer-reviewed journals. He has received many awards for his research, and was recognized by [Thompson Reuters](#) as one of the most influential scientific minds in 2014, ranking as one of the top 1% most cited researchers in his field.

Despite his great deal of experience and his being one of the most highly respected doctors in his field, child protective services has reportedly attempted to downplay his expertise in family court hearings regarding Cesar, choosing instead to rely on the testimony of Child Abuse Specialist Dr. Kathryn Crowell, a doctor who has admitted under oath to misrepresenting medical evidence in her testimony that led to the wrongful jailing of an innocent father for more than a year. ([Source](#))



Cosme with Cesar at visitation. Source: Battiato family

## **Medical Condition Ignored in State Care**

Social workers also reportedly downplay any possibility of the boys having a medical condition that needs to be watched. Jessica says:

*My children are continuing to go through this because one doctor made a wrong diagnosis. They continue to look toward child abuse. They need to look at the bigger picture.*

She notes that, even after a year, Cesar's lab values are still off, with elevated platelets and other issues. She believes that, because of the actions of the Child Abuse Specialist, most of the doctors are not looking deeper to see what is really wrong with her children.

There are no criminal charges pending against the parents.

According to the service plan, both boys are considered by the state to be special needs. However, the plan does not mention Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. Jessica Battiato wants to know what it is that makes her sons be considered special needs. She recognizes that states receive more Title IV-e funding when a child is special needs, and she asked the social worker about this. Brynn Fizz replied:

*Every foster child is special needs.*

Berks County Children and Youth Services has assigned Brynn Fizz, who is an adoption caseworker, to the Battiato family case. Jessica, who is a former foster child herself, fears that they plan to adopt out her beautiful boys. She says that their foster mother has become very attached, and "she really wants my children."

Jessica recently posted on her Facebook page words which echo the heart cry of every mother whose children have been medically or legally kidnapped:

*I just want my boys home...I want to kiss them goodnight...I want to be their mommy...God give me strength. I can't live without them.*



Jessica with Cesar (left) and Julius (right). Source: Battiato family

## How You Can Help

Supporters are asked to contact the governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, and ask that Baby Cesar be returned to his family. He may be reached at 717-787-2500, or contacted [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Battiatos are represented by Rep. Mark Gillen, who may be reached at (610) 775-5130, contacted [here](#), or reached via [Facebook](#).

Senator Judith Schwank is the senator for the Battiatos' district. She may be reached at (717) 787-8925, contacted [here](#), or reached via [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

# Medical Kidnap of Children from Former Amish Mother Reveals History of Abuse in One Pennsylvania Amish Community



Elizabeth with Arthur before he was taken. Photo source: Elizabeth Byler.

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

Elizabeth Byler of Pennsylvania spent her childhood in what some would call, a bygone era, tucked away, far from the

modern world in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth was raised in a traditional Amish community where contact with the outside world was seldom, and only per necessity. Socializing with those who were not Amish was forbidden, as they did not share their austere traditions.

However, in the midst of that idyllic world, dark secrets of physical and sexual abuse persisted, of which no one dared to speak. Elizabeth was a victim of such abuse and vowed to never let her children suffer the same fate. The desire to protect her children is what drives her today, as she seeks to do everything in her power to get her children home. They have been taken from her, and are now reportedly being drugged.

After leaving the Amish community, she survived a near fatal motorcycle accident in May of 2009 which set into motion a series of events that have become a battle of a lifetime – a battle to return her children who were medically kidnapped from her, and are now being excessively drugged under foster care.

It should be noted that this is a story about one Amish community, and cannot be taken as reflecting the way of life of all Amish people. In fact, it was an Amish-run advocacy group that contacted Health Impact News and requested that we publish Elizabeth's story.

## **Children Taken By Acquaintance Who Said She Wanted To Help**

Following the accident, Elizabeth sustained injuries that were life-threatening, and she had to be airlifted to the hospital. It was uncertain if she would survive. Elizabeth had 30 broken bones and a floating knee in one leg, as well as a



ruptured spleen. The prognosis was that she would live but might never walk again. She was in critical condition, and doctors were unsure if they could save her left leg from amputation.

For several days during her hospital stay, Elizabeth was heavily medicated, moving in and out of sleep. The nurses would wake her up periodically to see how she was doing while they monitored her heart. Two days after the accident, Elizabeth was awakened by a nurse to see how she was doing. She noticed a framed photo of her children on her nightstand. She thought it was strange that such a personal item was placed there. She did not have family nearby.

When Elizabeth asked where the photos came from, the nurse said that they were left there by a visitor, Betsy (pseudo name used for this story). The nurse said that Betsy had been spending a lot of time at the hospital, waiting for Elizabeth to awaken. The nurse went on to say that at Betsy's recent visit, she had Elizabeth write a note stating that she was giving her temporary guardianship of her children.

Elizabeth could hardly believe what she was hearing. She barely knew Betsy. Elizabeth said:

*I had seen her before. I knew of her, but I didn't know her.*

Betsy was raised in the same home as Elizabeth's ex-husband and father of her children. Her ex-husband and his sister were put into foster care after their biological parents were indicted for child abuse and sent to prison for 12 years. Betsy's parents were their foster parents until his biological parents got out of prison. However, Betsy was never a part of Elizabeth's or her children's lives.

Reportedly, Betsy came to Elizabeth that day in the hospital to offer to take care of her two children while she recovered. While Betsy was there, she had Elizabeth allegedly hand-write a letter stating that she was giving her guardianship over the children, only until Elizabeth was released from the hospital.

To this day, Elizabeth has no recollection of her being asked to write such a letter. Further, this was done while Elizabeth was allegedly heavily medicated.

Elizabeth later learned that Betsy had been allegedly calling herself the grandmother of the children to the hospital staff, and expressed an interest in taking the two children, Tatianna and John Jr., into her home.

After hearing this, Elizabeth had some reservation about letting her children stay with Betsy, but she did not feel that there was anything to be concerned about. Betsy appeared to be looking out for the children's well-being. Elizabeth had been raised to always see the best in people, giving them the benefit of the doubt. In her upbringing, it was customary to treat others in the community like family, which meant helping them in time of crisis.

## **Home After Hospital Stay, But Children Not Returned**

After Elizabeth's nearly three-week stay in the hospital, doctors said that she would be going home, though they were still unsure if she would walk again. She would still need to be heavily medicated for a while to mitigate the excruciating pain that she was experiencing.

Within a week of Elizabeth's arrival home, Betsy came by to

talk to her about her children. According to Elizabeth, she asked if she could continue to have legal guardianship of the children, only until Elizabeth had a full recovery. Elizabeth said that Betsy presented her with a three to four page document and asked her to sign it. According to Elizabeth, the document stated that she was giving Betsy temporary guardianship of the children.

Elizabeth said that Betsy promised her that it was only guardianship, and that it was only to help the kids with school-related matters and take them to doctor visits. Elizabeth said that Betsy told her that it was something she could do for her, given the long road ahead of her that included several surgeries and learning to walk again. Reportedly, Betsy begged Elizabeth, “Let me do this for you.”



Elizabeth's leg before amputation. Source: Byler family.

Elizabeth, who was not given a guarantee that she would ever walk again, felt threatened by the gesture. She said, "Please don't take my kids!" Elizabeth said that Betsy reassured her, saying that she was not asking for parental rights but temporary guardianship.

Elizabeth told Betsy that she needed some time to think about it. She asked Betsy to give her a week, but Betsy insisted that it be done that day. Elizabeth signed it but reiterated to Betsy that this would only be in effect while she was in recovery.

For about a year and half, Betsy continued to maintain a relationship with Elizabeth while she was in a wheelchair.

At a doctor's appointment, Elizabeth was told that she would be getting a knee replacement and would be able to walk again. She called Betsy to let her know this and that she would like to bring her children home. Elizabeth said that Betsy was shocked and said,

*"If that's what you're planning on doing, you'd better stop because I have a paper that says otherwise."*

After that, Betsy stopped taking Elizabeth's calls.

Soon after her conversation with Betsy, Elizabeth received a document in the mail containing her signature. It stated that she was giving primary, legal, and physical custody of Tatianna and John Jr. to Betsy. It was signed by Judge Nancy Vernon.

Elizabeth was taken aback, because she did not recall signing such a document. She said that the signature had to have

been forged.

## **Betsy Contacts CPS and Police—Accuses Elizabeth of Abuse**

Elizabeth learned that Betsy had contacted CPS and police, accusing her of child abuse. Reportedly, the accusations included child neglect, child abuse, indecent exposure, and molestation. It was said that Elizabeth raped, tied, and gagged the children and took them to a strip club. After numerous CPS and police investigations that lasted up until this year, it was determined that the allegations were false.

There had been no CPS involvement, including legal correspondence, to alert her that her children had been moved into Betsy's care. Elizabeth had no recourse, no way to refute what had been done. Her instinct was to go to the police.

Elizabeth did not know who to turn to. She could hardly believe that her children were stolen from her from someone who portrayed herself as someone who was only looking out for her best interests. To add to her pain, that same person was accusing her of child abuse.

## **A Baby Boy is Born**

In 2012 Elizabeth gave birth to Arthur, who was also taken into CPS custody after a test at the hospital showed opiates in his stool. This was done despite Elizabeth telling them that it was a result of medication that her doctor prescribed. Later, it was proved that the medication was prescribed to Elizabeth by her doctor, and Arthur was sent home.

Note – it is not unheard of for Child Protective Services to

seize newborn babies from mothers who test positive for properly prescribed medications. This happened to [Lori Ibrahim](#) in July of 2016. Even though she has documented evidence that the medications were properly prescribed to her, she still does not have her sons back.

See story:

## **[Medical Kidnapping in Los Angeles: 2 Day Old Infant Seized at Hospital From Mother](#)**

### **[Elizabeth Betrayed by Her Amish Community](#)**

Elizabeth was raised Amish within a community where family values were the glue that held them together. Family matters were kept within the confines of the community. If a child became orphaned, the members of the Amish community banded together to raise him or her. As a result, Elizabeth never knew anyone who had been in foster care. She knew nothing of the family court system.

Elizabeth was taught to always look for the good in people—to give them the benefit of the doubt. She carried with her a childlike trust and an open heart that still abides today. As a result of her upbringing, she said that she has always been “naive of anything having to do with the law.”



Elizabeth Byler still wants to believe the best about people, even now. Photo Source: Byler family.

Elizabeth said that having friends outside the Amish community was not allowed. She said, “We were told, ‘don’t go to their house.’” She went on to say, “We were taught to be scared of outsiders.” However, they were dependent on

those outside the community for certain things. For instance, she said, “If we needed to use the phone, we used the neighbor’s phone.”

Elizabeth’s mother had become pregnant out-of-wedlock from someone outside the Amish community. When her parents found out, she was given an ultimatum. She could stay, and watch another family raise Elizabeth, or leave, and never have any contact with her again. Not being able to withstand watching somebody else raise her child, she left the Amish—leaving Elizabeth to be raised by her aunt and uncle.

Elizabeth said that hers was “not an adoption by paper.” She said that she was “passed off from home to home.” She began being raped and molested from an early age. School became an escape for her. She said, “I was good at school, and I loved it. It got me away from my abusers and what was going on at home.” She dared not tell anyone about the abuse. She said:

*I was scared. I was told that, if I told anyone, that I, and everyone that I loved, would die.*

The cycle of abuse was perpetuated throughout her teen years. As a result, Elizabeth was moved around a lot. When she asked for the reason, she was allegedly told,

*It was because we wanted you to forgive them [abusers].*

Elizabeth contemplated leaving the Amish, but she had been told,



*You're going to hell if you leave the Amish.*



Elizabeth in her Amish clothing. Photo source: Elizabeth Byler

At age 11 Elizabeth, who had never known her biological mother, was told by her family that she had died. It was then that she learned that the people she had been calling mom and dad were really her aunt and uncle.

It was not until age 17 that Elizabeth's friends began telling

her that they knew her mother, and that she was alive.

Elizabeth went on a search to find her. Her friends took her to the police department to see if they could help. The police officers helped Elizabeth find her—they drove her straight to her mother's house.

*Finding my mom—discovering she was alive. I didn't believe it was her! I thought she was dead.*

Elizabeth was in such disbelief that she made her mother show her the birth certificate.

At that time, Elizabeth and her mom began a relationship that they both treasured. It was the happiest time of her life. Her mom told her that she had gone back to the Amish community several times, asking to return to the Amish way of life and be close to Elizabeth. She said that every time she got closer to finding out where Elizabeth was, the Amish community would move Elizabeth. Elizabeth said,

*My mom tried to go back, and they wouldn't accept her.*

Elizabeth said,

*"I always had that feeling of wanting to know more about my mom." She said, "I didn't know my mom for 17 years. I was brainwashed. They said that my mom hated me and didn't want anything to do with me."*

Not long after discovering the truth about her mother, Elizabeth left the Amish community.

Their time together was short-lived, however. Elizabeth's mother died about a year and a half after she found her.

## **Elizabeth Seeks Help from Police – But Police Turn Against Her**

Elizabeth was determined not to give up on getting her children back, and in the fall of 2012 she went back to the police station. There, she was told that CPS had closed the case regarding Tatianna and John Jr. that year, and that the documents stated that they were living with a caregiver.

Elizabeth, who had been physically and sexually abused as child, decided long ago that she would always seek to protect her children, no matter what.

She had been in constant contact with the police department in Fayette County, speaking mostly with Trooper Clem. Each time she went by or called, she begged them to help her get her children back.

As a result of growing up in a reclusive Amish community, Elizabeth said that she has always had a rudimentary understanding of the law and did not know how it really worked outside the Amish community. Her inclination has always been to go to the police whenever an injustice has been done. Her repeated contact with the police was simply her way of grasping at any resource that she could find to try to get her children back.



Elizabeth and her husband Rudy. Photo source: Byler family.

Unfortunately, the police began to suspect that Elizabeth was guilty of child abuse, based on the false allegations made by CPS.

Elizabeth said that a police officer told her that if she would “back out” of her pursuit of trying to get her children back, that “Betsy would have the kids, and this would stop.” According to Elizabeth, the officers said that she should do it for her children, and that, “this just might be the best thing for them.”

Elizabeth said that the officers asked her to talk about the

times she had seen her children naked. Elizabeth said, “The only thing I can possibly think of was when Tatianna said that her hoo hoo hurt. It was red and irritated, and I took care of it. As any mother would.” She went on to tell how when John Jr. was being potty trained and learning to wipe. He asked her to look at it and be sure that he did a good job.

Elizabeth said that it was then that the police officer said, “Well, that’s indecent assault, right there!” Elizabeth cried out, “There’s no way I would have done this to my kids. I am a victim of this myself.” She said that Trooper Clem said, “Why didn’t you tell me this before I did the lie detector test?” According to Elizabeth, the police officer said, “You don’t want your children growing up like you did, do you? You might not have meant to hurt them, but you did.”

The indecent assault charge was eventually reduced to child endangerment. For the first time, Elizabeth hired an attorney. There were multiple court hearings, and at each one there were several plea deal offers. Elizabeth turned down every one and demanded that it go to trial. The case continued for several months. When the time came to try the case, the attorney allegedly asked Elizabeth for \$1500.00. She did not have it, and as a result, Elizabeth was told that she must then take a plea deal. She was told to plead no contest. Elizabeth was given three months of house arrest.

## **CPS Takes Arthur Again**

Arthur could not live with Elizabeth as long as she was on house arrest. In March of 2014, the baby was with his father, but the father got into some trouble. He turned Arthur over to his mother’s care (the baby’s grandmother), who then contacted CPS. CPS took Arthur and placed him into foster care.

Elizabeth said that the goal was reunification until January of this year, but recently CPS began denying her visitation. Recent court documents show that they are seeking to terminate her parental rights, although she has done everything that has been asked of her. She said that the court is using drug charges, from when Arthur was born, as well as allegations of child sex crimes, relating to what happened with the two older children. She said that the judge will not allow CPS to use charges of child sex crimes, but instead insists on child endangerment, as well as the drug charges.

Elizabeth has had concerns about Arthur's foster parents. She said that they have been calling him "their son," and had changed his name to Alex. She said that the couple has been wanting to change Arthur's name for a while and that CPS has had to get involved on more than one occasion to get them to stop calling him Alex.

Elizabeth said that she has learned that the foster parents were allegedly separated and living in separate homes but telling the judge that they were together. Reportedly, the foster mother has said that she "will fight her husband for the boys," and that Arthur allegedly took the place of the baby she lost in a miscarriage. Elizabeth went on to say that the couple begged her to not take Arthur—to leave him with them. For a while now, Elizabeth has been concerned about the unstable environment that Arthur has been subjected to.

Approximately four months ago, Elizabeth said that Judge Nancy Vernon was to make a ruling within 15 days, but they are still waiting for it. At a recent permanency hearing, Elizabeth said that she told her attorney that she wanted to address the issues with Arthur's foster home. She said that he told her, "We're not here for that. We're here for permanency."

Notably, Judge Nancy Vernon's signature is on the alleged forged document relating to Tatianna and John Jr. Elizabeth said that she wonders if the judge feels "backed up against the wall" and does not know what to do in Arthur's case.

## Friend and Advocate Murdered

After her accident, one of Elizabeth's friends shared concerns that she had about the lady who took Elizabeth's children. Elizabeth reports that she told her to be careful. Carmen Higinbotham, the wife of Ron Higinbotham, was a blood relative of Betsy. Carmen had an uneasy feeling about Betsy showing so much interest in Elizabeth's children. Reportedly, she told Elizabeth, "Don't trust Betsy," and to "be careful" around her. Carmen made a commitment to Elizabeth said that she would do anything to help Elizabeth get her children back.

About a month after Elizabeth's car accident, Carmen was killed. Her husband ran over her with a car, and was later found guilty of homicide. See story [here](#).

## Serious Allegations of Corruption Surface Against Betsy

Others who know Betsy have allegedly come forward to warn Elizabeth, including an Amish advocacy group. Reportedly, they have warned Elizabeth and her team of people helping her get her children back that there are "people in Betsy's back pocket" and that she "better be ready to open this can of worms." She said that Betsy said that Elizabeth and her team "best be ready for war with guns loaded."

She went on to say that if they "don't have strong legal people on board" that they will lose their jobs, even their

lives. One person told Elizabeth that the judge did not sign the custody document in question, that “Betsy and her people did it all behind closed doors” and that it “is absolutely not legal.” She said that attorneys “drew up” the document. Further, she said that Betsy knew that having Elizabeth sign the document while heavily medicated was illegal. One person has confirmed that the document has not been filed in the courts anywhere.

This person said that this was not the first time that Betsy had been involved in kidnapping children. She said that the last time she kidnapped children, she fled with them out of state. She said that when the authorities found her, the children were returned. This was allegedly done under one of Betsy’s other three identities, and that she paid a large sum of money to have the incident removed from records.

## Children Heavily Medicated in Foster Care

It has been six years since Elizabeth has seen Tatianna and John Jr. Since they were taken, Elizabeth has learned that each of them is on large amounts of medication. Each child is allegedly on 90 mg of Adderall, which has caused them to be “like zombies.” [According to ADD Warehouse](#), the maximum recommended dosage is 30 mg a day.

John Jr. has allegedly been medicated so much since being taken from his mother that he tried to poison Betsy twice. Elizabeth has been told that this was probably done with the intent to kill her. She said that he poured tanning lotion in her drink because “she wouldn’t let him and Tatianna see their mom.” Elizabeth believes that this was a cry for help.

Elizabeth and her husband of two years, Rudy, who was also born and raised Amish, have anxiously awaited the day that



the children would be home for good. Their home is spacious with a big yard. There is room for each child.

Since the accident, Elizabeth has endured six surgeries, including one last September where her leg was amputated. She is in the process of getting a prosthesis.

A representative for an Amish advocacy group offered to help when he saw Elizabeth's petition online. He said,

*Ripping the children from her and putting them through this for seven years—we're looking at child abuse.*

He wants to make sure that Elizabeth does not go another Christmas without her children.

This is not the first time that Fayette County has been accused of taking children improperly. The lawsuit, [Doe vs. Fayette County Children and Youth Services](#), found that the state of Pennsylvania improperly removed three children, and they were forced to return the children to their father.

Recently, Elizabeth went to the Mercer County police station and showed them the custody document that appeared having her forged signature. They told her it was a civil matter and needed to be taken to Fayette County. Elizabeth has since filed a criminal complaint with the district attorney's office in Fayette County.

## How You Can Help

Supporters have set up a Facebook group that other supporters are welcome to join called [Justice 4 the Bylers](#).



A petition to help Elizabeth get her children back, Non-Amish Woman Steals Children from Amish-Born Woman, is [here](#).

There needs to be an investigation into this case. The Governor of Pennsylvania is Tom Wolf at 717-772-2500. He can be contacted [here](#). His Facebook page is [here](#).

Here are the legislators for the Bylers' district:

Senator Michelle Brooks is at 717-781-1322. She may be contacted [here](#).

Representative Tedd Nesbit is at 717-783-6438. He may be contacted [here](#).

Fayette County Children and Youth Services Director Gina D-Auria is at 724-430-1283. She may be contacted [here](#).

# Judge Allegedly Tries to Gag Former Amish Mother Over Medical Kidnap Story



Judge Nancy Vernon – [Image Source](#). [Contact Info](#).

by **Health Impact News/Medical Kidnap.com staff**

A woman identifying herself as Debora HOLCHIN has contacted Health Impact News stating that Judge Nancy Vernon has ordered that all photos and Internet stories about the Byler children in Pennsylvania are to be removed.

See our original story here:

## Medical Kidnap of Children from Former Amish Mother Reveals History of Abuse in One Pennsylvania Amish Community

Our original story was published on December 11, 2016.

Ms. Holchin also supplied MedicalKidnap.com with a copy of the alleged court order, which is reproduced below. Elizabeth Mason is apparently the name of the former Amish mother before marrying her current husband, Rudy Byler.

Debora HOLCHIN is also apparently the woman referred to as “Betsy” in the [original story](#). She stated to Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com:

*This is a FALSE STORY. She was given a court order to get all of this off the internet Story & pictures it has also been turned over to the DA’s office... [sic]*

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
CIVIL DIVISION

RICHARD J. HOLCHIN and ) NO. 2422 OF 2010, G.D.  
DEBORA J. HOLCHIN, )  
PLAINTIFFS, )  
 )  
vs. ) Judge Nancy D. Vernon  
 )  
ELIZABETH A. MASON )  
DEFENDANT. )

ORDER

AND NOW, to wit this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016,  
it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that the Respondent  
shall immediately take the necessary steps to remove any  
personal and identifying information about the minor children  
and the Petitioners from the internet and any other public  
medium. It is further ordered that the Respondent is prohibited  
from posting any such information in the future, or suffer  
immediate sanctions by this Court. *Additionally, this matter is  
referred to the District Attorney's for investigation as the  
material set forth herein may affect the safety of children.*

BY THE COURT:

Vernon J.  
Nancy D. Vernon, Judge

ATTEST:

Alma Carlisle Prothro  
Prothonotary

FILED  
2016 DEC 16 PM 3:35  
FAYETTE COUNTY  
PROTHONOTARY

Health Impact News has a healthy respect for the 1st Amendment of the Constitution, and the protected right to freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

Supporters have set up a Facebook group that other supporters are welcome to join called [Justice 4 the Bylers](#).



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Fayette County Children and Youth Services Director Gina D-Auria is at 724-430-1283. She may be contacted [here](#).

# Doctor Tells Former Amish Mom that Stress from Medical Kidnapping of Her Children is Killing Her



Elizabeth and Rudy Byler – both formerly Amish. Photo source: Byler family.

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

At a recent hearing on January 27 regarding Elizabeth Byler's two oldest children, Judge Nancy Vernon shocked everyone when she announced that she was recusing herself from all dealings with Elizabeth and her children. The formerly Amish mother from Pennsylvania says her children were medically kidnapped when she was hospitalized following a serious accident. When *Health Impact News* asked if Judge Vernon's recusing herself and bringing on another judge would prolong the case, a member of Elizabeth's family said that it is unknown at this time.

See the original story here:

### **[Medical Kidnap of Children from Former Amish Mother Reveals History of Abuse in One Pennsylvania Amish Community](#)**

Reportedly, Judge Vernon accused Elizabeth of posting information about her case on Facebook, breaking a gag order. Elizabeth told the judge that she did not write on the Facebook support pages, including [Justice4thebylers](#).

Reportedly, Judge Vernon interrupted Elizabeth, yelling at her, saying that it did not matter who wrote it—that it was she who was telling people what to write. When Elizabeth calmly said that she did not post anything there, Judge Vernon told her to shut up.

See story regarding the gag order:

### **[Judge Allegedly Tries to Gag Former Amish Mother Over Medical Kidnap Story](#)**

With regards to Judge Vernon's recusing herself at the recent hearing, the family member said that the judge informed the



court that she may not be able find another judge to take the case because of a law that is supposedly borderline broken. However, she stated that she knew that she was doing the right thing by recusing herself because she felt threatened.

According to the family member, the threat that the judge is referring to is when a Facebook administrator posted on a support page, telling Judge Vernon to “do the right thing and return the children,” or else she would regret it. The post concluded with, “You’re being watched.”

The family member pointed out that the administrator’s intent was not malicious and definitely not a death threat. This was simply an attempt to let the judge know that she would be held accountable for her actions, and her job was in jeopardy if she did not do the right thing. Reportedly, Judge Vernon is accusing Elizabeth of ordering that threat. Elizabeth wants it known that she has never threatened a judge.

According to the family member, the Facebook support pages have several administrators. Elizabeth only relayed to them that the case had been continued. It is believed that the judge was looking for a chance to recuse herself “because she knew she was going to lose, and she had skeletons in her closet that she didn’t want exposed.”

Within three days after the post was published on Facebook, Elizabeth’s parental rights were terminated in the youngest child’s case. She fears that he has already been adopted by the foster parents.



Elizabeth playing with her youngest son. Photo source: [Justice4thebylers Facebook page](#).

## Elizabeth Is Heartbroken by Words of Critics

Critics on social media have called Elizabeth names like “liar” and “monster.” Elizabeth said, “I can’t handle that.” Since taking on this fight, her health has been affected—specifically, her heart.

Two weeks ago Elizabeth was airlifted to the emergency room when she stopped breathing. Doctors have since diagnosed her with [broken heart syndrome](#). She is scheduled to see a heart specialist in March.

Elizabeth said:

*My heart can't handle seeing or being blamed for all of this—and them saying that I'm lying. This is the story of a mom silenced, using her last breath, before her kids come home, to tell them she fought till the day she died.*

Elizabeth is concerned about her health but not discouraged. She said she knows that God is with her, and she vows never to give up fighting for her children.

At a recent doctor visit, the doctor reportedly told Elizabeth:

*I'm gonna tell you what's happening right now. Your heart is talking for you. For seven years, you didn't feel what was going on because of the pain medication and the pain you were in, all of the stuff that was going on. You didn't feel it, but you your heart did. All of the pain that you went through with what this woman did, what happened to you in the Amish. All your life your heart's been taking, taking, taking, taking, taking pain from everybody. And, now, it's saying, 'OK, I can't handle anymore.'*

Regarding the panic attacks, Elizabeth said:

*They are making me stop breathing, and my heart rate goes up so high that it almost blows up.*

## Elizabeth Responds to Critics

Elizabeth Byler's family member spoke with *Health Impact News* about the people involved in this story:

*They don't like being exposed. And, now they're saying that she's lying and she's the monster—telling others that they should look into the case.*

However, the family member continued:

*Everybody has looked into the case. They did an investigation into it—into the allegations. That's all that they are, just allegations that nobody can prove. I know they're not going to be able to find anything, because it never happened.*

Elizabeth has deleted her personal Facebook page, and she is not an administrator on support pages. She points out that a representative initiated the Medical Kidnap story after visiting her home after she lost her leg, and he heard her talking about her children. He then asked for documentation to verify her story, which she provided.

## Doctor Warns that Situation is Affecting Her Heart and Could Prove Fatal

One of Elizabeth's doctors is a major supporter who follows the story, and he has expressed concern for her wellbeing. Elizabeth said that he told her that she has been experiencing “massive, massive panic attacks from everything she's been through in her life.” He went on to say

that they “could lead to a heart attack later on.” He told her, “This story is going to kill you if you keep going. You’re gonna f\*\*\*\*\*g die if you keep going. I don’t know how you f\*\*\*\*\*g did it.”

Elizabeth said that people tell her all of the time how amazed they are at her strength to fight for her children. She said:

*People are saying to me that they don’t know how I did it. I didn’t wait [to fight for them]. I didn’t have patience. God waited—to open my eyes to what’s going on—and to make me feel this. He waited until I got off the medication. Until I got my leg off. Until I didn’t have pain anymore. After I got off that medication. I feel now. I feel everything. So, now my heart’s ready to say, I’ve had enough.*

## **Elizabeth’s Message to Her Children**

*This is my last letter to my kids just in case my heart says, ‘OK, I’ve had enough. I’m gonna blow up, and I’m done.’ If something happens to me, they can read what their mother did, to the last moment that she was on this earth, she fought to the end.*

*I’m doing this for justice. For bringing my kids home. And, so we can all heal together. In case something happens to me, before I get to tell them the truth in person, this is me telling them, I have fought till my last breath. I am telling them how much I miss them and love them, all three of them. God is with me, and I’ll never give up fighting for them in court to bring justice.*

There will be a custody mediation hearing on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 9:00 am at the Crime Victims' Center of Fayette County in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Supporters are encouraged to come and rally at 8:00 am.

## How You Can Help

Supporters have set up a Facebook group that other supporters are welcome to join called [Justice 4 the Bylers](#).



A petition to help Elizabeth get her children back, Non-Amish Woman Steals Children from Amish-Born Woman, is [here](#).

The Governor of Pennsylvania is Tom Wolf at 717-787-2500. He can be contacted [here](#). His Facebook page is [here](#).

Here are the legislators for the Bylers' district:

Senator Michele Brooks is at 717-787-1322. She may be contacted [here](#).

Representative Tedd Nesbit is at 717-783-6438. He may be contacted [here](#).

Fayette County Children and Youth Services Director Gina D-Auria is at 724-430-1283. She may be contacted [here](#).

# **Pennsylvania Court Attempts to Censor Social Media Exposure of Former Amish Mom Fighting to Get Kids Back**



Formerly Amish couple Elizabeth and Rudy Byler are determined to fight for their children. Photo courtesy of Byler family.

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

A mother who is fighting the Child Protective Service system to get her children back was threatened during a mediation hearing last week. Elizabeth Byler of Pennsylvania, who grew up in an Amish community, appeared at the hearing without her lawyer present, due to her attorney's scheduling conflict.

Byler was allegedly given an ultimatum by court officials—to take down the [Justice4theBylers](#) Facebook page “or else,” they would “come after” her. Elizabeth told them that she did not start the page and does not have administrator access to the page. However, she was reportedly called a liar, and they demanded that she delete the account right there. As she pulled up Facebook on her phone to try to access the page settings, she told the officials:

*I can't access it. I'm not an administrator.*



After the hearing, Elizabeth feared being accused of noncompliance, so she contacted a friend who is an administrator. She asked the friend to delete the page immediately because she was afraid. (Only an administrator can delete the page.)

The friend obliged. However, when word of this reached another administrator, the page was reactivated. This was as an act of resistance against the court's attempt to “bully a



Medical Kidnap mother into silence.”

Later that day, a statement was posted on Justice4theBylers Facebook saying that Elizabeth had requested that the page be taken down, but that the page would remain. The administrator went on to say:

*We have the utmost respect for Elizabeth Byler, but understand that, though you may be able to control her with threats, you cannot control us. She is powerless to compel us in any way to take down this page. And we are watching. We just want you to do the right thing.*

*This is about the Freedom of Speech of fellow Americans to speak about the injustice that is happening to the Byler family, and to thousands of other families across the United States, and, indeed, the world.*

*This is about Freedom of the Press, as well. Social media IS media. As such, we have the Constitutional Freedom to report on news that is happening to this family and others.*

*When the Founding Fathers placed Freedom of the Press in the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution, it was with the understanding that the press is a means by which the people can hold governmental officials and agencies accountable to the people. That is, in fact, the primary purpose of media.*

*Thus, the purpose of this page, and others like it, is to inform the people about the actions of government against citizens, specifically here, the Byler family. This is a legitimate use of media, and thus, we will not bow down to those who attempt to silence us.*

*They may be able to silence Elizabeth Byler's voice, for now, but we will NOT allow OUR voices to be silenced. We call upon those who would silence her voice to hear the plea of a mother – broken, crying for her children to come home. We implore you to do the right thing for her, and for all the families that you come in contact with.*

**WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED!!!”**

See the original story here:

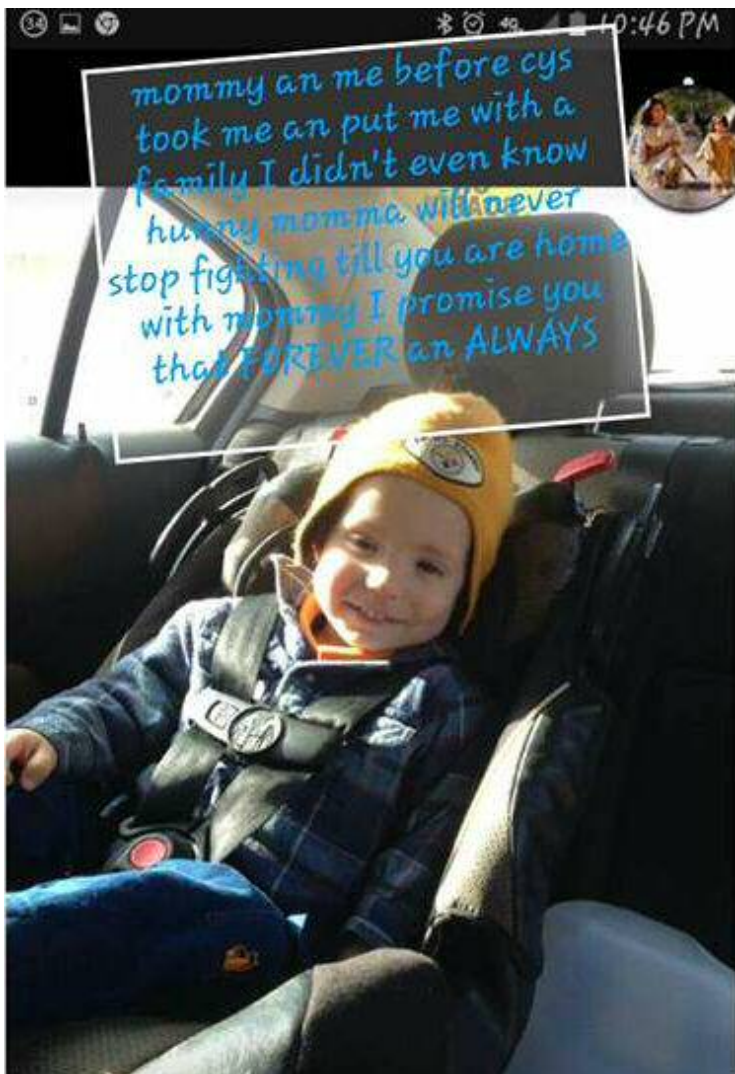
**[Medical Kidnap of Children from Former Amish Mother Reveals History of Abuse in One Pennsylvania Amish Community](#)**

See story regarding the gag order:

**[Judge Allegedly Tries to Gag Former Amish Mother Over Medical Kidnap Story](#)**

See story regarding the effects of the stress on Elizabeth from the Medical Kidnapping:

**[Doctor Tells Former Amish Mom that Stress from her Medical Kidnapping of Her Children is Killing Her](#)**



Mother Elizabeth Byler has vowed never to stop fighting for her children. Arthur is her youngest. Photo supplied by family.

The Founding Fathers and the Supreme Court have

historically supported Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press as means to hold government accountable to the people.

*“The Constitution specifically selected the press, which includes not only newspapers, books, and magazines, but also humble leaflets and circulars, to play an important role in the discussion of public affairs. Thus, the press serves and was designed to serve as a powerful antidote to any abuses of power by governmental officials and as a constitutionally chosen means for keeping officials elected by the people responsible to all the people whom they were selected to serve. Suppression of the right of the press to praise or criticize governmental agents and to clamor and contend for or against change ... muzzles one of the very agencies the Framers of our Constitution thoughtfully and deliberately selected to improve our society and keep it free.” – Hugo L. Black – US Supreme Court Justice 1937–1971 (Mills v. Alabama, 384 U.S. 214 1966)*

In another case, *New York Times Co. v. United States* 403 U.S. 713 (1971), Justice Hugo L. Black clarified:

*“In the First Amendment, the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors. The Government’s power to censor the press was abolished so that the press would remain forever free to censure the Government. The press was protected so that it could bare the secrets of government and inform the people.”*



Founding Father Benjamin Franklin recognized that a free press is necessary to hold government accountable.

*“Freedom of speech is a principal pillar of a free government; when this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved, and tyranny is erected on its ruins.”*  
Benjamin Franklin

**How You Can Help**



Elizabeth Byler with son Arthur. Photo supplied by family.

Visit the [Justice4theBylers](#) Facebook page to show support for the family.

A petition to help Elizabeth get her children back, Non-Amish Woman Steals Children from Amish-Born Woman, is [here](#).

The Governor of Pennsylvania is Tom Wolf at 717-772-2500. He can be contacted [here](#). His Facebook page is [here](#).

Here are the legislators for the Bylers' district:

Senator Michelle Brooks is at 717-781-1322. She may be contacted [here](#).

Representative Tedd Nesbit is at 717-783-6438. He may be contacted [here](#).

Fayette County Children and Youth Services Director Gina D-Auria is at 724-430-1283. She may be contacted [here](#).

# Former Amish Mother who Lost her Children to CPS Finds Her Own Father for First Time



Elizabeth and husband Rudy – both former Amish. Photo source: Byler family.

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

Parents whose children are taken from them often fear that their children will forget them, especially if the children are



very young when Child Protective Services steps in. However, there is a deep need inside human beings to know our biological parents, even if we don't remember anything about them. There is something inside that longs to know where we came from and wants to connect with the truth.

Elizabeth Byler of Pennsylvania is a mother of [medically kidnapped children](#) who has prayed that her children will not forget her. She also understands this longing from the perspective of the child, because she was raised in the Amish community by people who were not her parents.

Since Elizabeth's story broke on *Health Impact News*, there have been some interesting developments with regards to finding her biological father.

After a lifetime of not knowing anything about him, she believes that she has finally found her real father, and she couldn't be happier about it. They still need a DNA test for confirmation, but all signs indicate that he is the daddy she has been searching for all of her life.

The reality is that, no matter what Child Protective Services or any other organization or person does, there is a bond between parent and child that no piece of paper or judge's decree can completely sever. Elizabeth's journey of finding her father clearly demonstrates that fact.

This is a perspective that we do not often get to share.

## **Raised without Her Parents**

Elizabeth Byler was raised in the Amish community after her mother got pregnant from someone who was not Amish, a man considered an outsider. When Elizabeth was 11 years

old, she was told that her mother was dead. She never knew who her father was.

When she was 17, she learned that her mother was still alive. She left the Amish community and was able to spend a year and a half with her biological mother before she died. Though she is thankful for that time, it wasn't nearly long enough.

In May of 2009, Elizabeth survived a near fatal motorcycle accident, which set into motion a series of events that have become the battle of a lifetime – a battle to return her children who were medically kidnapped from her.

Now, she believes that she may have found her biological father, a man who knew her mother and can help provide answers that she has sought her entire life.



Elizabeth playing with her youngest son. Photo source: [Justice4thebylers](#) Facebook page.

See the original story and updates:

**[Medical Kidnap of Children from Former Amish Mother Reveals History of Abuse in One Pennsylvania Amish Community](#)**

**[Judge Allegedly Tries to Gag Former Amish Mother Over Medical Kidnap Story](#)**

## [Doctor Tells Former Amish Mom that Stress from her Medical Kidnapping of Her Children is Killing Her](#)

## [Pennsylvania Court Attempts to Censor Social Media Exposure of Former Amish Mom Fighting to Get Kids Back](#)

## **Man Claims to Be Elizabeth's Father**

Recently, a gentleman reached out to Elizabeth after seeing her story on social media. He claimed to be her dad. After meeting him, Elizabeth posted a photo of them together on Facebook, saying that she believed that she had found her biological father.

When Elizabeth's aunt saw it, she came forward to say that she had known the man all of her life, and for several reasons, he could not be her biological father. Her aunt told her that Elizabeth's mother, Gertrude, had named the father before she died.

## **After Disappointment, Elizabeth Searches for Her Real Dad**

Elizabeth's aunt shared the man's name with her, and she began searching for him online. It wasn't long before Elizabeth was able to locate the man, and last month, the two met in person.

According to Elizabeth, after she was born, she was ripped from her mother's arms and taken to be raised by the Amish community. Since Elizabeth's father was from outside the community, Gertrude was given an ultimatum. She could

either stay in the Amish community and watch someone else raise her baby, or leave, and never have contact with Elizabeth again.

Unable to bear the pain of watching someone else raise her daughter, Gertrude chose to leave.

Since Elizabeth's father was not Amish, he was banned from having contact with Elizabeth, as well. When Elizabeth made contact with him, he believed that she was still in the Amish community. She said:

*As far as he knew, I was still Amish. He didn't know I left.*

Elizabeth said that the man is a professional musician and lives about an hour from her. He told her that he knew her mother for several years, and that they dated off and on during that time. Upon meeting him, she said:

*It felt like it did when I met my mom. It was a very good feeling, and every time I talk to him I feel the same way.*

Elizabeth went on to say that it was a meeting that seemed orchestrated by her mother, from up above. She said:

*It was almost as if my mom was putting me there, saying, "OK, I know I'm not here for you anymore, but I'm telling you that this is your father and I want you to know him." It's like a dream come true, because I've always wanted to know more about my mom. Now, I have that second chance of getting to know her, even though she's not here. – God's*

*giving me a second chance.*

Since getting to know the gentleman, Elizabeth said that he has expressed a desire to do a DNA test by the end of this month. She said:

*He's excited, but he doesn't want to get his hopes up until the DNA test shows for sure. I've always said, "What if my dad was a really good guy, and he was a musician?" Because, I love singing. I always have. But, my mom liked singing, too.*

*So, I never really thought that, maybe he really is a musician. But, he is! If that's him. I'm really excited about it! And, he's excited and can't wait.*

*But, he's scared to get his hopes up and then get them crushed, because he really hopes I am his daughter. But, he said [that], even if I'm not his biological daughter, I would still be his family. Either way, he's going to be in my life no matter what, because, I'm Gertie's daughter. He loved my mom till the day she died.*

As Elizabeth contemplated contacting her potential father, she feared that he might reject her:

*I was so afraid he didn't want anything to do with me, because I was told that my dad wanted nothing to do with me, and that's why I wasn't with him.*

This is similar to what many children in foster care report that they were told about their biological parents. But

Elizabeth says that she was able to speak with the gentleman about it, and she learned the truth.

Elizabeth said that he told her, "It's the exact opposite." He would inquire about her when he spoke to her mother, but her mother was kept in the dark.

*With her not being married, they [the Amish community] gave her a choice. She had to choose to either stay Amish and watch another family raise me or leave and never have contact with me.*

*And, she chose to leave.*

*But, I don't blame her for that, because I don't know if I could sit there and go to the same church as my own brother, knowing he has my baby. That would be very, very hard.*

*It's hard to sit here and watch somebody raise my kids right now, and they're not even family.*

*She would have to be around them every single holiday, all the time. I couldn't have done it. There's no way. And, then watch them pass me off from home to home to home to home, knowing there's nothing she could do.*

*I don't blame her one bit for leaving. It's just sad that I didn't get to know her more than a year and half before she did then pass away, after I was told she was dead when I was 11.*



Elizabeth in Amish clothing. Photo source: Byler family.

The discovery of her potential father has given Elizabeth hope for the future:

*I'm excited! Because, not even just the fact that he could be my dad, but also he knew my mom for that long. I only knew mom for a year and a half.*



*I might be able to get to know my mom all over again without her even being here. He said he can tell me so much more about my mom than I know. I really don't know a whole lot about her. He said that he can help me know mom, even though she's not here.*

## **Desire to Know Her Biological Parents Never Left**

Elizabeth's experience of being taken from her parents and raised by someone else is not that different from what her own children are experiencing.

Countless former foster children have reported they were told that their parents didn't want them or that their parents don't love them, even when their biological parents are fighting tooth and nail to get them back.

Despite what Elizabeth was always told, there was always a hunger deep down inside her to know the truth and to know her real parents. Nothing that the Amish leaders did was able to take that away from her.

What are Elizabeth's children being told about their parents? She hopes that, no matter what, her children know that she loves them and is doing everything that she can to reunite their family.

## **Mother Forbidden to Post Photos of Her Children, But Guardian Allowed to**

Recently, it was brought to her attention that a GoFundMe account was created by a family member of the person who took her children, requesting money to pay their attorney's

fees.

Elizabeth said that the account contained accusations of her of getting her attorney services for free, which is untrue. She went on to say that the medical kidnappers posted photos of her older children.

Yet, she, their own mother, is not allowed to post pictures or identify her children online in any way. The unconstitutional gag order that was placed on her was lifted on the grounds that she abide by this. She was told that, if she did post photos like those on her GoFundMe account, she would be held in contempt of court.

For some time, Elizabeth has been looking for the right lawyer to take her case to trial. Finally, after interviewing several prospects, she recently found her “legal eagle,” who is working on moving her case forward.

Elizabeth has wanted to take her case to trial for some time now, because she says it would be an opportunity to present evidence and hold her children’s medical kidnappers accountable for their actions.

## How You Can Help

Visit the [Justice4theBylers](#) Facebook page to show support for the family.



A petition to help Elizabeth get her children back, “Non-Amish Woman Steals Children from Amish-Born Woman,” is [here](#).

The Governor of Pennsylvania is Tom Wolf at 717-772-2500. He can be contacted [here](#). His Facebook page is [here](#).

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# Pennsylvania Civil Rights Attorney Medically Kidnapped for "Mental Health" Evaluation - Whereabouts Unknown



Andy Ostrowski is a former Civil Rights attorney, past candidate for U.S. Congress, author, radio show host, and judicial reform activist. [Image from Facebook.](#)

by **Brian Shilhavy**

## Editor, Health Impact News

Andy Ostrowski was kidnapped by law enforcement from his home in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania this week while live-streaming on Facebook.

Police entered his home without knocking, carrying tasers and clubs, claimed they had a warrant (which they apparently never showed to him) to take him in for a “mental health evaluation,” and proceeded to turn off his computer and remove him from his home by force.

His current whereabouts is unknown at the time of publication.

Here is the recording of the event:

[https://youtu.be/Ig\\_YZ1BgiYw](https://youtu.be/Ig_YZ1BgiYw)

Mr. Ostrowski is a former Civil Rights attorney, [past candidate for U.S. Congress](#), author, radio show host, and judicial reform activist.



Ostrowski exposes judicial corruption, something we have covered extensively at Health Impact News, particularly on our MedicalKidnap.com website.

Medical kidnapping would be almost impossible without corrupt judges participating.

For more on this topic see:

**[Retired Arizona Judge Reveals Corruption in Legal System](#)**

**[American Judicial System for Sale: Bribes and Corruption now the Norm](#)**

**[Political Prisoner for Revealing Corruption?](#)**

Earlier this year, Ostrowski filed a [federal lawsuit](#) in Pennsylvania, naming the “American System of Justice” as a Defendant, along with the Federal Reserve, the Rothschilds,

Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, and others who are alleged to have compromised our access to justice, and the loss of basic rights and protections. ([Copy here.](#))

The lawsuit claims that the American System of Justice, as reflected by the Pennsylvania Unified Judicial System, lacks constitutional checks and balances by the other two branches of government, and has failed its self-disciplinary feature, making it impossible to achieve justice in certain cases and classes of cases.

It further identifies, and sues, corrupting influences alleged to be behind the culture of secrecy in the courts.

The kids for cash, Penn State/Sandusky, and porngate email scandals are cited as examples of these influences.

## **Psychiatrists Used to Attack and Stop Andy Ostrowski from Practicing Law**

Andy Ostrowski founded the [Pennsylvania Civil Rights Law Network](#), and on this website he explains how he was attacked and prevented from practicing law. ([Attorney Censure](#))

He filed a complaint against Stefan P. Kruszewski, M.D., the psychiatrist allegedly responsible for having his license to practice law revoked. He also filed a licensing complaint with the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. The [documents are found here.](#)

In his [complaint against Dr. Kruszewski and his associates](#), he claims:

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff sought medical treatment from Defendant Kruszewski through the Pennsylvania Bar Association “Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers” program in or around June 2003, for certain symptoms that he had experienced throughout most of his life. Plaintiff recently discovered during another professional evaluation, in or around early 2013, that these problems emanated from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), resulting from a childhood accident causing second and third degree burns on over 15% of his body.

Defendant Kruszewski gained Plaintiff’s confidence and trust, with representations about himself and his credentials. Kruszewski is a graduate of Princeton University, and Harvard Medical School. He has board certification in general psychiatry as well as the subspecialties of geriatric, adolescent, and addiction psychiatry, and in addiction medicine.

Plaintiff confided to Kruszewski that he was trying to save his marriage, and was desperate for help.

Upon information and belief, Kruszewski communicated Plaintiff’s healthcare information to Defendant Hobbs and others without the knowledge or consent of the Plaintiff.

The meetings between Plaintiff and Kruszewski were always at Kruszewski’s private residence.

Plaintiff subsequently learned that Kruszewski is homosexual, and lives with Defendant Tobiasz, who was also his medical assistant. There was another adult male, who they call their son, living with them. This is all relevant, because it is believed Defendants Kruszewski and Tobiasz attempted to seduce Plaintiff into a homosexual relationship with them.

[Source.](#)

## Where is Andy Ostrowski Now?

Reporter Janet Phelan has written two articles on Mr. Ostrowski’s abduction, and was able to contact him by phone on the first day at the first hospital he was taken to.

See:



## Judicial Reform Activist And Attorney Abducted By Police While Broadcasting

### How To Disappear An Activist (Or, Where IS Andy Ostrowski?)

Janet reports:

*Per hospital protocol, Ostrowski was subsequently transferred to another facility. And now, no one can say where he is.*

*HIPAA—Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act—disallows hospitals from confirming if a person is at their facility, if he is on a psych unit. In the conversation on Tuesday, Ostrowski asserted he was most likely to be transferred to First Hospital, in Kingston.*

*First Hospital, however, will not confirm or deny his presence. As Ostrowski had expressed not only appreciation to this reporter for reaching him at General Hospital, but also asserted the necessity to follow up on his forced incarceration, the failure to reveal his whereabouts becomes a central issue vis-à-vis his right to freedom of association.*

*However, the hospitals in question do not seem to honor this historical right. The behaviors by staff at both General and First Hospitals couldn't be more alarming. Yesterday, in an effort to ascertain where he was transferred, I called General Hospital and spoke with a woman who initially identified herself as "Joanne." Joanne refused to give information as to where Ostrowski was transferred and when asked her full name, she replied "Julia." According to Joanne/Julia, to disclose where Ostrowski is would violate HIPAA.*

*When it was suggested that Ostrowski's right to association trumped HIPAA, Joanne/Julia turned nasty, demanding my data, which I supplied her. She then trounced further on any perception that Ostrowski still has rights, telling me I was "so wrong" about his right to association overriding the hospital's right to privacy—which is really what HIPAA is protecting here.*

*Well, it didn't get much better at First Hospital. This reporter spoke with the media relations director, who not only declined any information as to Ostrowski's presence, but shot back, "You'll never know if he is here or not!"*

*And that may be true and how scary is it...*

Contacting the Attorney General's office apparently did not produce any better results:

*In an effort to get assistance in determining his whereabouts, contact was made with the Luzerne County District Attorney's office. The call was transferred to a "Marilyn," who, after hearing that a request was being made to locate Andy Ostrowski, promised to look into this. When no call back was received, the DA's office was repeatedly called, at which point they repeatedly hung up the phone on me. An initial request for an email contact was also refused. "We don't give out our email addresses," the receptionist stated.*

*These are public servants, folks....*

## Call to Action! We Need to Know Andy Ostrowski is Safe and Demand His Release!



Where is Andy Ostrowski?

Mr. Ostrowski believes they are using the veil of “mental health” to attack him, since they cannot fight him in the legal system.

The public needs to demand to know where Mr. Ostrowski is located, and ask for his immediate release.

The Pennsylvania Attorney General's telephone number is 717-787-3391. Carolyn Simpson is the press officer with the AG's office at 717 787 5211.

The Luzerne County District Attorney's office number is 570 825 1675.

The governor of Pennsylvania is Tom Wolf, and he can be [contacted here](#). His [Facebook page is here](#).

# Mom Stands Up to Dental Bullying When Dentist Threatens to Call CPS Over Missed Dental Appointment



Pennsylvania mom Trey Hoyumpa is taking a stand against Dental Bullying. [Image from Facebook.](#)

**UPDATE:**

## Did Pennsylvania Mom Who Stood Up to Dental Bullying Uncover Massive Pediatric Dental Fraud Nationwide?

by Terri LaPoint  
Health Impact News

Is Medical Kidnapping now spreading to the dental profession?

Parents all over social media are in an uproar over a letter posted by a Pennsylvania mother from her children's dentist office. [Smiles4Keeps](#) Pediatric Dentistry sent a letter to a mother threatening to call Child Protective Services if she did not schedule a dental appointment for her child.

The dental office staff has responded to the post and comments with a post of their own, defending their actions as being their legal obligation. Instead of quieting public fears, the response appears even more disturbing to parents, who are accusing the dental office of "bullying," and "blackmail."

Here is the [letter posted on Facebook](#) that Trey Hoyumpa allegedly received in the mail on March 19, 2018, from the Bartonsville, Pennsylvania, [Smiles4Keeps](#) office:



SMILES 4 KEEPS  
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

March 14, 2018

Dear parent,

At Smiles 4 Keeps, our goal is to keep children as healthy as possible through education, regular dental checkups, and timely treatment as needed. In order for us to do that, you must bring your child to one of our Smile Centers for regular professional cleanings and treatment.

According to law, failure to bring your child for dental care is considered neglect. Pennsylvania Act 31 (Child Abuse Reporting and Recognition Requirements) states that health care providers must report your failure to bring your child to the dentist for evaluation and care. A copy of Act 31 is enclosed for your reference. Smiles 4 Keeps has not reported your child's outstanding dental treatment, as of yet. Since this law is in effect, we hope this letter encourages you to schedule an appointment to follow through with needed dental treatment for your child. If you sought a second opinion, please also contact us with the name of your new provider. We would be happy to forward your child's records upon signing a release form.

To keep your child as healthy as possible and avoid a report to state authorities, please call Smiles 4 Keeps immediately to schedule a treatment appointment within the next 30 days. With your help, Smiles 4 Keeps can continue to provide your child with quality dental care.

Sincerely,

Smiles 4 Keeps Pediatric Dentistry

[WWW.SMILES4KEEPS.COM](http://WWW.SMILES4KEEPS.COM)

11 BARTONVILLE SMILE CENTER  
2015 Route 802, 2nd Floor  
Bartonville, PA 18021  
(717) 899-4440  
barnton@smiles4keeps.com

11 SCRANTON SMILE CENTER  
322 Mulberry Street  
Scranton, PA 18503  
(717) 341-9186  
scranton@smiles4keeps.com

11 WILKES-BARRIE SMILE CENTER  
3900 Schuylkill Drive  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18704  
(717) 852-4376  
wb@smiles4keeps.com

Trey Hoyumpa isn't smiling. Neither are the hundreds of other parents who have been sharing the post and commenting.

## Parental Concerns over Office Policies



Image from [Smiles4Keeps website](https://www.smiles4keeps.com).

According to the mother's post, there are several practices that the dentist office maintains that concerned her, any of which could account for her choosing not to continue taking her children to that particular dentist:

- 1- Parent does NOT go into patient area with their child.*
- 2- Parent does NOT meet dentist. (They meet hygienists.)*
- 3- Only one appt for procedures (fillings) per day. If Parent has more children, they must come on a different day.*
- 4- They will report you if you don't respond to them.*

There are many good, loving parents who refuse to allow their children to be seen by any doctor, dentist, or health provider unless they are able to accompany their children, not wanting to leave their children alone inside a medical



office.

For some, that policy alone is reason enough to decide never to go back. How are parents to protect their children if someone, even someone they have never met, is permitted unfettered access to them?

Does she really need to justify or explain to the office why she chose not to take her children back?

## **Dental Office Responds Publicly on Facebook**



## DR. ROSS WEZMAR

Pediatric Dentist

Dr. Ross Wezmar is the founder of the dental clinic according to their website. [Image source](#).

As the photo of the letter circulated on social media, the public responded with phone calls to Smiles4Keeps and posts on the practice's [Facebook](#) page.

On Wednesday, the office responded (see full post [here](#)). The post begins with a link to a policy from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD):

*On March 19, a Facebook post inspired a series of comments from others in the Facebook community. We appreciate feedback from our patients and potential patients. However, the online conversation failed to remain focused on facts. Smiles4Keeps wishes to clarify the following points:*

*• The letter in question refers to dentists' legal obligation to report dental neglect to the proper authorities. In its Guideline on Oral and Dental Aspects of Child Abuse and Neglect, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry defines the term and clarifies its importance. The full document is available for review here: [http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies\\_Guidelines/G\\_Childabuse.pdf](http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/G_Childabuse.pdf). Here is an excerpt:*

*Dental neglect, as defined by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, is the "willful failure of parent or guardian to seek and follow through with treatment necessary to ensure a level of oral health essential for adequate function and freedom from pain and infection." Dental caries, periodontal diseases, and other oral conditions, if left untreated, can lead to pain, infection, and loss of function. These undesirable outcomes can adversely affect learning, communication, nutrition, and other activities necessary for normal growth and development.*

The policy also includes important points that Smiles4Keeps neglects to mention, such as the fact that there can be other factors involved in why a family may not bring in a child for a dental appointment, such as: “family isolation, lack of finances, parental ignorance, or lack of perceived value of oral health.” The policy paper states:

*The point at which to consider a parent negligent and to begin intervention occurs after the parent has been properly alerted by a health care professional about the nature and extent of the child’s condition, the specific treatment needed, and the mechanism of accessing that treatment.*

The assumption of neglect, according to the policy, should not be made without evaluating many other factors.

Even so, the AAPD fails to take into account that a parent may simply not like the way they were treated at that dental office or may choose to go elsewhere or make a different medical/dental decision.

## **Dentist Demands Name of New Dentist if Family Chooses to Leave**

Smiles4Keeps clarified their position on a parent choosing a different dentist:

- *If a parent or guardian chooses to take a child who requires treatment to another provider, we ask for the name of the new treating dentist so we can record the information in the patient’s record. We remain responsible for the patient until the parent relays the name of the new dentist. We welcome the opportunity*

*to support other medical and dental providers with the hope that all children receive the appropriate care they require in a timely manner.*

- *Upon request and written permission of the child's parent or guardian, we transfer records to the new treating dentist.*

## **Parent Reacts Against Dentist Threats – Stands for Parental Choice and Patient Privacy**

That response does not set well with many who read it, including Trey Hoyumpa. She addressed this point in her response on the dentist office Facebook page this morning, a response which resonates with many parents:

*I don't have to tell you where I go with my children nor do I have to tell you my plans for their future care.... What I do with my kid's teeth after I LEAVE your office is none of your business.*

*You ARE NOT the caregiver of my child WHEN I SAY that you are no longer the care giver, and NOT when YOU tell me so.*

Is Smiles4Keeps attempting to tell their clients that they do not have the right to change providers at will?

An American value that many of us may take for granted is the right to “vote with our feet,” taking our business elsewhere if we do not like something about a place of business.

For example, if the service at Lowe's is inadequate or the prices are too high, we can choose to leave and shop at Home Depot or our local hardware store. If we disagree with the policies at Target or Walmart, we have the liberty to choose not to go there. If we walk into a McDonald's or Starbucks and don't like the treatment we received, we are free to leave.

No company or provider has a right to our business.

In a free market economy, we owe no explanation to anyone as to why we choose not to do business with any particular company or individual.

Yet, when it comes to medical providers, the freedom of Americans to choose seems to be dwindling.

## **Losing Children for Not Making Regular Dental Visits? – What About Death and Abuse in Foster Care?**

Smiles4Keeps linked to “one unfortunate case” where a child died from an untreated tooth abscess. (In that case, the mother tried hard to get him treatment, but had difficulty finding a provider who would accept Medicaid. ER doctors did not appear to treat him adequately. Link [here](#).)

The dental office staff wrote:

*In all 50 states, physicians and dentists are mandated reporters. This means that they are required to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect to social service or law enforcement agencies in order to prevent such tragedy. This*

*is not unique to us. These laws are in place to protect children.*

However, nowhere is there any indication that the child about whom the letter refers is in any true danger or in any pain.

Are dentists to become “mandated reporters” simply because a parent chooses not to bring their children in for regular dental checkups every six months, or because parents may choose a different dental practice that is not approved by the current dental practice? Is this really grounds for Child Protection Services to come in and remove children from their families and start an investigation?

There is ample federal and state data showing that children in foster care are at least 6 times more likely to be abused, molested, raped, or killed in foster care than they would be if left in their own home, even if that home is less than desirable.

See:

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

We also know from our experience with numerous families whose stories have been covered by *Health Impact News* that children’s legitimate medical and dental needs are often ignored by the foster care providers and Child Protective Services.

It seems a very poor argument to try to justify saving one or

two children from a possible death from “dental neglect” by placing countless other children in harm’s way “just in case.”

## Threats over Teeth Cleanings

Trey Hoyumpa is far from alone when she refers to Smiles4 Keeps as a “bully.” She penned strong words for the dental provider and wrote of others who have allegedly been bullied by the practice:

*There are many of us who will not allow bullying in our community. You are a bully. You prey on the poor and you insult their parenting and you threaten to report to the authorities.*

*You think something like that is friendly and helpful in the community??? It rips people up, it destroys them and...and then you make them come to your office and beg to not make a CPS call...”what can I do so you don’t call???”*

*I’ve actually heard people say that TO YOUR CLERKS...who responded with a “you can come in and get their teeth cleaned, then we won’t do anything this time around.” SERIOUSLY?! I think I’m don’t [sic] here.*

## What You Can Do

Smiles4Keeps has 3 offices in Pennsylvania. They are on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Bartonsville Smile Center is the location that sent the letter to Trey Hoyumpa.



*3565 Route 611, Bartonsville, PA 18321*

*(570) 629-1142*

The letter Hoyumpa received appears to be a standard form letter, with the contact information for all 3 locations listed at the bottom of the page.

Scranton Smile Center is located at:

*313 Mulberry Street, Scranton, PA 18503*

*570-346-7760*

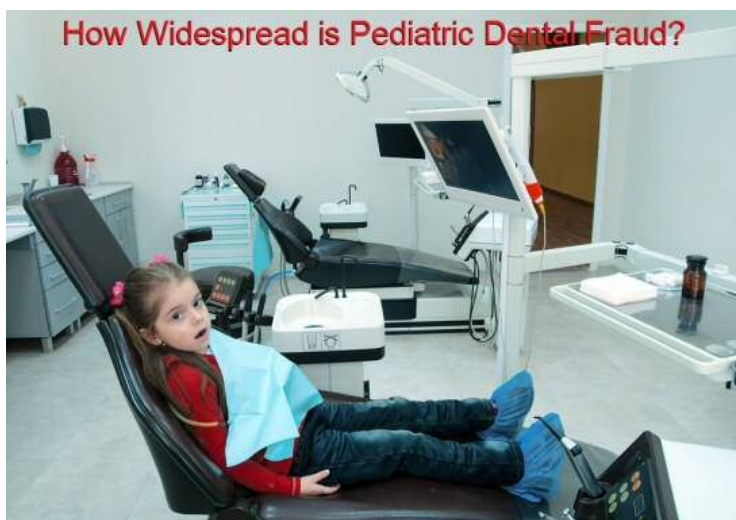
Wilkes-Barre Smile Center is located at:

*900 Schechter Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702*

*570-822-4181*

Are there other dentists or doctors who are sending such letters to parents? Let us know in the comments.

# Did Pennsylvania Mom Who Stood Up to Dental Bullying Uncover Massive Pediatric Dental Fraud Nationwide?



by Health Impact News Investigative Team

When a Pennsylvania mother posted a threatening letter on Facebook from her children's former dental practice, *Smiles 4 Keeps*, which threatened to report her to Child Protection Services if she did not keep a dental appointment for her child, a firestorm erupted.

The [Smiles 4 Keeps letter](#) received by Trey Hoyumpa has ignited commentary from thousands of parents and patients across the nation telling their stories of dental abuse,

bullying, and fraud at the hands of pediatric dentists.

*Health Impact News* was the first to report the story in the media, and since then, mainstream media sources have also picked up on the story. Responses to the letter have been passionate and prolific, prompting coverage from local media in Pennsylvania to national media sources such as *Yahoo News* to national political commentator Michelle Malkin.

See our original story:

### **Mom Stands Up to Dental Bullying When Dentist Threatens to Call CPS Over Missed Dental Appointment**

Since publishing our original report, *Health Impact News* has done some more investigating into the practices of this particular Pennsylvania pediatric dental clinic, and its director Dr. Ross Wezmar, as well as pediatric dental practices nationwide.

We have found that Department of Justice settlements for pediatric dental fraud cases are some of the largest fraud settlements in healthcare, especially in relation to billing medicaid for unnecessary child dental services.

(Please note: we are NOT accusing *Smiles 4 Keeps* nor its staff of any wrongdoing. We are simply looking at pediatric dental practices nationwide and raising specific questions that parents are also asking.)

Dr. Wezmar seems to be a national leader in the Pediatric Dental field, and is actually listed as the “*Dental consultant to Head Start, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare,*” and

“Chairperson AAPD Medicaid Committee,” among other accolades tied into billions of dollars of federal funding. The [bio on his Smiles 4 Keeps website](#) also boasts that he is the:

*Only east coast private practice chosen to participate in Harvard University Children’s Hospital Early Childhood Caries Program aimed at reducing early childhood decay.*

Harvard University Children’s Hospital is better known as Boston Children’s Hospital, infamous for its reputation for medically kidnapping children for medical research, as was exposed nationally with the Justina Pelletier medical kidnap case that gained national exposure. (See our [previous coverage on this case here](#).)

Could it be that the firestorm Pennsylvania mom Trey Hoyumpa unwittingly caused by publishing a letter received by Dr. Ross Wezmar’s *Smiles 4 Keeps* pediatric dental clinic threatening to report her to Child Protection Services for failing to keep a dental appointment is the tip of the iceberg in nationwide pediatric dental fraud practices?

## **Pennsylvania Dental Clinic Remains Defiant in Public Response**



Image from [Smiles4Keeps website](https://www.smiles4keeps.com).

The dentists and staff at *Smiles 4 Keeps* have been scrambling to do damage control ever since this story went viral. Some of their attempts to justify the letter seem to be doing more harm than good, sinking them ever deeper into a hole of declining public trust.

As news of the letter Trey Hoyumpa received grows increasingly viral, Dr. Ross Wezmar of *Smiles 4 Keeps* continues to attempt to justify the letter.

He told [Newswatch 16](#) that, instead of criticism, he believes his team should be getting “a pat on the back.”

*Dr. Ross Wezmar says he and his fellow dentists have been targeted with harsh criticism for that controversial letter to some parents.*

*Instead of criticism, Dr. Wezmar believes his dental team should be getting a pat on the back.*

Wezmar also said words which are drawing even more

criticism:

*We really have to jar the parent to realize that with a child comes responsibility.*

Family rights advocate Susan Cobb made a comment to the Newswatch 16 article in a tongue-in-cheek response that perhaps cuts to the heart of the matter:

*It is good to let all parents know that the state really owns their children. Many now suffer from delusions that their children belong to them and that they have primary responsibility to the God who gave them.*

*This is a little bit of a shock perhaps, but knowing the truth is better than having false peace and security by believing one has constitutional freedoms, the ability to freely choose to solicit a health care provider, or even get a second opinion without losing your child forever.*

*Title IVe federal incentives for adoption has accomplished a lot these last twenty years in providing the funds for the infrastructure to keep “the village” well supplied.*

*Going upwards of 20 billion annually, the well has not dried up yet. Social Security is inexhaustible, right?*

*Medical care providers are getting more brazen and audacious in their representation of their power and who they know themselves to be in this “village.”*

*The letter is an accurate threat.*

*We can now add dentists to the list of those who are now just as dangerous as physicians in hospitals.*

*Parentectomy. Believe it. ([Source](#).)*

## **Pediatric Dental Fraud a Huge Problem Nationwide**



THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Home » Office of Public Affairs » News

JUSTICE NEWS

Department of Justice  
Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, January 10, 2018

**Dental Management Company Benevis and Its Affiliated Kool Smiles Dental Clinics to Pay \$23.9 Million to Settle False Claims Act Allegations Relating to Medically Unnecessary Pediatric Dental Services**

It doesn't take long to do some simple searches on the Department of Justice (DOJ) website to see that pediatric dental fraud is a huge problem in the United States.

In January of this year (2018), the DOJ settled a \$23.9 million lawsuit under the False Claims Act against Benevis LLC and more than 130 of its affiliated *Kool Smiles* dental clinics.

*Under the agreement, Benevis and the Kool Smiles clinics will pay the United States and participating states a total of \$23.9 million, plus interest, to resolve allegations that they knowingly submitted false claims for payment to state Medicaid programs for medically unnecessary dental services*

*performed on children insured by Medicaid.*

*“Billing Medicaid programs for dental procedures that are not necessary contributes to the soaring costs of healthcare,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Chad A. Readler of the Justice Department’s Civil Division. “When healthcare providers put vulnerable patients at risk by performing medically unnecessary procedures to achieve financial goals, we will take action.”*

*The United States alleged that between January 2009 and December 2011, Benevis and Kool Smiles clinics located throughout 17 states knowingly submitted false claims to state Medicaid programs for medically unnecessary pulpotomies (baby root canals), tooth extractions, and stainless steel crowns, in addition to seeking payment for pulpotomies that were never performed.*

*The United States alleges that Kool Smiles clinics routinely pressured and incentivized dentists to meet production goals through a system that disciplined “unproductive” dentists and awarded “productive” dentists with substantial cash bonuses based on the revenue generated by the procedures they performed. ([Source](#).)*

Many other such cases involving pediatric dentistry are found on the DOJ website.

The law firm of [McEldrew Young](#) reports that fraudulent pediatric dental care is part of the larger problem of health care fraud and it can manifest in:

- providing services that are not medically necessary*
- failing to meet professionally recognized standards of care*



*for children*

- insufficient documentation for the services provided*
- providing services without the families consent*
- unnecessary tooth extractions*
- failure to disclose prior criminal conviction on licensing application.*
- use of unlicensed staff to perform dental procedures (such as taking dental x-rays)*
- billing for services by a dental assistant when the dentist is not in the office*
- upcoding of dental services – seeking payment for more expensive levels of services than were actually performed.*
- unbundling services – billing Medicaid separately for additional treatments performed on patients that return on a separate day for it at the request of the dentist when those services are typically provided in one office visit.*

According to [McEldrew Young](#):

*An OIG study of pediatric dental services among general dentists and orthodontists in California in 2012 found questionable billing by providers charging \$117.5 million for services in 2012. (See [link](#) to study.)*

*The studies found that the dental professionals practices involved a large percentage of children compared to other practices and included a high number of certain procedures.*

*Given these studies, the amount of fraud in this area in probably in the hundreds of millions of dollars a year.*

*[W]hen they bilk the government and taxpayers, they are also performing unnecessary dental services on poor children (the typical Medicaid dental patient) – which is pretty*

*despicable.*

**Who is Dr. Ross Wezmar of *Smiles 4 Keeps* in Pennsylvania?**



**DR. ROSS WEZMAR**

Pediatric Dentist

[Image source.](#)

Dr. Ross Wezmar is the founder of the *Smiles 4 Keeps* dental clinic according to the website. He appears to be a national leader among pediatric dentists according to his website.

His resume states that he is linked to several national programs representing billions of dollars that could potentially be linked to child welfare services that investigate patients who question or refuse his clinics pediatric dental services, and potentially put them into state custody.

According to the *Smiles 4 Keeps* website, Dr. Wezmar claims to be the:

*Only east coast private practice chosen to participate in Harvard University Children's Hospital Early Childhood Caries Program aimed at reducing early childhood decay.*  
([Source](#))

Harvard's Children's Hospital is the infamous Boston Children's Hospital, the same hospital that medically kidnapped [Justina Pelletier](#) and gained national recognition for medically kidnapping children.

The *Early Childhood Caries* program appears to be a collaborative research protocol involving children in several states. Return visits are specified as part of the protocol.

## Early Childhood Caries (ECC) Collaborative Phase II Summary

ECC is a Collaborative with seven sites across the United States: St Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island (RI), Native American Health Center (CA), Nationwide Children's Hospital (OH), NeighborCare Health (WA), University Pediatric Dentistry (NY), Holyoke Health Center (MA), Boston Children's Hospital (MA)

### Problem

Nationwide, dental programs struggle with month-long backlog of young children awaiting extensive dental repair in the operating rooms. Once definitive dental repair is provided under sedation or general anesthesia, many children experience unacceptably high rates of caries recurrence after 5-24 months. Caries recurrence is attributed to the failure of the traditional approach to mitigate the underlying caries process.

### Introduction

The Early Childhood Caries (ECC) Collaborative is a Quality Improvement initiative of the DentaQuest Institute. The Collaborative focuses on the paradigm shift toward chronic disease management (DM) of dental caries. The aim of the Collaborative is to spread the practices and protocols of disease management of ECC, including, risk assessment, risk-based recall, fluoride use and self-management goal setting, in conjunction with restorative care. We have successfully tested the DM approach in diverse settings to demonstrate lower rates of new cavitated lesions, pain and referrals for restorative treatment in the operating room.

In 2008, Phase I of the ECC project began, with a goal to improve patient care and clinical outcomes. Boston Children's Hospital and St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island successfully implemented a demonstration project funded by the Institute to test the feasibility and effectiveness of applying evidence-based approaches to addressing ECC in children younger than 60 months of age.

In 2011, Phase II of the ECC project began with the addition of (5) the more sites for a total of (7) seven in six (6) states. Through Phase II these sites successfully demonstrated that a disease management and prevention model in oral health care can improve outcomes, reduce disease, and control cost. The data and evidence collected will lead to expanded adoption among oral health providers. Evidence produced by the ECC collaborative has been cited in several national journals and publications, including the *Journal for Healthcare for the Poor and Underserved*, the *Dental Clinics of North America*, the *British Globe* and the *New York Times*.

### Approach and Methodology

ECC uses an evidence-based disease management approach to manage and reduce caries progress in children younger than 60 months of age who present with early childhood caries.

In ECC Phase II teams used the Model for Improvement, developed by Associates in Process Improvement. This quality improvement methodology is a simple yet powerful tool for accelerating improvement. Its philosophy of small tests of change is integrated into the ECC collaborative and guided the teams in determining best practices at their sites.

### Process Improvement Methods

1. Employ risk assessment practices and principles
2. Identify high-risk patients for DM approach
3. Engage families to improve caries risk (Self-management Goals)
4. Employ prevention focused practice using fluoride
5. Implement risk-based recall scheduling

### Clinical Protocols

- Caries risk assessment (CRA) is performed at each visit.
- The caries process is explained to the caregivers (parents, family members) in lay language. (Surfly is used.)
- Clinical examination is performed, including to assess for caries status and change.
- Self-management goals are introduced to the parent(s)/caregiver(s).
- Topical fluoride (1000 ppm fluoride toothpaste and/or 0.4% stannous fluoride) use is recommended in children younger than 5 years of age; President 5000 in older children. Recommend waiting 30 minutes before eating, drinking or rinsing after. All goals, visit(s) can be recommended.
- Patients are recommended to return for DM visits based on the caries risk determined for their child, which is expected to change over time.
- Patients who are returning for restorative treatment will receive DM during the same visit (CRA, fluoride varnish, and self-management goals based on each child's changing caries risk.)

### Outcome Improvement Results

Outcome Measure	Baseline	Recall Achieved	Percentage Improvement	Improvement Range
New Cavitation	46%	33%	↓28%	▲14% - 71%
Referral to the Operating Room	22%	14%	↓36%	0% - 81%
Pain	11%	8%	↓27%	▲60% - 100%

The table shows results for the (3) three ECC Phase II outcome measures. The measures include:

- Reduction of patients treatment in the Operating Room
- Reduction of new cavitation
- Reduction of percentage of patients complaining of pain

Results reflect national sample of 408 children/children drawn from a total ECC Collaborative population of 2,038.

Source [here](#).

Could it be that parents who take their children out of the dental practice earlier than expected interfere with the study results? Are children possibly enrolled in this study without their parents' knowledge?

Dr. Wezmar is also listed as the “*Chairperson American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) Medicaid Committee and member Governmental Affairs Committee for over ten years,*” which would presumably give him influence over developing pediatric services that can be covered by Medicaid.

Dr. Wezmar is also listed as the “*Dental consultant to Head Start, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, US Department of Justice*” and “*Head Start Person of the Year.*”

The Office of Head Start was [appropriated \\$9,168,095,000](#) (over \$9 BILLION) of taxpayer funding in 2015, and is part of HHS (Health and Human Services), the same department

that funds child welfare and child protection services.

## The Pennsylvania Mom who was Threatened by *Smiles 4 Keeps*



Pennsylvania mom Trey Hoyumpa is taking a stand against Dental Bullying. [Image from Facebook.](#)

Lest the public thinks that the mother who received the letter was actually guilty of any kind of neglect, Trey Hoyumpa wants the public to know:

*We have a new dentist and things are swell.*

She says that she simply didn't like the dental policies at *Smiles 4 Keeps* and didn't go back to that practice.

In her original post, she made it clear that she did not appreciate the fact that the dental practice would not allow parents to go back into the exam rooms with their children.

After the dental staff reportedly told her that her children had cavities that needed filled, they refused to show her the x-rays. They allegedly offered no evidence that there are actually any cavities present.

Instead of blindly following recommendations, more and more savvy or educated parents are asking for evidence that something is wrong before subjecting children to medical procedures which may be unnecessary, not to mention painful or harmful.

We recently reported the story of a West Coast mom who wanted to see some kind of testing done and some kind of evidence before consenting to doctors removing her daughter's kidney for a supposed stage 4 cancerous tumor for which she was offered no evidence. In response to her questioning the doctors, she lost custody of her young daughter.

See:

**[California Parents Lose Custody of 2-Year Old Daughter When Asking for a Second Opinion Before Removing Child's Kidney](#)**

Trey Hoyumpa explained more of her story to *Health Impact News*:

*In late December, I had the kids at the dentist office. I went to the counter to schedule fillings for both of the kids.*

*The clerk said that an appt could be made for one child, on say, Friday, and the other the next Thursday (or something like that). I told the clerk that would not work for me and that I need to have the children scheduled on the same day. The clerk refused, citing policy...which she explained...*

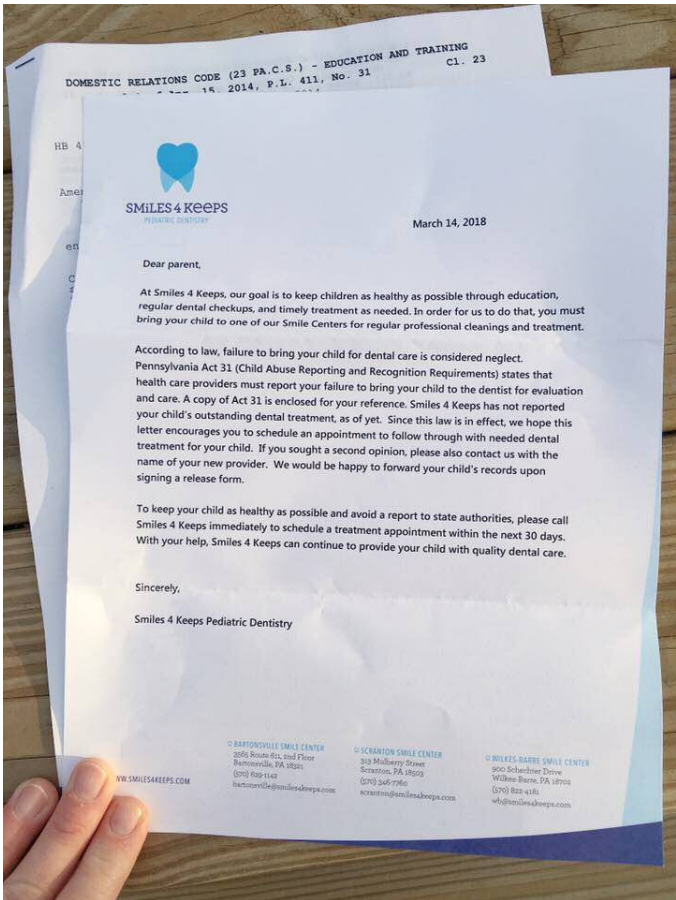
*The policy is in place because sometimes when siblings are scheduled on the same day, and one gets sick, the parent will cancel all of the appts.*

*(( On Smiles4keeps Facebook page they respond to my post and deny that this is policy by saying that they do everything to accommodate families. This is an outright lie. ))*

*I told the clerk (while standing with my children in their office!!!) that I disagreed with their policy and that I would be seeking care elsewhere.*

*Last weekend, I received **this** letter, insisting I give them our PRIVATE information else they'll report us.*





*They threaten the parent with abuse allegations. But they reserve the right to dismiss you from the practice at anytime for any reason, with absolute disregard for the parent and, more importantly, the child.*

*Nor are they acting concerned about the child's wellbeing. BUT this isn't abuse. They operate with a no-parents-beyond-this-point solid wood door, and there they do what they have to do to get their hands in your kid's mouth.*

*The only reason to separate the parent from the child is because you might have to do something the parent won't like...but that's not abuse.*

Trey states that the dental office simply jumped to sending out this intimidating letter, the same letter they have sent to other parents as well, threatening to report them to Child Protective Services if they don't bring their child in to Smiles 4 Keeps for "regular professional cleanings and treatment."

In the response to the public outcry against the letter, *Smiles 4 Keeps* posted a response on their website in which they wrote:

*...the letters are not sent unless attempts at multiple communications with the parents or guardians are unsuccessful or messages from our office remain unanswered. Letters are not sent after one missed treatment appointment.*

Trey Hoyumpa says that this is not true in her case. We asked her how many times that Smiles 4 Keeps has contacted her.

According to the dental office response, we expected some ignored phone calls, text messages, or voice mails. She told us:

*ONLY THE LETTER. Not one voicemail, email, text message...not a one.*

## How Many Children Have been Taken into State Custody due to *Smiles 4 Keeps* Reporting Parents to CPS?

ABC Newswatch 16 reached out to *Smiles 4 Keeps* and reported:

*A Smiles 4 Keeps spokesperson says she does not know how many of these letters were sent but that it reported 17 cases of neglect last year.*

There were allegedly 17 cases where parents were reported to Child Protective Services.

Could some of the parents have been reported for abuse and neglect for simply refusing to bring their child back to that particular dental office and seeking a second opinion?

If you had your child removed from your home by Child Protection Services due to a complaint reported by *Smiles 4 Keeps*, please [contact us](#) at *Health Impact News* to tell your story.

## Other Dentists Respond to *Smiles 4 Keeps* Policy of Threatening Parents

Newswatch 16 interviewed Dr. Rich Grossman, a Kingston, Pennsylvania, dentist who has been practicing for 40 years. (See [link](#).) When they showed him the letter, he responded:

*It's highly unethical.*

*I think it's used as a scare tactic actually, to scare parents to bring their kids to those offices.*

The last paragraph of the *Smiles 4 Keeps* letter reads:

*To keep your child as healthy as possible and avoid a report to state authorities, please call Smiles 4 Keeps immediately to schedule an appointment.*

Dr. Grossman responded:

*I'm shocked that it's a Pennsylvania group of dentists who've resorted to something like this.*

Dr. Abhishek Bhaumik is a pediatric dentist from Frisco, Texas. He saw Trey Hoyumpa's story and posted this on her page:

*So sorry to read this. We aren't friends on FB but your post came up on my thread since I am a pediatric dentist.*

*I hope you don't lose hope in all pediatric dentists. Some of us love what we do and always allow parents to be present 😊  
😊 . I find their letter offensive too 👍👍 and this is why I love social media.*

## National Political Commentator Michelle Malkin Covers Medical Kidnapping



Michelle Malkin Investigates Medical Kidnapping with Terri LaPoint. ([Source](#))

Conservative political commentator Michelle Malkin understands that the medical profession has sometimes resorted to tyrannical practices and she doesn't mince words about this case in her article, "[The Snitches in Your Kids' Dental Office.](#)"

Excerpts:

*How sharper than a serpent's tooth to have a despotic pediatric dentist.*

*Parents who decide, for whatever reason, that they don't like their children's oral care provider should be forewarned. Empowered by government "mandatory reporter" laws, dental offices are now using their authority to threaten families with child abuse charges if they don't comply with the cavity police.*

*Dr. Ross Wezmar of Smiles 4 Keeps actually boasted to local news station WNEP about the snitch letter' ability "to jar the parent to realize that with a child comes responsibility."*

*Benevolent Dr. Marcus Welby he is not. Wezmar claimed his bully notes are the first in the nation to be dispatched.*

*Indeed, the partnership between medical providers and government child welfare services has threatened innocent families across the country under the guise of "protecting the children." It is a short hop from cavity-shaming and misdiagnoses to ripping families apart....*

*Big Nanny monitors hostile to family privacy and autonomy are everywhere — in your kids' classrooms, cafeterias, and doctors' and dentists' offices. Eternal vigilance against government intrusion is the price of parenthood.*

In response to Dr. Wezmar's comment, most parents, including Trey Hoyumpa, acknowledge that they understand that they are indeed responsible for their children.

Trey states that is why she didn't like the *Smiles 4 Kids* policy of not being able to accompany her children into the exam room.

But threatening a parent with medical neglect and reporting them to CPS where they could lose custody of their children is a very serious practice.

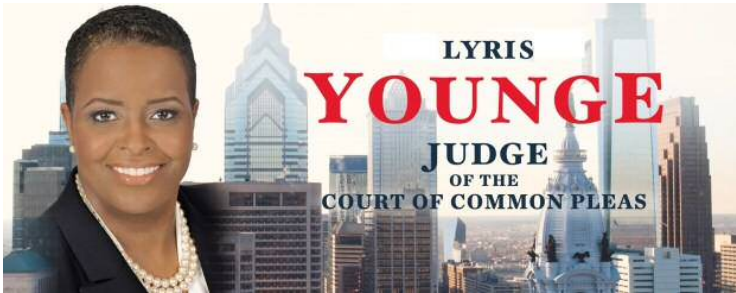
As readers of *Health Impact News* know, children who are taken away from their families and placed into foster care are at least 6 times more likely to be abused, molested,

raped, or killed in foster care than they would be if left in their own home, even if that home is less than desirable.

See:

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

# Philadelphia Family Court Judge Exposed and Charged with Illegal Medical Kidnapping



Judge Lyris Young has been charged for illegally removing children from their families in Philadelphia Family Court.

by **Health Impact News Staff**

A Pennsylvania appeals court has ruled that the actions of a judge and Child Protective Services, in keeping a medically kidnapped child away from her family, are “an example of judicially-created parental alienation.”

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania reversed the termination of parental rights that had been decreed under Judge Lyris Young of Philadelphia Family Court.

According to the *ABA Journal*, a child referred to as N.M. was taken from her parents after she was found to have two broken ribs. ([Source](#).) The appellate decision is public record, with the parents and children identified only by their initials. ([Source](#).)





Parents protest against Judge Lyris Young. [Image source](#).

The family's story reads like dozens of others we have covered at *Health Impact News*. It shows a typical progression of events as well as common responses by Child Protective Services. The difference in this family's case is that the lower court decision has been reviewed by an appellate court.

According to an article by *The Legal Intelligencer*, Judge Young has a history of violating parental rights in her courtroom,

*But because family court records and rulings are kept confidential on a non-public docket—unless appealed—they do not draw scrutiny. “There isn’t the natural control of public exposure,” the advocate said. ([Source](#).)*

The actions of Judge Young, social workers, and Child Abuse Specialists are repeated in family and juvenile courtrooms across the country, but few reach public exposure. Most are

shrouded in the secrecy that confidentiality rules and closed courtrooms afford.

The abuses of power in this case are things that we see at *Health Impact News* on a regular basis, unfortunately.

In this case, the baby was taken to the doctor after signs of “increased fussiness.” The pediatrician had the family take the baby to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), where they ran a series of x-rays.

Note: CHOP is the hospital where Jessica Battiato’s children were taken, based on similar allegations by a Child Abuse Specialist:

### **Medical Kidnapping in Pennsylvania: Parents of Baby with Rickets Accused of Abuse**

When two fractured ribs were found, the Child Abuse Team, including Dr. Natalie Stavas, decided that the only explanation was abuse. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) was called on April 7, 2016, and the baby was seized from her parents. DHS refused to place the baby with her grandparents, and she was placed into foster care. The parents’ rights were terminated.

It is apparent from the appeals document that there are other medical possibilities for the baby’s injuries that were not considered. The family was not permitted to have other medical experts testify as to other possible diagnoses. Because the parents did not have an explanation, the foregone conclusion at CHOPS was “abuse.”

*... while the results of N.M.’s blood tests and lab work did not*

*uncover any specific genetic disorders to explain the fractures, testing showed that N.M. has a genetic variant that, while unlikely to contribute to her bone health, could not be definitively ruled out by Dr. Stavas as contributing to her fractures, noting that the mutation is “not in the literature.”*

The possibility of infantile rickets does not appear to have been considered at all. Dr. David Ayoub, a radiologist and expert on infantile rickets, has stated that the fractures in young babies are often misdiagnosed as abuse.

See:

**[Florida Dad Wrongfully Convicted for Shaking Baby and Served 20+ Years of a 70 Year Sentence Featured on CNN](#)**

**[Is Shaken Baby Syndrome Often Misdiagnosed and Caused by Vaccine-Induced Rickets?](#)**

**Appeals court criticizes ‘judicially created parental alienation’ in case of baby with broken ribs**

By [Debra Cassens Weiss](#)

*ABA Journal*

Excerpts:

*A state appeals court has accused a Pennsylvania judge of*

*“judicially created parental alienation” and a failure to provide due process when she kept a baby in “protracted foster care” after receiving no explanation for broken ribs and then terminated parental rights.*

*The judge, Lyris Younger of Philadelphia Family Court, abused her discretion when she refused to place the child known as N.M. in the care of a grandmother, according to the [May 4 decision](#) by the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.*

*Younger also refused to allow the child’s mother to be represented by two lawyers at once, and refused to allow introduction of expert medical reports that attempted to explain N.M.’s broken ribs, the court said.*

*Younger’s refusal to allow the grandmother’s care or to reunify N.M. with her parents “provided the evidentiary platform” to support social workers’ petition to terminate parental rights, the appeals court said. “In essence, this is an example of judicially-created parental alienation.”*

*“In short, despite the goals of the Child Protective Services Law, the trial judge seems to have done everything in her power to alienate these parents from their child, appears to have a fixed idea about this matter and, further, she prohibited evidence to be introduced that might have forced her to change her opinion,” the appeals court said.*

*The court reversed Younger’s refusal to place the child with the grandmother, vacated the judge’s decision to terminate parental rights and strongly suggested that, if a petition for recusal is filed, Younger “give serious consideration as to whether her apparent bias warrants that she recuse herself.”*

*...When Younger refused to move N.M. to the care of her*

grandmother, the judge said that no one had yet confessed to the abuse and there needed to be some closure about how the injury happened. “Either someone has to cop to it or there has to be a plausible explanation” for the injuries, Younge said.

“If I leave her [in foster care] maybe I get closer to an answer as to what happened instead of moving her to grandmom. ... So, I’m not going to consider kinship care.”

The appeals court noted the comments in a footnote at the end of the opinion. “While this court must take and does take the issue of abuse of a child very seriously,” the footnote said, “the fact that a trial judge tells parents that unless one of them ‘cops to an admission of what happened to the child’ they are going to lose their child, flies in the face of not only the CPSL, but of the entire body of case law with regard to best interests of the child and family reunification.

“We find that the record herein provides example after example of overreaching, failing to be fair and impartial, evidence of a fixed presumptive idea of what took place, and a failure to provide due process to the two parents involved.”

Read the full article at [ABA Journal](#).

# Top Cities with Highest Rate of Child Removals: Philadelphia Overtakes Phoenix as Most Dangerous City for State-sponsored Child Kidnappings



## Philadelphia

*Most dangerous city to raise a child?*



**NEWS ROOM** JUDGE SENTENCED IN "KIDS FOR CASH"  
Ciavarella took \$1 million, but gets 28 years in prison

RATES OF REMOVAL IN AMERICA'S TEN LARGEST CITIES, WITHOUT FACTORING IN CHILD POVERTY

City/County	Child population, 2017	Children removed from their homes	Rate-of-Removal per thousand children	Time period
Philadelphia	338,928	2,888	8.5	Year ending 9/30/17
Phoenix (Maricopa County)	1,024,964	5,203	5.1	Year ending 3/31/18
San Antonio (Bexar County)	498,935	2,380	4.8	SFY 2017
Los Angeles County	2,188,918	9,552	4.4	Year ending 9/30/18

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

For several years now Phoenix, Arizona has had the dubious distinction of being the #1 city in the U.S. for taking children away from their parents and placing them into state-funded foster care.

Phoenix judges and CPS workers have consistently taken children out of homes and families and put them into

harm's way at a higher percentage than any other city in the U.S. for the past several years.

*Health Impact News* started their MedicalKidnap.com website in 2014 due mainly to the sheer volume of parents contacting us from Arizona and complaining about their children being medically kidnapped.

However, based on public [statistics](#) compiled by the [National Coalition for Child Protection Reform](#) (NCCPR), Philadelphia has now overtaken Phoenix as the top city in the U.S. having the highest percentage of the children being removed from homes and put into foster care.

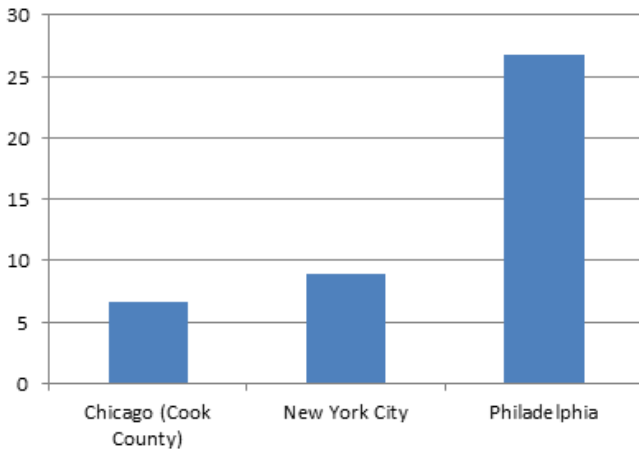
This means that families living in Philadelphia have the highest risk of losing their children to the State and placed into foster care, which we have documented here at *Health Impact News* as a broken system that trafficks children. See:

## [\*\*The U.S. Foster Care System: Modern Day Slavery and Child Trafficking\*\*](#)

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

[NCCPR reports](#) that Philadelphia has become so bad, that they now take children away from parents at triple the rate of New York City, and quadruple the rate of Chicago.

### Children removed from their homes per thousand impoverished children



Source.

San Antonio, Texas has the third highest rates of child removals, and Los Angeles had the fourth highest rates.

In terms of sheer numbers of children taken out of homes and put in harms way, however, no city was even close to Los Angeles. In one year Los Angeles took away 9552 children, and Phoenix was a distant second at 5203 children.

NCCPR breaks down their report by factoring in child poverty (for the sake of percentages). Philadelphia is the worst city in the U.S. whether factoring in poverty or not.



## The NCCPR Big City Rate-of-Removal Index

### RATES OF REMOVAL IN AMERICA'S TEN LARGEST CITIES,\* FACTORING IN CHILD POVERTY

City/County	Impoverished child population, 2017	Children removed from their homes	Rate-of-Removal per thousand impoverished children	Time period
Philadelphia	108,051	2,888	26.7	Year ending 9/30/17
Phoenix (Maricopa County)	196,107	5,203	26.5	Year ending 3/31/18
San Antonio (Bexar County)	110,667	2,380	21.5	SFY 2017
Los Angeles County	457,665	9,552	20.9	Year ending 9/30/18
San Jose (Santa Clara County)	34,255	692	20.2	Year ending 9/30/18
San Diego County	112,637	1,343	11.9	Year ending 9/30/18
Dallas	151,187	1,583	10.5	SFY 2017
New York City	448,175	3,981	8.9	CFY 2018
Chicago (Cook County)	231,929	1,533	6.6	SFY 2018
Houston (Harris County)	286,551	1,800	6.3	SFY 2017
<b>TOTAL/AVERAGE</b>	<b>2,585,399</b>	<b>30,955</b>	<b>12.0</b>	

### RATES OF REMOVAL IN AMERICA'S TEN LARGEST CITIES, *WITHOUT* FACTORING IN CHILD POVERTY

City/County	Child population, 2017	Children removed from their homes	Rate-of-Removal per thousand children	Time period
Philadelphia	338,928	2,888	8.5	Year ending 9/30/17
Phoenix (Maricopa County)	1,024,964	5,203	5.1	Year ending 3/31/18
San Antonio (Bexar County)	498,935	2,380	4.8	SFY 2017
Los Angeles County	2,188,918	9,552	4.4	Year ending 9/30/18
San Diego County	718,499	1,343	1.9	Year ending 9/30/18
New York City	1,758,221	3,981	2.3	CFY 2018
Dallas County	684,808	1,583	2.3	SFY 2017
San Jose (Santa Clara County)	424,596	692	1.6	Year ending 9/30/18
Houston (Harris County)	1,235,665	1,800	1.5	SFY 2017
Chicago (Cook County)	1,133,304	1,533	1.4	SFY2018
<b>TOTAL/AVERAGE</b>	<b>10,207,159</b>	<b>30,955</b>	<b>3.0</b>	

[Source.](#)

## Philadelphia: History of NOT Being a City Friendly to Children

Philadelphia has *not* received good press in recent years when it comes to child safety.

## Catholic Church Scandals

Last year (2018) we reported on the pedophilia child sex abuse problem in the Catholic Church, and nationally this story broke in Philadelphia when a grand jury report on sexual abuse in the Catholic Church was released by the Attorney General.

This led to attorney generals in several states opening up investigations into child sex abuse in the Catholic Church. See:

## **[The Catholic Church and Pedophilia: Trafficking Children as Sex Slaves](#)**

### **Kids for Cash Scandals**

Although originating in a county in Pennsylvania outside of the city of Philadelphia, the infamous “Kids for Cash” scandal that rocked the nation had connections to Philadelphia and cast a long shadow on the corrupt judicial system in Pennsylvania that saw innocent kids sent to privately owned juvenile detention facilities.

The scandal became so notorious, that it was [made into a movie](#). See:

## **[Corrupt ‘Kids for Cash’ judge ruined more than 2,000 lives](#)**

### **Philadelphia Vaccine Extremist Doctor Wants to Take Away Children from Parents and Jail Journalists who Question Vaccines**

Philadelphia is home of one of America’s most radical doctors who wants to forcibly vaccinate all children in America, and put in jail anyone who stands in his way, Dr. Paul Offit, the former Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and current Director of the Vaccine Education Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dr. Offit has a conflict of interest when discussing vaccines, as he holds a patent and earns royalties from one of the

vaccines that is in the CDC vaccine schedule for children.

Dr. Offit wants to remove all exemptions to childhood vaccines, and is in favor of removing children from parents who disagree with him. He also wants to send journalists who disagree with him and question vaccines to go to “journalism jail.” See:

## **Children Taken Away from Christian Parents to Receive Forced Vaccinations**

### **Dr. Offit Wants to Eliminate Religious and Philosophical Vaccine Exemptions**

Sadly, while Philadelphia has assumed the #1 position in the country for state-sponsored child kidnappings among large U.S. cities, this is a problem that affects ALL Americans in every city.

This problem will continue to grow worse as long as there are billions of taxpayer dollars to fund the Child Welfare system incentivizing the removal of children from families to feed the foster care and adoption business that employs hundreds of thousands of government workers, whose jobs depend on taking children away from families.

# Justice for Medical Kidnapping! Philadelphia Judge Confesses to Illegally Jailing Parents



Comments by Brian Shilhavy  
Editor, Health Impact News

In May of 2018 *Health Impact News* published the story of Philadelphia Family Court Judge Lyris Younge, who was accused of “judicially created parental alienation” by a Pennsylvania state appeals court. See:

## [Philadelphia Family Court Judge Exposed and Charged with Illegal Medical Kidnapping](#)

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania reversed the termination of parental rights that had been decreed under Judge Lyris Younge of Philadelphia Family Court.

According to the *ABA Journal*, a child referred to as N.M. was taken from her parents after she was found to have two broken ribs. The appellate decision is public record, with the parents and children identified only by their initials.

The baby was taken to the doctor after signs of “increased fussiness.” The pediatrician had the family take the baby to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), where they ran a series of x-rays.

When two fractured ribs were found, the Child Abuse Team, including Dr. Natalie Stavas, decided that the only explanation was abuse. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) was called on April 7, 2016, and the baby was seized from her parents. DHS refused to place the baby with her grandparents, and she was placed into foster care. The parents’ rights were terminated.

It is apparent from the appeals document that there are other medical possibilities for the baby’s injuries that were not considered. The family was not permitted to have other medical experts testify as to other possible diagnoses. Because the parents did not have an explanation, the foregone conclusion at CHOPS was “abuse.”

Judge Lyris Younge was later removed from the bench as her trial was pending.

Today, (February 19, 2020), Philadelphia media is reporting that Judge Younge has admitted to the allegations to avoid trial.

## **Philadelphia judge accused of improperly jailing parents in custody cases admits misconduct charges**

by [Samantha Melamed](#)  
[The Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Excerpts:

Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Lyris Younge, who had been fighting a complaint charging her with 10 counts of judicial misconduct over 18 months in Family Court, has admitted to the allegations in a filing with the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline.

With that admission, made public late Tuesday, Younge, 53, will avoid a trial that had been set for Wednesday on claims that she had failed to be impartial, demonstrated an improper judicial demeanor, denied parties their right to be heard in court, and caused “inordinate” delays in cases involving young children that were supposed to be fast-tracked.

As a judge in Family Court, Younge on several occasions prevented parents from speaking in court proceedings about the removal of their children from their care, The Inquirer reported. One mother described being handcuffed in the courthouse while her kids were taken away. She would not regain custody of the children for eight months, until after Younge was removed from her courtroom.

In another case, a mother became ill during proceedings and stepped out of the courtroom. Younge barred her from reentering and, while she was absent, terminated her parental rights.

Read the full article at [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#).