

Tuesday, June 12, 2007
12:54 PM



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*Specializing in Behavioral Healthcare
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June 12, 2007

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Grandview, WA 98930-9331

RE: CHILDREN

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Pursuant to your request, I am providing you with an update on the status of the psychological evaluation of your children, as well as my preliminary findings. Please understand that my assessment of your children is still underway, and that my findings at this point in time are not conclusive and are subject to revision. I anticipate completing the evaluation process within the next week, and on having a final report out to you within two to three weeks. Keep in mind that this time-line is only tentative.

I want to preface my comments about the current psychological status of your children by stating that the information contained in this letter is extremely sensitive. I believe it would be psychologically damaging to your children if this information were to be used or shared inappropriately. Therefore, it is important that you not disclose, or cause to be disclosed, any of the information contained in this letter to the children outside of my direct oversight. This applies to any third party. Also, if you choose to use this letter in a legal proceeding, please keep in mind that such information is considered public domain, and may be accessible by a third party. To protect your children from any further

psychological harm, I think it is important that any information about them used in a legal proceeding be filed under protective seal by order of the Court. Your attorney will know how to handle this in a manner that will ensure that your children are shielded from any improper or potentially harmful disclosure of information.

Having said that, I am extremely concerned about your children, and believe that all three of them have experienced substantial psychological trauma due to their family situation. I am particularly concerned about [redacted] for reasons I shall discuss in a moment. Your report regarding their father's recent actions and his apparent plans to obtain custody of them is especially concerning to me. All three children have reported independently to me that their father has an extended history of consuming excessive amounts of alcohol on a regular basis, that he is prone to frequent and violent outbursts of temper, and that he is extremely verbally abusive toward them. All three children, and especially [redacted] and [redacted] have reported that they have been traumatized emotionally by their father's actions, that they do not want to have contact with him, and that they are fearful of him.

I am especially concerned about [redacted] and [redacted] as I stated above. [redacted] presents as an extremely depressed child, and at this point it is my opinion that his compromised psychological status is related directly to the chronic and frequently acute dysfunction in the [redacted] family, and to the erratic and abusive behavior of his father as reported by him and the other children. By his report, [redacted] has been similarly traumatized by his father's behavior, although he is not as symptomatic as his older brother.

I will qualify my comments above by stating that I have not spoken with Mr. [redacted] about his children or their report about him. Therefore, I cannot speak to the ultimate veracity of the children's reports except to say that, based on my 25 years of experience working with children and families, I find all three children to be credible.

Please understand that it is beyond the scope of my role to make a specific recommendation regarding the current or future custody arrangements for the children; my role is limited to evaluating the psychological functioning of your children only. However, it is my current professional opinion that all three children are emotionally fragile (to varying degrees), and that any change in their current situation would be extremely damaging to them and contrary to their best interests. The past and current circumstances of the [redacted] children are complicated. Due to the seriousness of their allegations about their father, a thorough investigation into the family is necessary in order to ensure the children's emotional and physical safety. Such an investigation should include, but not be limited to, an assessment of each parent's ability to function as a parent in the best interest of their children.

ROBERT M. NEWELL, Ph.D.

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Pursuant to RCW 9A.72.085 I hereby declare that the information and opinions contained in the letter are based on a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, and is the testimony I would provide to the Court in this matter. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of the information in this letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Newell Ph.D.", written in a cursive style.

Robert M. Newell, Ph.D.

CC: Patient file