

Health Impact News

Medical Kidnapping Children in the United States: Vermont

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Vermont



Vermont Teen Drugged Against Her Will, Held in Custody in Massachusetts Mental Health Facility



Elissa and her mom Karen Maple. Source: Maple family.

UPDATE 7/26/2015 – Elissa is Free!! But for how long?

18 Year Old Massachusetts Girl Medically Kidnapped & Abused Now Fights Child Protective Services to Remain Free

UPDATE 6/1/2015

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

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

“I’m just literally here as a hostage. I didn’t do anything. I haven’t harmed anyone. I haven’t harmed myself, and they won’t let me go home. I just want to go home to my mom, so I can have my life back. They took it from me. They are drugging me up every single day against my will.”

This isn’t a quote from a dystopian novel, or a sci-fi thriller. It is the heartfelt plea recorded by an American teenager being held in a facility in Massachusetts against her will and that of her family in Vermont. Karen Maple is very concerned about the well-being of her daughter, 17 year old Elissa, since DCF seized custody of the teen over a year ago, in December 2013.

Karen says she sought help for her teen’s anxiety, but DCF quickly got involved and turned their world upside down, sending Elissa to a mental ward/school located 6 hours away from their home, in another state. She has now been diagnosed with schizophrenia, but her mother says that the drugs that she is being forced to take are what is actually causing the symptoms of schizophrenia.

Interestingly, on the occasions when Elissa has stopped taking the medications, the symptoms also stopped. Those periods haven't lasted long, she says, because when the staff found out that she wasn't taking them, they force drugged her. Elissa has no choice in the matter.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYy4mexg_TE

The video was recorded on August 14, 2014, but little has changed. She still isn't home. She turns 18 on July 1, but they have no idea if Elissa will get to come home then or be forced to stay until she reaches 21. The facility is designed for residents up to age 21. Her mother asks:

“Will her 18th birthday be wonderful, or will she be condemned for 3 more years?”

Help Sought Originally for Anxiety

The Maple's nightmare began when Karen took her daughter to the hospital in late 2013 for symptoms of anxiety. Elissa was struggling with her emotions and had reportedly had a hallucination. The hospital's solution was to whisk her away to a mental health facility and give her powerful drugs. When her mother had a problem with their approach, DCF stepped in and seized custody, reportedly to “keep her safe” and to get her the mental health services that they said they could better provide for her than her mother.

Elissa had not hurt herself or anyone else, nor was she in any immediate danger when DCF seized custody. There were scars on her abdomen that someone at the hospital allegedly said were stab wounds, alleged evidence of Elissa self-harming. Her mother says that a simple check of her medical

records would have revealed that they were scars from a previous appendix operation.

Karen maintains that she wanted help for her child, but in no way did she want the state to come in and take over. She says that there are a number of issues that contributed to Elissa's anxiety, but none of them should have required removal from her home. She does not believe that DCF considered any of the factors in their zeal to take Elissa to the mental health facility.

Creative Homeschool Student

Elissa has been homeschooled her whole life, and has enjoyed growing up on 10 acres in the country. Her family describes her as very creative and intelligent. She writes poetry, enjoys creating art with beading, and dreams of being a professional photographer. She loves animals, cooking and swimming. Her mother and teacher reports that she has always been a great student. Her Christian faith is important to her, and she has a close relationship with her mom. Like every other teenager, Elissa faced some struggles. Like many other parents have done, her mother sought help when she felt she needed help dealing with her struggles.

They could not have imagined the nightmare scenario that would be unleashed when they sought help.



Elissa's photography talent. Source: Maple family.

Factors Ignored Which Could Have Caused Anxiety

Just 5 days before her hospital admission, Elissa had been in a 4-wheeler accident. While the motor was not on, the vehicle slipped into gear and rolled backwards down a hill, hitting a tree. Elissa fell out of the 4-wheeler and hit her head. Her behavior was just a bit off in the days following, but her mother's request for an MRI to rule out a head injury was denied.

A few weeks before that, Elissa's older brother had been in a very serious car accident, which required surgery. When she and her mother were trying to get to the hospital, police stopped them by showing up at their property to search because someone had allegedly reported too many puppies

and that the chickens look hungry. It was reportedly a very scary and stressful time for Elissa, because her brother almost died, and she was delayed in getting to see him.

There was no food allergy testing done, and the thyroid testing that had been occurring was halted. Karen's family has a history of thyroid issues.

Karen's sister died 8 years prior. A dresser belonging to Elissa's deceased aunt had just been moved into her room, and an old family photo of her aunt fell out. The hallucination that triggered the cascade of events was one of Elissa allegedly seeing her aunt's ghost. Karen theorizes that the trauma of her brother's accident combined with the recent memories of her aunt being stirred up could have played a role in Elissa hallucinating her aunt's ghost.

Taken to Mental Health Hospital by Force

While Karen sought help for her daughter's anxiety at a nearby hospital, she reports that the questions that were being asked were confusing, as well as irrelevant to what Elissa was experiencing. When Karen went to the ladies room, she was alarmed to come out to find out that her child had been whisked away from the room she had been in. She found her dressed in a hospital gown and speaking gibberish. While she was in the restroom, the staff had drugged her daughter. They told her that they would have to keep Elissa for a few days.

Elissa was forcibly transported to a mental health hospital, and subsequently transported to the Brookside Intensive Treatment Unit in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, a move which seems quite extreme to the family. It is more than a 6 hour drive from the Maples home. According to the facility's

[website](#), “The Brookside Intensive Treatment Unit strives to break the debilitating cycle of multiple failed placements and repeated hospitalizations experienced by our students.”

According to this definition, Karen maintains that Elissa should never have been placed there. But she was given no choice. DCF had already stepped in, allegedly in order to provide services that she was not able to provide herself. Karen has been fighting ever since to get her daughter back.

“She cries every night, and I cry for her.”

Forbidden to Have Bible & Forced Restricted Calorie Diet

Karen appeared recently as a guest on “The Captain,” a blogtalk radio show, where she described the treatment that her daughter is being subjected to since being locked away at Brookside ITU. Though Elissa is a Christian, she is forbidden to have a Bible, and she is prohibited from having any visits from a pastor. The reason cited for this is that the Brookside facility is a school. The fact that it is a residential program, and Elissa is only rarely allowed to leave, does not allegedly figure into that equation.

She is reportedly on a 1200 to 1400 calorie diet daily, leading Elissa to frequently complain of hunger. Her mother has requested to be able to buy healthy food for her daughter to be kept at the facility, but this request was allegedly denied.

Hear the full interview with Karen Maple [here](#).

Students Being Watched in the Shower

One of the issues that the staff has brought up about Elissa as demonstration of her need for mental help is hygiene issues. However, Elissa has reported that they watch them and have cameras on them as they shower. For obvious reasons, she is hesitant to shower at the facility as much as she needs to, because she feels it is “creepy.” When she has been able to go on overnight visits with family, she has told them that one of the best parts about being away is being able to take a shower without being watched. The fact that it is warm, too, helps. She says the showers are cold at the school.

There have also been allegations that some members of the staff have sexually abused students. Elissa has reported that bad things are happening, but she doesn't feel that she can say what that is.

The [Berkshire Eagle](#) reported earlier this year (February 2015) that a former Hillcrest Education Center worker is facing felony charges for allegedly sexually assaulting a young girl at the center's Lenox facility between October 2013 and August 2014. ([Source.](#))

Drugged Against Her Will

Since being in state custody, Elissa is on a cocktail of high doses of psychotropic drugs, including Clozapin, which she must take nightly against her will, and that of her mother. The medications occasionally change, but never has a dosage been reduced to see if a lower dose would work.

She reports that they make her sick to her stomach and give her headaches. Worse, she says they are causing nightmares

and hallucinations. She reports feeling “all drugged up,” and not herself. There have been times that she doesn’t remember what she did. She reports to her family that she is scared of what the drugs are doing to her, but she has no choice about taking them.



Source: Maple family.

She reports seeing children at the facility held down and forcibly drugged. Some scream and thrash and try to run away. She has experienced 4 large men holding her down to force her to take the medications. There are dogs on the property that she reports have been released to track down students who have tried to run.

For Elissa, visits with her family, especially her mother, are the means used to coerce compliance. She has allegedly been

told that if she refuses to take her medications, her limited visits will be cancelled. They also take things away. She allegedly spent 2 days without her pillow and blanket as punishment for being non-compliant.

According to her mother, “when she starts feeling better, they up [the dosage of] the drugs.” This is all done without her consent. On one occasion, Elissa went for 4 months without hallucinations while taking one particular drug. When she told them this, they switched her to a medication that caused the symptoms to return. She once went for a 2 week period without taking any of her medications. She stopped hallucinating and having bad dreams, and had begun to feel like herself again. When she told the staff, she was forcibly drugged.

Because her family is so far away, some visits have been 2 or 3 day off-campus visits, (though more recent visits with her mom were restricted to 2 hour supervised visits). During these visits, Karen says that she feeds her good, quality foods, and,

“She’s my daughter [acting normally, texting friends, catching up on her iPad], until they have to drug her up.”

Some of the medications have affected her hormones negatively. In fact, hormone disruptions are side effects of some of the medications. Karen says that Elissa has been bulking up, her cycles have stopped, and she has developed facial and chest hair.

The requests of Karen and Elissa for reduced or eliminated medications has allegedly fallen upon deaf ears, as well as have concerns about black box labels on some of the

medications and warnings against using them on children under 18. A DCF worker allegedly told Karen,

“We can do whatever we want, and you need to mind your own business.”

Is Elissa Being Held for drug Experimentations?

After being held for 11 months at the Brookside facility, a New York psychiatrist who comes into the Massachusetts school to treat the students, diagnosed Elissa with schizophrenia. This was one day before he was to testify at a court hearing. Karen tells the Captain of a statement that he made in court which horrified her:

“He just says, oh by the way, as of yesterday, I’ve decided that she’s schizophrenia, and I’d like to keep her for another 2 years or so, because I would like to experiment with some other drugs to get rid of the hallucinations, that he wasn’t sure whether or not she had.”

Karen Told to Just Give Up on Her Daughter

Karen says that she and Elissa have each been told by staff members to give up on each other. Karen says that they would love to have her out of the picture. They reportedly told her,

“I should let them take care of her because something could happen to me and I could die.”

During one phone call with her daughter, Elissa made a similar comment:

“Mom, they want me to give up on you because I’m all messed up, and you should get on with your life.”

The clinicians have allegedly said that Elissa is “too attached and bonded” with her mother. Karen says that 3 different people involved, including the DCF supervisor, have told her that they intend to reprogram Elissa and give her a whole new life.

There is talk of the facility and DCF keeping Elissa in their custody until she is 21 years old. They allegedly want to keep her until she is “compliant,” the definition of which is that she is taking her medications and is happy about being away from home.

However, Elissa tells her family that she wants nothing more than to go home to her own house, her own room, her friends and pets, and pursue her dream of becoming a photographer. “That shouldn’t be too much to ask for a child,” says her mother. Karen has made it clear to *Health Impact News* that she has no intention of ever giving up on her daughter.

She recognizes that it is going to take much time and love for her daughter to heal from all of the trauma that she has been through at the hands of DCF and Brookside, but she has to get her free first.

“I gotta get my daughter. I gotta save her.”

They don't know what will happen on Elissa's 18th birthday, on July 1. There is another hearing scheduled before then, on May 20. Karen says she had a court-appointed attorney who has quit the case. They are without representation now. DCF has not shown any signs of wanting to release her. That option is horrifying and unacceptable to Karen, but she has done everything she knows to do. That is why she is asking for help.

How to Help

There is a Facebook page set up for supporters to follow the story and offer support – [Elissa's Dream](#).



Elissa's case involves two states, her home state of Vermont, and the state of Massachusetts, which has custody of her.

The former governor of Massachusetts, Deval Patrick, faced calls, letters, and a media firestorm over the Justina Pelletier medical kidnapping case.

Now, Charlie Baker is the governor. According to Governor Baker's [website](#), he was "elected in November of 2014 on a platform of making Massachusetts great for everyone." The Maple family views the captivity of Elissa as anything but great. He may be reached at 413-784-1200 or 888-870-7770,

or contacted [here](#).

The Senator of the district where Elissa is being held is Benjamin Downing. He may be reached at 617-722-1625, or contacted [here](#).

The Representative for the Massachusetts district is William Smitty Pignatelli. He may be reached at 617-722-2017, or contacted [here](#).

Vermont's governor is Peter Shumlin. He may be reached at 802 828-3333, or contacted [here](#).

Senator Norm McAllister is the Senator for the Maples' district, and he may be contacted [here](#).

The Representative for the district that the Maple family live in is Daniel Conner. He may be reached [here](#).

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



Elissa Maple wants to come home. Source: [Elissa's Dream Facebook page](#).

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

A judge has ruled that Vermont teen Elissa Maple be returned home on her 18th birthday, which is July 1, but DCF is fighting the ruling, even allegedly attempting bribery of the teenager to get her to voluntarily sign over her rights on her birthday. If she does so, they can keep her in the system

for an additional 3 years. Elissa has spent the last year and a half being held against her will in a Massachusetts mental health facility, and has been forced to consume a cocktail of unwanted drugs.

Read the original story here:

[Vermont Teen Drugged Against Her Will, Held in Custody in Massachusetts Mental Health Facility](#)

With her release date just one month away, Elissa has reported to her mother, Karen, that the people at the hospital have promised her photography classes, money, and a number of free services if she will voluntarily sign herself in to their system, programs that Karen says she would be able to get anyway, even out from under their care. Karen reports that the hospital staff has begun taking Elissa out to eat dinner on most nights, and has taken her to the zoo and the mall, in an apparent attempt to bribe her to sign away her rights. If she does so, Karen says that they will have complete control over her daughter.

As recently as Sunday night, May 31, Elissa told her mother on the phone:

“I’m coming home, Mom. I want to come home.”

But Karen is very afraid that they are trying to brainwash her daughter to keep her in the system. As Medical Kidnap has previously reported, because she is a ward of the state, she can be used as a guinea pig in medical drug testing. If she voluntarily commits herself on her 18th birthday, those practices can continue.

[Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials](#)

[Feds Pay for Drug Fraud: 92 Percent of Foster Care Kids Prescribed Antipsychotics for Unaccepted Uses](#)

[Foster Care Abuse: Drugging Children Against Their Will](#)

[Senator Nancy Schaefer: Did her Fight Against CPS Child Kidnapping Cause her Murder?](#)

[California’s Crisis: 1 Out of Every 4 Children in California’s Foster Care Prescribed Powerful Psychiatric Drugs](#)

[Medical Kidnap: It Happens to Adults Too](#)

Judge: The Nation Has Heard Elissa’s Voice

Karen went to court about Elissa on May 20. Allegedly, DCF was attempting to silence Karen and Elissa’s voice and asked the judge to issue a gag order, even though a number of legal experts have stated that such a move is unconstitutional. (See [article](#).) Instead of complying with the DCF request, the judge ordered reunification.

According to Karen Maple, superior court judge Howard E. Vanbenthuisen stated:

“We’ve been shamed nationwide. Elissa has made her voice heard all over the nation via the Internet.”

When the DCF attorney asked, “What can we do about it?”, the judge’s response was crystal clear:

“There’s nothing we can do about it. You can’t keep her. Give her back her daughter.”



Elissa Maple. Source: Maple family

Doctor – “Not at Immediate Risk”

In April 2014, James J. Hudziak, M.D., of the University of Vermont issued this statement, based on Elissa’s history and time spent with her:

“... it is our opinion that she would not meet the criteria for emergency commitment. In other words, we can’t make a case that returning to her home at age 18 places her at immediate risk.”

Despite this opinion, DCF has allegedly attempted to persuade the court that she should remain in custody, and continue to receive the cocktail of psychotropic drugs that she is currently being forced to take against her will.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYy4mexg_TE

DCF Trying to Keep Elissa in State Custody

The DCF attorney allegedly told the judge that they would hand Elissa over to her mother on her birthday without her medications, saying that she would have to withdraw “cold turkey.” Then they would get her back in the system with an adult pickup order for not having her medications. This reportedly prompted the judge to respond, “Say what?”

The attorney told the judge that “something could happen” in the next 4 or 5 weeks. The judge was reportedly skeptical, asking:

“What’s going to happen?”

Federal Transition Laws Ignored?

Meanwhile, Karen asked why they would not instead help her to transition and work with Karen over the next few weeks. This transition is federal law, according to DCF documents:

The Federal Fostering Connections Act of 2008 requires that state child welfare agencies who receive funding from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to “assist and support a youth in developing a transition as he/she ages out of foster care.

More specifically, the transition plan must be developed during the 90 day period before the youth attains age 18.” Further detail as to the process of development and content for this plan is contained in SCYF-CB-PI-10-11, pp. 12-13

However, Karen reports that DCF has not made even a single attempt to work with her on the transition.

They have, however, issued a new case plan where they are in control. Karen is due in court on Tuesday, June 2, and she plans to dispute the plan. Their proposed plan would keep Elissa in a group home, instead of going home, which is all that Elissa wants to do.



Elissa and her mom. Source: Maple family.

Mother Has Great Plans in Place for Her Daughter's Return Home

Karen has been diligently working to put plans in place for her daughter's return home. These plans include a private tutor who will come into the home to help Elissa get either her diploma or her GED. She has plans to enroll her in photography and web design classes when they begin in September. Appointments are scheduled with a psychiatrist and an eye doctor.

There is talk of a wonderful birthday party soon after her return. Last year, the facility allegedly did not even give Elissa her birthday cards, allowing her to believe that no one cared.

Karen insists that all the services that DCF is attempting to entice her daughter with are things that she will provide, or that she will provide even better things for her daughter. Elissa's pony and other pets are waiting for her on the family's 10-acre property, and Karen has honored her daughter's request to leave her room just the way it is.

Elissa's dream of coming home for her birthday is very close to becoming a reality. Both Elissa and her mother are afraid that the system that has kept her unjustly imprisoned and away from her home for more than a year will try to sabotage her homecoming.

How to Help

Elissa's next court date is June 2. There is a Facebook page set up for supporters to follow the story and offer support – [Elissa's Dream](#).



Elissa's case involves two states, her home state of Vermont, and the state of Massachusetts, which has custody of her.

The supervisor over her case in Vermont DCF is [Patricia Brett](#). Email: Patricia.Brett@state.vt.us – Telephone: 802-524-7945

Charlie Baker is the governor of Massachusetts. He may be reached at 413-784-1200 or 888-870-7770, or contacted [here](#).

The Senator of the district where Elissa is being held is Benjamin Downing. He may be reached at 617-722-1625, or contacted [here](#).

The Representative for the Massachusetts district is William Smitty Pignatelli. He may be reached at 617-722-2017, or contacted [here](#).

Vermont's governor is Peter Shumlin. He may be reached at 802-828-3333, or contacted [here](#).

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The Representative for the district that the Maple family live

in is Daniel Conner. He may be reached [here](#).

18 Year Old Vermont Girl Medically Kidnapped & Abused Now Fights Adult Protective Services to Remain Free



Elissa Maple is now 18. She was released from CPS by a Judge, but is now allegedly being pursued by Adult Protection Services who want to take her into custody. – Photo from family.

UPDATE 11/19/2015

From the [Elissa's Dream Facebook page](#):

Elissa is scared. A man named Stephen Dixon of Adult Protective Services in Vermont left a card on their gate Wednesday, saying to call him. When they called, he said that he wants to “help” get Elissa on her medications and have their services. He said he received a phone call and he was concerned about her not being on her meds. Elissa told him that she is doing great now that she is off of the medications, and doesn’t want to go back on them. She couldn’t function on them, but now she is doing much better.

The man told them that he will come back on Friday with papers for Elissa to fill out and sign. When the Maples asked for him to email or mail the papers, so that they could take it to their attorney, he refused. He said that he requires Elissa to do it in person on Friday, or they could go to the courthouse.

Dixon told them that he is working for Elissa. She wants to know, “If he is working for me, can I fire him?”

He said the papers say that she doesn’t want services, and that she doesn’t need or want medications. He said that if she does this, it will all be over. However, he told Elissa on the phone Wednesday that, if she answered his questions, that he would leave them alone. That wasn’t true, so they question if he is telling the truth about the forms now.

This sounds like a trap to them.

Elissa has been happy at home. She has just bought lots of photography equipment and is pursuing her love of photography – something that was denied her while she was in the group home. She is thinking more clearly and is functioning better now that she has weaned off of the medications. She says that she felt like a zombie before.

She is an American citizen, and is now an adult. All she wants is to be left alone. Why is that so much to ask?

Mr. Dixon wants to talk, so supporters – please feel free to contact him and ask him to leave her alone. His phone number listed on the card is 802 871 3333. His email is stephen.dixon@state.vt.us

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

Elissa Maple was a bright young energetic 16 year old who reached a difficult emotional time in her life, as sixteen is a difficult age for most children. Added to this natural occurrence was her brother's auto accident which almost took his life, her mother sought help for Elissas's anxiety. A mother's care for her child knows no boundaries, but it turned into a nightmare that would have Elissa drugged by hospital officials, kidnapped by DCF, and admitted to a mental facility masquerading as a school in Massachusetts.

Read the original story here:

[Vermont Teen Drugged Against Her Will, Held in Custody in Massachusetts Mental Health Facility](#)

It would take almost two years for Elissa to be returned to her home in Vermont. But the good news is that Elissa Maple is home now and very happy to be there. She's becoming more relaxed due to spending time with her family and loved ones, activities that make us all feel comfortable about our lives and our futures. However, Elissa and her mother Karen cannot rest easy just yet.

The Battle for Elissa's Freedom Rages On



Elissa is free, and smiling again. But for how long? Photo supplied by family.

Although Elissa was released under her own recognizance from DCF on her 18th birthday, Adult Protection Services continues to track her movements while allegedly taunting her and her mother with threats of Elissa having to be placed in an adult group home in Vermont. Franklin County DCF

continually fails to relinquish custody of Elissa, says her mother, even after the judge released her on her 18th birthday. When the Vermont judge released Elissa, Vermont's Franklin County DCF swooped in and placed her back into the system as an adult claiming responsibility for Elissa's education and health.

DCF Wants Elissa in Their Care Against Her Desire and the Desire of Her Mother

When Karen Maple asked Franklin County why they still retained custodial rights to Elissa's records since she's been released, she stated she was told that DCF:

Just hadn't gotten around to doing the paper work, but we hoped Elissa would sign the papers and return to our care as an adult. We didn't get around to transitioning her, so why don't you just let us keep her for another year?

This is concurrent with what workers told the court when they were asked why they had no transitional plan for Elissa, they responded,

We thought she'd need care for the rest of her life.

Returning to "protective care" after her allegations of the initial torturous and unwarranted care is the furthest thing from Elissa's plans for her future.

Elissa simply wants to live her life like any young adult her age. Instead, Adult Protective Services continues to attempt

to take over her life and throw obstacles in her path at every turn.

Can Those Who Inflicted Harm Now Provide “Help”?



Elissa is happy to be reunited with her mother, Karen Maple. Photo supplied by family.

The danger of the State stepping in and taking custody of Elissa once again is not something in their imaginations, says Karen Maple. She notes that at a previous trial, the judge’s comment (when DCF finally showed the court a transitional plan) was that the DCF 90 Day plan for Elissa’s home transition “sounded more like a life plan.”

Karen reported that the judge also noted that DCF had no legal grounds to hold Elissa since April of 2014, as she was

not a danger to herself or others. But she contends they held her anyway, giving her experimental drug ‘cocktails’ and laxatives in order to support their claims of schizophrenia. Elissa claims that she was told that her mother “can’t afford to keep you. Your mother could die. Let her go.” Karen states the Massachusetts administrator told her to “Let us deal with your daughter, she’s damaged.”

Out of State Custody for Now, but Threats Continue

Karen also alleges that when she took Elissa for one of her weekly blood draws after being released on her eighteenth birthday, the lab worker refused to allow Karen into the room even at Elissa’s request, so they left. The worker reported the incident to Adult Protective Services, and they sent Karen a letter stating so, and added, “We don’t see any issues yet.”

*All we want is for them to leave us alone. Elissa knows that even when the ‘paper work’ is complete that DCF may try to come back into her life years from now, and take her own children, claiming that she too is unable to care for them, and subject them to the same treatment she went through. After neglecting her education for almost two years, they enrolled her in school now—when she is being home schooled which is allowable and within Vermont educational guidelines. They get reports from every doctor no matter where we go. **They say she is an adult, but they treat her as though she can’t make her own decisions.***

They tried to brainwash her into believing she was not wanted, but I told Elissa: “Don’t give up on me because I will not give up on you.”

**Any Emotional Trauma That Remains is a
Result of Medical Kidnapping and Forced
Confinement in a Mental Institution Where
Elissa Alleges She was Abused**



Elissa is reunited with her family and now in their protection. Elissa with one of her brothers. Photo supplied by family.

Elissa Maple was held against her will at a mental research facility, according to her mother. Karen still relives the events and recalls the day Elissa telephoned her and stated “Mommy, he hurt me.”

Karen was later told that one of the adult male employees had touched her inappropriately. The Massachusetts facility manager telephoned Karen and told her, but added that he had “only called because I didn’t want you writing letters...this is no big deal the kids are monitored on cameras,” says Karen. She claims this incident went unreported by that facility, and was never addressed by DCF.

The [Berkshire Eagle](#) reported earlier this year (February 2015) that a former worker at the same institution where Elissa was held is facing felony charges for allegedly sexually assaulting a young girl there between October 2013 and August 2014. ([Source.](#))

Karen also recalls what should have been an overnight visit with her daughter being canceled, when after picking her daughter up from the facility, Elissa showed her the scratches down her legs and told her mother that “they said they would suspend our visits if I didn’t take the medicine.” The medication she was taking caused her to black out, and she would wake up with the scratches on her legs.

Karen took her to the hospital and the hospital called the facility. The police were called, and Karen says she was detained while the facility workers spoke to Elissa, telling her that “If you leave with us, you can have the visit at the facility.”

Elissa would later tell her mother that she left because she didn’t want the police to hurt her mother. Elissa was

pleading “Don’t hurt my mother. Don’t hurt my mother.” A family member allegedly called the facility to let Elissa know that her mother was okay, and could hear Elissa in the background, and believed she was being sedated again. The visit was canceled, and Karen spent the night alone crying for her daughter in her hotel room.

Karen related that these were painful times for both her, Elissa and their entire family. Elissa says that she was punished for things that other students did, and had become overly apologetic for the most minor everyday occurrences. Something happened to Elissa under this ‘assisted care,’ but both she and her mother are finding their way back through the peacefulness, security, and the love of family. What will happen to Elissa if she is abducted again and returned to State custody?

A Mother’s Plea for Her Daughter

I’m not a criminal. I’m just a mother trying to protect my child.

Karen’s plea is for her daughter to be left alone. She believes Elissa has been through enough turmoil hidden under the guise of institutional assistance.

We are safe and surrounded by family and good neighbors. Just leave her alone.

Elissa is home and she is happy and just wants her life to be her own:

I just want them to leave me alone and let me live with my Mom.

Families without strong voices are being broken apart by nationwide “protective” social service programs, often experimented upon and institutionalized. Because these things allegedly happened to Elissa within the boundaries of two states, no one apparently stepped forward and challenged the systems except her Mom.

Karen has a strong voice. She is not only fighting for her daughter, but she may be fighting for your children too.

How to Help

There is a Facebook page set up for supporters to follow the story and offer support – [Elissa’s Dream](#).



To support Karen in her Fight for Elissa’s Life contact:

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin at 802 828-3333. Contact him [here](#), Tweet @GovPeterShumlin, or reach him on [Facebook](#).

Senator Norm McAllister at (802) 285-6363, or contact him

[here](#).

Representative Daniel Connor at (802) 827-4436, or contact him [here](#).