

Health Impact News

Medical Kidnapping Children in the United States: Arizona

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Arizona



10 and 12 Year Old Sisters Seized from Family by Hospital in Phoenix



Source: [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page](#)

URGENT UPDATE 10/10/2014:

[Life of 10 Year Old Girl in Medical Kidnapping Case May be in Danger!](#)

See our updated story here:

Girl Seized from Family in Medical Dispute In Grave Danger

UPDATE 10/8/2014

The Diegel sisters' case has caught the attention of Constitutional attorney Michael Farris and the ParentalRights.org organization who is looking into the case.

UPDATE 10/7/2014

From A Miracle For Two Sisters Facebook Page:

Thanks to a Twitter follower for this information: “@jftsisters town hall in Phoenix tonight at 7:30. Matt Salmon. 877-222-8493. Ask him what he can do help Kayla and Hannah Diegel. Standing.”

It would be awesome if there were a flood of supporters at town hall tonight in Phoenix at 7:30!

Follow A Miracle For Two Sisters on Twitter: @jftsisters AND GET READY FOR OUR UPCOMING TWITTER STORMS!!
#Miracle42S

UPDATE 10/6/2014

From A Miracle For Two Sisters Facebook Page:

“Many new supporters have been asking how they can help. We appreciate your offers and our goal this week is to contact Gov. Brewer of AZ and the two candidates F. DuVal and D. Ducey who are running for that office along with Congressman Franks who is the representative of the district the girls live in. We will be leaving comments on their pages

starting today and invite you to join us.”

- www.facebook.com/dougducey
- www.facebook.com/FredduVal2014
- www.facebook.com/GovJanBrewer
- www.facebook.com/TrentFranks

UPDATE 10/3/2014

COURT ORDERS HEALTH IMPACT NEWS TO TAKE DOWN STORY!

BREAKING: Health Impact News has just received an email from the mother of Kayla and Hannah Diegel, Melissa Diegel:

The court has ordered that I contact you and ask you to to remove information regarding my daughters case.

Sincerely, Melissa Diegel

We have reason to believe that Mrs. Diegel is being threatened by the court, as they do not want this story to go public. The information below was NOT obtained from Melissa Diegel, but from a Facebook Page put up by an advocacy group, some of the members of which also worked on the [Justina Pelletier](#) case.

We need everyone to immediately contact Governor Jan Brewer’s office and demand that Melissa Diegel’s rights be protected. Mrs. Diegel did NOT speak or communicate with Health Impact News, and if the court wants to issue an order

to anyone, let them issue it directly to Health Impact News. The court obviously does not understand (or care) that one person cannot control the flow of information once it is on the Internet. Even if we did take down our story, it would just pop up in many other places. When they ordered the mother to take down her Facebook Page earlier this week, it was like throwing gasoline on a fire but thinking it was water. The opposite effect of what is desired is what results.

Melissa Diegel's freedom may be in grave danger, so please call Governor Jan Brewer (be polite and respectful!) and ask that she protect Melissa's rights:

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer
Arizona Governor
Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Office Locations
Arizona State Capitol Complex
Governor's Office
Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Office Complex – Tucson
Governor's Office
400 West Congress
Suite 504
Tucson, AZ 85701

Phone Numbers
Phoenix Office: (602) 542-4331
Tucson Office: (520) 628-6580

Fax Number: (602) 542-1381

In-State Toll Free:

1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only)

To send emails, fill out form here:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/Contact.asp>

10 and 12 Year Old Sisters Seized from Family by Hospital in Phoenix

Health Impact News Editor Comments

In a case bearing several similarities to [Justina Pelletier's family's experience](#) with Boston Children's Hospital, and [Isaiah Rider's family's experience](#) with Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, 10 and 12 year old sisters have been seized by Phoenix Children's Hospital over a medical dispute. The mother has reportedly been ordered to not discuss the case with anyone, and has been forced to take down YouTube videos and a Facebook Page with over 3000 followers that was documenting the actions of Child Protection Services and doctors at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

A medical rights advocacy group has now put up another Facebook Page that contained much of the history of the case, and that is the source of the information presented here, which Health Impact News would like to report. We don't know how much longer this new Facebook Page will remain up, so we will provide a detailed summary of the case below, as reported on the [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page](#).

Here is a short summary of the tragic story of Kayla and Hannah Diegel who have been seized by CPS and Phoenix Children's Hospital (PCH) from the information Health

Impact News has been able to examine so far:

Kayla and Hannah Diegel suffer from congenital disorder of glycosylation, (CDG, a form of mitochondrial disease.) Part of their condition is also suffering with “[Gastroparesis](#),” which is a partially paralyzed stomach. As a result, they were fed through feeding tubes to bypass the stomach.

During the course of their treatment, the girls’ family doctor’s clinic of eight years, Estrella Mountain Medical Group, suddenly sent a letter to the parents instructing them to transfer the girls to the care of Phoenix Children’s Hospital Special Needs Clinic. They bounced between several different doctors at PCH, but they were all in the field of genetics. It was during this time that the girls were diagnosed with “congenital disorder of glycosylation” (CDG).

Unknown to the parents at the time, there was funding and drug trials going on for this rare condition. The article on the [Facebook Page](#) reports: “The glycosylation trial whose collaborative agreement is through NHGRI/ TGEN opened up on March 14th, 2014, just 3 weeks before the two Phoenix sisters were medically kidnapped.”

The mother reportedly began to suspect that something was going on, as she reviewed the medical records and medications her daughters were receiving. She requested that the care of her daughters be transferred to another doctor “due to his neglect and endangerment of younger daughter i.e., not returning phone calls, ignoring her severe pain and documented bowel impaction being treated from home by registered nurses, under his supervision.”

Shortly after this, in April of 2014, the hospital took custody of both daughters away from the family through CPS.

The family contends that the daughters are suffering since being removed from their family, as their feeding tubes have been removed. Kayla has reportedly lost 25% of her body weight after being in the custody of PCH for four months:

Before Custody Taken Away



4 Months Later in Hospital



There was a apparently a court hearing this week, and the mother was threatened with punitive action if she did not remove her Facebook Page (which she did). It appears that the new Facebook Page, [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page](#), was put up shortly after that. The new Facebook Page is sponsored by an advocacy group.

Health Impact News will continue to update this story as details come in.

For now, here is the unedited article posted to the [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page](#)

*****BREAKING NEWS*****

Billion Dollar Children – Justina Pelletier Repeat

A terrifying form of child abuse is being spawned by the pharmaceutical industry in collaboration with children's hospitals across the country. Justina Pelletier, a 14 year-old child, was removed from her parents care in February of 2013, a few days into her being a patient at Boston Children's Hospital. This was done when, and because her parents sought to have her released from BCH, and return to the specialists at Tufts that had been treating Justina for a rare medical disorder, mitochondrial disease, (the same disorder for which her older sister had already been successfully treated). After a 16-month custody battle where the parents were denied all medical access, information, or input into their daughter's medical care and treatment, and were restricted to 1-hour per week, supervised visitations with their sick child as her health deteriorated, the public, and Congress alike, started paying attention to the fact that hospitals were kidnapping children for research. Hospitals do this by falsely reporting the parents to the Department of Children and Families, (DCF) for medical child abuse in order to place certain children with rare genetic makeup into drug trials for which grants are received to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The saying "follow the money" could never be more apparent than in the kidnapping of the Diegel sisters, ages 10 and 12, both kidnapped in April of 2014. Both children have a suspected congenital disorder of glycosylation, (CDG, a form of mitochondrial disease.) This rare and genetically significant condition is a potential goldmine to pharmaceutical companies and researchers. The odds of finding two sisters with THIS same rare genetic condition is like winning a billion dollars in the lottery, at least for the entities that discovered them. While TGen, the research giant also known as NHGRI, and PHOENIX CHILDREN'S

HOSPITAL have hit the jackpot, these young girls suffer the unthinkable at the hands of doctors who have taken an oath to “Do No Harm.” Their medical condition at this moment is dire, while there is a hearing today to permanently terminate their mother’s parental rights. No individual or family can fight these multi-billion dollar entities on their own, and yet their children’s lives hang in the balance.

NHGRI aka National Human Genome Research Institute, was involved in the \$3 billion dollar collaborative “Human Genome Project”, the world’s largest biological project. Funded by the US government, i.e., taxpayers, that project was completed in 2003. It provided incredible insight into DNA sequencing, however, drug studies of epic proportions soared as a result, and unwitting victims across the United States have been used as human guinea pigs in these drug trials. Major pharmaceutical companies such as Shire/ArmaGen have enticed hospitals such as Boston Children’s Hospital with contracts worth millions to enroll children who are wards of the state, because children who are in state custody can be used for research without their parents’ consent (per CFR 46.116.) This cruel and abusive code/tactic is the driving force to falsely accuse parents of medical abuse so that they lose custody of their child, or in the Diegel’s case, children, so that hospitals have free access to them. They even go so far as to attempt to permanently terminate parents’ rights to achieve their goals/trials, which by anyone’s standards, should shock the conscience, and yet they inflict this lifelong, devastating, physical, emotional, and financial damage on every child and family they do this to.

Boston Children’s Hospital received \$225 million just 4 months before Justina Pelletier was taken, and \$15 million of that was given in cash per their “collaborative agreement”. The Diegel sisters are but two of the latest victims of this

research related kidnappings that in recent months can be tied to at least 3 families, but it is suspected it is happening to very many more. While the world knows about Justina, the sisters' story must be told as it unfolds behind closed doors with the usual unconstitutional gag orders that keep these stories from getting out under the threat of contempt and possible jail. The mother was just forced to take down all pictures, postings, pages and more that she was affiliated with that related to her daughters. She now has no visitation rights because when she did, she could document that the girls were losing weight at an alarming rate, and were covered with bruises. This can be verified by the social worker who has since quit due to her alarm in what she was seeing, and no one listening to her. The children now have no advocate who truly cares for their best interests, and are being starved to death in Foster Care where the caregiver doesn't want their feeding tube supplies in her house! [MORE on this below the "Details and Timeline of Kidnapping".

As seen with Justina, only public outrage and outcry facilitated her release, and will stop these atrocities from continuing, and we ask that people support the new page we are putting up today called, A Miracle for Two Sisters. The survival of these young girls is directly dependent on rallying widespread, if not international support, and it cannot come soon enough. Please do anything and everything you can to save these girls!

DETAILS: The sisters rare genetic condition, congenial disorders of glycosylation, in particular glycoproteins and the like, are the current stepping stones for the next generation of drug research. Currently there is an on-going clinical study being conducted by NHGRI/ TGEN (Translational Genomics Research) titled: "Clinical and Basic investigations into Known and Suspected Disorders of

Glycosylation”. Glycoproteins are found in almost all living organisms that have been studied, and a lack of working P-glycoproteins in the blood leads to highly increased brain penetration (crosses the blood brain barrier easily.) Testing on people, (more easily children), that have this deficiency could lead to the development of drugs that have the potential for excellent brain penetration, specifically on the central nervous system (CNS). This knowledge can be used to create things such as vaccines, in which current government contracts for glycosylation already exist, yet the penetration and effectiveness of the vaccine is in question, so they are still testing and producing as we speak. The Ebola vaccine is one such example. (Interestingly, production of this started in 2012, but is only being produced for 1% of the population.)

The glycosylation trial whose collaborative agreement is through NHGRI/ TGEN opened up on March 14th, 2014, just 3 weeks before the two Phoenix sisters were medically kidnapped. Ironically this happens to be the same center that saw the girls in December, and then suddenly turned them away, without any explanation. Another ongoing case is at Lurie Children’s Hospital where a 16 year-old boy was taken. That mother was also accused of medical abuse, but due to public outcry, he has recently been released to a relative, while the fight for the mother to get him home rages on. This boy also suffers from a genetic condition, which causes abnormal, painful tumor growth. He was also taken in April 2014, around the same time as the sisters, and there was a different drug trial study that opened March 14, 2014, (the exact same day the sisters’ study opened) in his area. This study was titled “Phase 2 Study of Cabozantinib XL 184 for Plexiform Neurofibromatosis in subjects with neuro type 1 16 or greater”. Lurie’s collaborative agreement is through Stanley Manne Research Center Institute.

Timeline the kidnapping (Lurie’s and Phoenix Children’s

Hospital)

2013, December 2: Older daughter first time being seen by TGen* who is deeply involved in the Human Genome project based out of Phoenix, Az. (Hometown) Dr. Narayanan prepares for genetic testing (before he later changes the plan as noted below.)

2013, December 6: Younger daughter first time being seen by TGen. Dr. Narayanan suddenly and mysteriously changes his mind about personally doing any genetic tests on either of the girls. Evidence suggests he had changed his mind after speaking to another doctor, Dr. Siaw, who became the main doctor behind taking the children away from the parents (in April 2014).

2013, December 24: The girls' family doctor clinic of eight years, Estrella Mountain Medical Group, on Christmas Eve, suddenly sends letter to parents instructing to transfer the girls to the care of Phoenix Children's Hospital Special Needs Clinic under the care of a Dr. B who had agreed with the clinic to take the girls as patients.

2014, January 10: Both girls attend as instructed to Phoenix Children's Hospital Special Needs Clinic, but the receiving doctor had been switched to a Dr. Hurliman, who was not previously known to the family. That unexpected doctor that day refers the girls to see a new geneticist, Dr. Philip James (who had just transferred from Boston Children's Hospital).

2014, January 29: Upon visiting Dr. Siaw (their Primary GI doctor who oversees the feeding tubes in both girls) Mother reviews the medication list, and notices doctors notes underneath that state that Mother didn't mention she saw Dr. Narayanan at TGen (the center that turned her away.)

The notes implied an odd conversation between Dr. Siaw and Dr. Narayanan.

2014, February 5: The girls see Dr. Philip James (new geneticist) for the first time who holds off on writing his medical notes, (Mother has first draft). Later Mother requested the medical records again, (2 days before the girls were taken). In it states the girls might have a Congenital Disorder of Glycosylation (not ever verbally mentioned by name, but instead in an odd phone call to Mother in March.)

2014, March – After a month of Mother trying to contact Dr. Philip James, she receives a phone call one evening and the doctor states that he is on to something and that “there is only one lab in the entire country that tests for this.” He stated that he attended two conferences and talked to multiple people. He was very excited. Despite trying to reach him by phone and letter, Mother never hears from him again.

2014, March 14: Unbeknownst to the parents of the 17 year old boy, a drug trial opens for “Phase 2 Study of Cabozantinib XL 184 for Plexiform Neurofibromas in subjects w/ Neuro 16 or greater done at Luries Children’s Hospital but funded and overseen by Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute

2014, March 14: Unbeknownst to the parents of the sisters, a drug trial opens for “Suspected Congenital Disorders of Glycosylation”.... (run by NHGRI, National Human Genome Research Institute)

2014, March 21: Mother asked to replace Dr. Siaw (for both girls) due to his neglect and endangerment of younger daughter i.e., not returning phone calls, ignoring her severe pain and documented bowel impaction being treated from

home by registered nurses, under his supervision. Mother is also concerned about the safety of treating with Golytely, (a hospital grade laxative), from home without an IV. See below when daughter ends up being admitted to the hospital for severe bowel impaction. Covering physician had daughter come in for x-ray which confirmed she was still impacted after 4 days of treatment. (4 days Golytely x-ray, 4 days of Golytely then admitted to the hospital). No phone call was ever received from Dr. Siaw or his MA.

2014, March 27: Youngest daughter is admitted to Phoenix Children's Hospital for a severe bowel impaction: large, small intestine, contents coming out of her stomach the wrong way. Home health nursing notes and documents the severity. Mother is told change of shift for new GI is tomorrow. When she asks who it will be, she is told she will have to wait.

2014, March 28: Dr. Siaw, the doctor that the mother had asked to be replaced on March 21 (see above) comes on shift at the hospital for 7 days.

2014, March 31: Mother files complaint in hospital against Dr. Siaw over concern of care, neglect, nutrition, blood work, and asks for 2nd opinion, round table of doctors and/or Transfer to a different hospital.

2014, April 2: Oldest daughter gets admitted to Phoenix Children's Hospital for bowel impaction

2014, April - Sixteen year-old boy is taken by Lurie's Children's Hospital

2014, April 6: Mother requests Geneticists Records. She notices that the doctor recommends all kinds of testing and

suggests the girls have a Congenital Disorder of Glycosylation

2014, April 8: Youngest daughter gets taken by CPS/ DCSFS.

2014, April 10: K gets taken by CPS/ DCSFS.

2014, August 1: Mother learns of drug trials and asks Phoenix Children's Hospital if the girls are participating in these trials. No response is given.

Since being in the states care, the older daughter, who is feeding tube dependent, has by order of original fired GI doctor (who now makes all their medical decisions) been removed from her feeding tube. She has proceeded to lose 25% of her body weight and her sister has lost 17% since being in the states care. In fact the older child's body fat level has neared 0% and she is said to have a vitamin deficiency that is so severe that it allows easy severe bruising as noted on her thighs, arms, legs and possible chest area. This is all under the supervision of the state and Phoenix Children's Hospital.

A court appointed CASA worker who had been working with the girls' for the first 5 months of their abduction, was very much concerned with their health. She recently quit because she was threatened by DCS after she spoke up about her concerns for these poor children's mistreatment in state custody. When the parents spoke out in fear of their children's lives, they were threatened on multiple occasions as well, visitation taken away, and now efforts to terminate parental rights.

Now:

-visitation of their daughters has been taken away

altogether

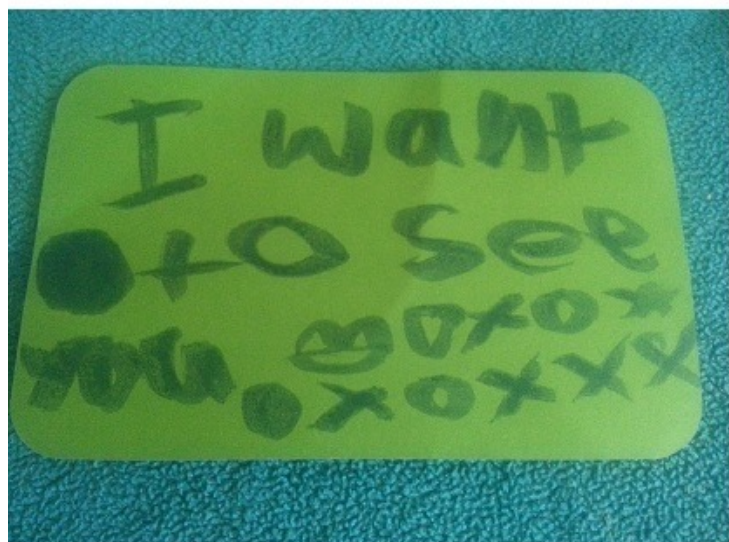
-a motion to permanently take away custody of the children was filled by the state against the Mother

- Contempt of court, with the threat of going to jail was threatened/started under the unconstitutional threat that the Mother must remove all current pictures, names of the children, and the Facebook page with 3060 “likes” was told it must be shut down immediately.

Mother has an affidavit and witnesses showing her daughters are being abused in the states care emotionally, physically and psychologically. They are also are being denied the very right to eat appropriately by way of their feeding tubes that the same hospital, Phoenix Children’s Hospital, diagnosed these girls to have partially paralyzed stomachs by way of nuclear scan!

A Miracle For Two Sisters

@jftsisters



This note was passed on to the mother from the hospital in the envelope below.



If you live in Arizona, contact Gov. Brewer to have the Diegel sisters released and returned to the custody of her family, as well as the children of Sara Ybarra-Johnson!

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer
Arizona Governor
Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Office Locations
Arizona State Capitol Complex
Governor's Office
Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona State Office Complex – Tucson
Governor's Office
400 West Congress
Suite 504
Tucson, AZ 85701

Phone Numbers
Phoenix Office: (602) 542-4331
Tucson Office: (520) 628-6580
Fax Number: (602) 542-1381
In-State Toll Free:
1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only)
To send emails, fill out form here:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/Contact.asp>

Girl Seized from Family in Medical Dispute In Grave Danger



Kayla Diegel is in Foster Care against her will and the will of her family and reportedly needs serious medical attention she is not receiving. [Image Source A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page.](#)

URGENT UPDATE 10/10/2014:

Life of 10 Year Old Girl in Medical Kidnapping Case May be in Danger!

Health Impact News Editor

In a medical kidnapping case in Arizona of two sisters that we [reported on last Thursday](#), one of the girls, 12 year old Kayla Diegel, is reportedly in grave danger and in need of serious medical help she is not receiving from foster care. For the background on this tragic story of two sisters being seized by Phoenix Children's Hospital and Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) over a medical dispute, see:

10 and 12 Year Old Sisters Seized from Family by Hospital in Phoenix.

The mother of the two girls was ordered by the court to remove all pictures and stories of the two girls from her Facebook Page and social media last week. She complied, but friends and advocates of the family copied all of the information before it was removed, and reported it on Facebook at the [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page](#).

After Health Impact News reported on the information of this medical kidnapping story last Thursday Oct. 2nd, the court reportedly ordered the mother, Melissa Diegel, to have us take down our story. This was the email we received from Mrs. Diegel on Friday October 3rd:

The court has ordered that I contact you and ask you to to remove information regarding my daughters case.

Sincerely, Melissa Diegel

We did not take down the story, and many other websites and news organizations are now reporting on it. The mother never gave us the information to begin with. It is all on the Internet now.

The information on the [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page](#) reveals that 12 year old Kayla is in need of immediate medical attention, as is her sister Hannah. A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for the two girls reportedly resigned from the case over ethical concerns about how the girls were being treated in foster care. Kayla in particular was losing weight due to the fact that her feeding tube had been removed. She has a condition called "[Gastroparesis](#)," which is a partially paralyzed stomach. She cannot take in enough nutrients by mouth, and needs the feeding tube. She has reportedly lost 25% of her body weight.

Before Custody Taken Away



4 Months Later in Hospital



The CASA case worker noticed that the foster care parents were not using the feeding tube, and she felt that the foster care family was not equipped to meet the girls medical needs. This was reportedly the foster parents first time for caring for children in the foster care system.

The CASA case worker reportedly had developed a bond with the girls, and was concerned that they missed their mother so much and was not bonding with their new foster parents, whom were heard frequently yelling at the children. Kayla reportedly also had bruises on her arm due to malnutrition.

Therefore, the CASA case worker reportedly requested that the girls receive “safe-harbor” therapy without their foster mother present, but DCS declined her request. Frustrated, the CASA case worker reportedly resigned from the case due to ethical concerns.

Health Impact News has learned that the group ParentalRights.org is looking into the case to decide if they can help the family, as the children could be in grave danger, and all visitation rights of the parents have been revoked. There is not even a new court hearing scheduled until next year.

The advocacy group representing the [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page](#) has asked the public to contact Arizona Governor Janice Brewer to ask her to intervene and return these girls to their mother. You can reach Gov. Brewer here: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/Contact.asp>

They are also asking the public to contact the two candidates F. DuVal and D. Ducey who are running for to replace Governor Brewer, along with Congressman Franks who is the representative of the district the girls live in, on their

Facebook Pages:

- www.facebook.com/dougducey
- www.facebook.com/FredduVal2014
- www.facebook.com/GovJanBrewer
- www.facebook.com/TrentFranks

We have tragically reported of other cases around the country where children were removed from families by child protection services for medical reasons and placed into foster care homes where they were abused and sometimes even died. We don't want this happening with Kayla and Hannah! Please pray for them and let your voice be heard!

We will continue to bring updates on this story as they develop.

Life of 10 Year Old Girl in Medical Kidnapping Case May be in Danger!



Hannah Diegel has a severe asthma condition, and may be in critical danger

Health Impact News Editor Comments

Health Impact News has just learned that one of the Diegel girls who were seized by Phoenix Children's Hospital through the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), may be in critical condition due to a recent asthma attack. Hannah Diegel has chronic asthma, and is required to carry both a rescue inhaler and an epipen. However, now that she has been taken into State custody and separated from her mother by being put into foster care, there is evidence that this medical advice is NOT being followed.

We received information today from friends of the mother (we have no direct contact with the mother due to a court gag order she is complying with) that Melissa Diegel received a phone call last night from her insurance company regarding Hannah's condition. While the mother has no contact with her children due to a court order, her insurance company is apparently still paying out claims. They reportedly informed her that Hannah's asthma condition was not under control. The fear is that Hannah is now either in ICU or a hospital suffering from a potential life-threatening asthma attack.

And she is completely separated from her family by court order, simply because her mother disagreed with the medical treatment she was receiving, and wanted to switch doctors!

Similar to stories we have reported on in the past with [Justina Pelletier](#) and [Isaiah Rider](#) where children are taken away from loving parents simply for disagreeing on medical treatment, our [original coverage of this story on the two sisters is here](#).

Here is some information on Kayla and Hannah's case that used to be public information displayed on the mother's

Facebook Page, before the court ordered her to take it down. Friends captured much of the information before she did so, and this advocacy group now has a different Facebook Page up here: [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page](#).

We want to emphasize that this information was available in the public domain, and that Melissa Diegel has NOT supplied any of this information to Health Impact News, as she is complying with a court order.



10 year old Hannah Diegel may currently be in critical condition, but is completely separated from her family.

Two Sisters Seized from Loving Parents for Disagreeing with Doctors

Hannah Diegel has autism, chronic asthma, mitochondrial disease, and Gastroparesis, which is a partially paralyzed stomach which requires a feeding tube. She had a brain tumor removed at the age of 9.

Her mother admitted her to Phoenix Children's Hospital in April to see a new GI doctor. She was not happy with the previous GI doctor, and had requested that she see a new one. The previous one had stopped answering her phone calls, and in her opinion was not providing proper care.

Unfortunately, the GI doctor she was not happy with took over her daughter's case anyway, and also took over Kayla's case. The mother reportedly made a formal complaint and asked to be transferred to another hospital. Instead, the hospital seized custody of both children using the same claim that Boston Children's Hospital used against the parents of Justina Pelletier, and Lurie Children's hospital made against Isaiah Rider's mother: medical abuse.

The term "Medical Abuse" is a term now used to allow doctors to seize children away from loving parents simply if the parents do not agree with their medical treatment. And it is epidemic all across America today. In family court, judges treat the doctors like "gods", and suppress the Constitutional rights of parents.

Doctors at Phoenix Children's Hospital diagnosed both girls with congenital disorder of glycosylation (CDG).

Unknown to the parents at the time, there was funding and drug trials going on for this rare condition. The article on the

new advocacy group [Facebook Page](#) reports: “The glycosylation trial whose collaborative agreement is through NHGRI/ TGEN opened up on March 14th, 2014, just 3 weeks before the two Phoenix sisters were medically kidnapped.”

Medical Conditions Worsen in State Custody

After the hospital seized both girls, the parents were allowed some visitation rights. Melissa made numerous reports of how the condition of both girls deteriorated rapidly in foster care. Both girls had their feeding tubes removed. The charge against the mother, amazingly, was that she was “making up” all of her children’s illnesses.

However, as we reported on Wednesday this week, the mother’s public reports were corroborated with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for the two girls, who has since resigned from the case due to ethical disputes with DCS. (See: [Girl Seized from Family in Medical Dispute In Grave Danger.](#))

This court advocate bonded with the girls, and saw that they were not getting proper medical treatment while in foster care. She reportedly supplied an affidavit to the court outlining her concerns, and that the children would be better off being reunited with the family. When DCS would not comply with her request that the girls receive “safe-harbor” therapy without their foster mother present, the court appointed advocate resigned in protest.

This Family Needs Help!

The mother has been threatened with going to jail for supposedly violating a court gag order on her children. She could face arrest any day now (even today)! In addition, both

of her children have no access to her. And now she knows since last night, when her insurance company called her, that Hannah's asthma condition is NOT under control. Hannah could be in critical condition, and even near death.

In one of the last meetings the parents had with Hannah before the court took away their visitation rights, the mother had posted this on her Facebook Page:

Hannah did say something special today. She said, "You know what song I have in my head? Amazing Grace."

Despite it all, roots are deep and my kids were taught that God is real, honesty is right, and kindness is good. You can try to strip all those things away, but you cannot take away God's Amazing Love and Grace.

The advocacy group representing the [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook Page](#) has asked the public to contact Arizona Governor Janice Brewer to ask her to intervene and return these girls to their mother. Hannah's life may be in danger at this very moment. You can reach Gov. Brewer here: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/Contact.asp>

A History of Medical Kidnapping at Phoenix Children's Hospital



Top from right to left: [Kayla and Melissa Diegel](#), [Emily Bracamontes](#) – Bottom from right to left: [Zachary Sparks](#), [Jayden Ybarra](#). Some of the many who have been kidnapped by Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Health Impact News

Earlier this month (October 2014) we reported the sad story of the [Diegel family](#), who had their two daughters seized by Phoenix Children's Hospital for disagreeing with the doctors over their treatment. We have previously reported many similar stories of hospitals using Child Protection Services (CPS) to remove children from loving parents simply for disagreeing with doctors, such as [Justina Pelletier](#) at Boston Children's Hospital, and [Isaiah Rider](#) at Lurie Children's

Hospital in Chicago.

Behind each of these stories is a link to experimental drug trials for the same medical conditions these children were suffering. This prompted a group of lawmakers on Capital Hill to introduce new legislation to stop this kind of medical experimentation on children who are seized from parents and made wards of the state (see: [“Justina’s Law” Seeks to End Experimental Medical Research on Children Seized by Child Protection Services](#)).

History of Phoenix Problems in Medical Kidnapping

Since publishing the [Diegel family story](#), Health Impact News has been approached by many families with similar experiences with CPS in Phoenix, and with Phoenix Children’s Hospital. What we have learned in our investigation is truly troubling, and needs to be exposed by the media.

Like Melissa Diegel, who was threatened by family court with a gag order and ordered to take down her Facebook Page and other content documenting her family’s experience, these parents are terrified of coming forward and telling their story. Therefore, many of our sources for this story wish to remain anonymous. Some of them hold important positions within the community in the Phoenix area, but fear retaliation.

What we have learned is that while the problem of medical kidnapping is systemic and present in all 50 states, linked to federal funding for CPS and the foster care business, apparently it is “by far” worse in Arizona than any other state. One source said:

We have upwards of 15,000 kids in and out of home placement. It is a billion dollar business and more when the judges, lawyers, guardian ad litem, experts, cps case managers, cps administration, hospitals, physicians, foster parents, and court appointed attorneys are included. It is not uncommon for a hospital to bill AHCCCS (Medicaid) a million dollars a year on one child.

First, there are a many stories of medical kidnapping in Phoenix that are publicly available. We will highlight a few of the many.

Escape to Mexico to Avoid Medical Kidnapping



Norma Bracamontes with daughter Emily in Mexico. Photo courtesy [KSWT 13 News](#).

In a 2012 story that was covered in the [national mainstream](#)

[media](#), Norma and Luis Bracamontes' 11-year daughter, who had been diagnosed with leukemia, was being treated at Phoenix Children's Hospital (PCH). But while she was in the hospital, she developed a serious infection in her arm that caused her arm to be amputated. The parents became very concerned about the kind of treatment she was receiving, especially when doctors inserted a catheter into her heart.

However, PCH would not allow the parents to take their daughter to another hospital. So in an action that was captured on the hospital's security camera and broadcast to the whole country via the mainstream media, Norma took her daughter into a bathroom, removed her IV, and walked out of the hospital with her daughter. You can watch the original report on [NBCLatino here](#).

Phoenix police searched for the girl and her mother, stating that the girl's life was in extreme danger, and that she would die if she was not returned to the hospital.

However, the parents stated just the opposite. They stated the hospital was already responsible for her losing her arm, and they were concerned their daughter's life was in extreme danger if they continued to allow PCH to hold their daughter. So they escaped to Mexico.

Once safe in Mexico, the mother and daughter appeared to the media to prove that the daughter was safe, and that she was getting better in the care of her Mexican doctors. You can watch the interview on [the Today Show here](#). They were also interviewed by the local media on [KSWT News 13 here](#), where the mother explains that PCH would not release the daughter unless she applied for health insurance.

The parents action, while quite possibly saving the child's

life, resulted in them becoming criminals and fugitives in Phoenix, as local police there say they face arrest for “child endangerment and abuse.”

Using Psychological Diagnosis of Parent to Seize Children



Rachel Sparks had her children removed even when a report stated they should be returned.

In a report covered by 3TV in Phoenix in 2012, Rachel Sparks had her son snatched right from her arms from CPS due to a psychological diagnosis and drugs her doctor had prescribed to her. Her doctor made a mistake in prescribing a dose too high, which landed her in the hospital. She was alleged to be unfit to care for her autistic son, so they took him away from her. Her son became suicidal in foster care, missing his mother so much.

There was no evidence of Rachel abusing or not being able to care for her children. So when months turned into years, 3TV in Phoenix got involved. They uncovered internal documents with the CPS showing that a team of specialists wrote: “There are no risk factors at this time as client has met her

goals above and beyond showing strength and stability in safe parenting.” Yet, he was not returned until a year and half later, after an attorney picked up the case pro bono and obtained a court order to have him returned.

For Sparks, it has been a long and painful journey.

“It’s scary – I’m still scared,” she said. “Not that I’ve done anything wrong but that this can happen to regular people.”

Still Sparks says she’s a survivor – and so are her kids.

“My kids are my life,” she tells us. “They are the reason I am living.”

Read the [full story and watch the video here](#).

Video no longer available.

The Arizona 5 – Heal Your Kids Naturally and You Lose Them

"Andy Wakefield is a symbol of strength and conviction that all parents of children with autism can use to fight for truth and the best lives possible for their kids."

—JENNY McCARTHY

WAGING WAR *on the* AUTISTIC CHILD



The Arizona 5 and the Legacy of
Baron von Münchhausen

ANDREW J. WAKEFIELD

To understand some of the rationale behind the medical industry and the development of new drugs, one must understand that modern medicine is dependent to a large extent on the field of genetics. This is the “new frontier” in drugs. Therefore, to present the cure or remedy to a disease based on environmental causes, such as toxins in our environment, is a threat to this theory. It suggests there are natural, not patent-able, non-pharmaceutical solutions outside of the drug industry. (See: [Genetics Research Fraud: Your Genes do NOT Determine Your Health.](#))

When the source of the toxins causing sickness is a pharmaceutical product to begin with, like a vaccine, then there is a double threat to the powerful pharmaceutical industry.

There is probably no field of modern medicine so contentious and so full of fraud as the field of vaccines and autism. (See: [Vaccine Scandals and Criminal Cases Increase in 2014.](#))

In 2010 when a family of five children who were all diagnosed with autism began to see improvement in their children using natural remedies and diet, they had their children taken away from them by CPS at the order of doctors at PCH.

Dr. Andrew Wakefield became aware of the family while giving a lecture in Phoenix in 2010, and became so interested in their case that he wrote a book about them: *Waging War on the Autistic Child: The Arizona 5 and the Legacy of Baron von Munchausen* (Skyhorse Publishing). Here is an excerpt from the introduction to the book:

As the number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders grows each year, new discoveries and controversies arise. Andrew Wakefield explores many of these in his thorough investigation of the recent trial case of the “Arizona 5,” which destroyed an Arizona family. Two parents, with five children on the spectrum, were accused of Münchhausen syndrome by proxy—a rare form of child abuse—and were ganged up on by physicians, child protective services, and the courts, who alleged that the parents fabricated medical symptoms in all five children. However, Wakefield now presents ample evidence that was disregarded and which would have proven the parents’

innocence.

Families affected by autism suffer great hardship and prejudice, particularly as they navigate the uncertain waters of diagnosis, treatment, and education. The shocking story of the Arizona 5 family delves into the tremendous challenges some parents have to face, especially if their views on how to treat the syndrome don't align with the medical world's standards. Wakefield also includes numerous studies and research trials that support the controversial yet significant roles that vaccines and diet play in autism, factors many medical professionals wrongfully dismiss.

To watch an interview with Dr. Wakefield and family members, [go here](#).

Video no longer available.

Using the Field of Psychology to Kidnap Children at PCH

In almost every single case of medical kidnapping we have covered here at Health Impact News, a psychologist or psychiatrist is used to justify removing the children from the parents. And this seems to be especially true with PCH as well.

One person from Arizona told us that PCH uses an out-of-state psychologist that is not licensed in Arizona to come in and review cases where children are removed from parents. This is what they told us about the procedure PCH uses to medically kidnap children:

In Arizona when a physician or hospital commits a medical mistake there is a well planned procedural process that takes place immediately.

The child is immediately moved to a special room within the hospital. The special room is wired for audio and video with the capacity to pick up sounds and visuals from every angle except the bathroom. The child is recorded 24/7 or until they develop enough circumstantial evidence to make accusations that the mother has done something to or with the child.

Then the physicians have the hospital social worker call CPS and state, "it is not in the child's best interest to return home with the mother as it will impede the child's recovery".

CPS then comes to the hospital and takes control of the child and the parent is forbidden from seeing the child.

Then Dr. Kathryn Coffman who works for the hospital and the doctors that called in to CPS and Brenda Bursch PhD., who subcontracts with the state of Arizona, begin an extensive review of the medical records, "but" not all of the medical records. "Only" medical records that draw a picture that mother possibly did something to the child. This is not evidence but only pure conjecture. The court never is told the true condition of the child. That is hidden and exculpatory evidence is hidden as well.

It is my understanding that Brenda Bursch PhD. is on at least 12 cases like this in Arizona. She is an out-of-state psychologist that is not licensed in Arizona but is allowed to practice here for 20 days each year.

It is unethical for a psychologist to wear more than one hat on a case. Not so in Arizona! I attempted to file complaints

with the California Psychology Board. They sort of snickered and said that she is not doing anything wrong in California so it is none of their concern.

I and multiple other parents and citizens filed complaints with the Arizona Psychology Board. The Arizona Attorney General's Office blocked those complaints saying that she is not licensed in Arizona so they have no jurisdiction. There were at least five complaints that I know of and all were blocked. I am attaching a "white paper" I did to demonstrate the number of hats out-of-state psychologists wear here in Arizona on these cases. The state picks them up at the airport and transports them to their hotel and to and from court proceedings at no charge. (Possibly a gift of state funds and possibly tampering with a witness to draw sympathy or share information.)

Here is a list of inappropriate ways the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services branch, contracts and uses "out-of-state" psychologists:

- These "out-of-state" psychologists are not licensed in Arizona.
- These "out-of-state" psychologists are not accountable in the state of Arizona to the Arizona Psychology Board.
- These "out-of-state" psychologists are not accountable in the state they are licensed in because their valid actions and inappropriate actions happen inside of Arizona and not in their home states.

- These “out-of-state” psychologists are not contracted through the normal bidding process.
- These “out-of-state” psychologist’s contracts are not available on the Arizona Procurement site and have to be specifically requested.
- These “out-of-state” psychologists are not fingerprinted in Arizona or background check by Arizona.
- These “out-of-state” psychologists do not have to follow the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) nor the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); even though it is in their contract with the State of Arizona.
- These “out-of-state” psychologists unethically wear more than one “hat” simultaneously;
 - Evaluator
 - Expert Witness
 - Consultant to the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services
 - Consultant to the Arizona Attorney General’s Office
 - Coordinator of Services and Treatment
 - Treatment Consultant
 - Trainer to Providers

- Consultant to Provider Agencies Providing Services in the same case

- CPS workers take these confidential Parent Psychological Evaluations completed by “out-of-state” psychologists and share them with their children, spouses, family members, inmates, and others without the knowledge of the person evaluated or the permission of the person evaluated. Clear violations of ethics, confidentiality and the law.

Governor Jan Brewer’s Role?

In January of 2014 Arizona Governor Janice Brewer completely abolished the state’s Child Protection Agency via an executive order. In its place, she appointed all funds to be handled by her own representative, [Charles Flanagan](#). Mr. Flangan became the director of the “Division of Child Safety and Family Services.” The reason given for abolishing CPS was that there were 6,500 abuse and neglect cases filed that were not properly investigated.

So now Gov. Brewer has complete control of the agency that is responsible for these medical kidnappings. Is she part of the solution, or part of the problem?

The victims of the system claim she is part of the problem, not the solution. She has allegedly never responded to any of the complaints from families who have requested help after having their children seized by medical authorities via an out-of-state psychologist who is not even licensed in Arizona.

Today, Arizona has by far the highest rate of children removed from their homes and placed in foster care of any other state in the U.S. While most other states in the U.S. are seeing declines in foster care placements, Arizona is seeing the biggest percentage of increase among U.S. states. Over the past decade, Arizona had the second-largest increase in the nation, adding 7,296 children. Texas, with 4 times the population, had the most with 8,294. ([Source.](#))

Children Abducted for Drug Trials?

Some parents, such as Melissa Diegel, have spoken out against what they see are medical experimentations on their children as part of drug trials to develop new drugs. As we have reported previously in our coverage of the Diegel family situation, just prior to the state taking custody of the two Diegel sisters, they were examined by several different doctors at PCH, all in the field of genetics. It was during this time that the girls were diagnosed with “congenital disorder of glycosylation” (CDG).

Unknown to the parents at the time, there was funding and drug trials going on for this rare condition. The glycosylation drug trial through NHGRI/ TGEN opened up on March 14th, 2014, just 3 weeks before the two Phoenix sisters were medically kidnapped.

As we reported above, drug trials and new drug development today are dependent on genetic research. In this area, Arizona is a leader. The new Translational Genomics Research Institute is in downtown Phoenix. You can see the [board of directors here](#), which includes Arizona governor Jan Brewer and Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton.

In addition, PCH just [announced this month](#) that billionaire

doctor Patrick Soon-Shiong had joined Phoenix Children's Hospital to open a new "Groundbreaking Pediatric Genomic Research and Translational Precision Medicine Institute." [Forbes](#) calls Dr. Soon-Shiong "the richest doctor who ever lived."

It would seem they need plenty of new patients in pediatrics for drug trials for all this new research to have any "success."

Parents Terrorized from Speaking Out

As we mentioned earlier, when children are abducted and placed into the foster care system via family court, the parents are threatened, and usually hit with gag orders against speaking out. This was done to Melissa Diegel a couple of weeks ago. When Health Impact News first reported her story, gathered from facts collected by an [advocacy group](#) which started a [Facebook Page](#), the court [ordered her to tell us to take down our story](#).

We did not. As the story stayed up and went viral, we started hearing from others with very similar stories, particularly from Arizona. We will begin to document them and publish them on our new website, MedicalKidnap.com. The website is still under construction, but if anyone wants to tell us their story [they can contact us here](#).

Just before the court ordered Melissa to take down her Facebook Page and all social media regarding her children and her fight to expose what was happening at PCH, she was interviewed on [blogtalkradio.com](#). Here is an excerpt we extracted from the interview, and we are sure it is a message she wants all of America to hear, a message certain people are trying hard to suppress:

<https://youtu.be/ltvHV9KyD9Y>

You can listen to the [full interview here](#).

[GoFundMe](#) – To help Melissa with her legal fees in fighting to get her children back!

Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion



Tonya Brown with Adopted Son Christopher

Health Impact News Editor Comments

Medical professionals taking children away from parents over disagreements on conventional cancer treatments are, sadly, not new stories in the U.S. Last we reported on the case of 10-year-old [Sarah Hershberger](#) in Ohio who was suffering from leukemia. She was getting worse on chemotherapy, and begged her parents to take her off of the drugs that she and her parents believed were killing her. When the state awarded custody of her to a nurse who was

an employee of the hospital, the parents took her out of the country where she received alternative treatments, and recovered.

The cancer industry in the U.S. is one of the most lucrative medical markets, with one out of every three people in the U.S. expected to have a cancer diagnosis within their lifetime. It is a multi-billion dollar industry, and one that just cannot afford a “cure for cancer” to exist and put hundreds of thousands of people out of work. Hence, any alternative to the “approved” FDA drugs is vigorously attacked and opposed, driving many of the best non-toxic cancer therapies south of the border into Mexico.

To read more about how the cancer industry does not allow cures, and find a list of effective “unapproved” alternative cancer therapies, see our exposes (also available as free eBooks):

[The Cancer Industry is Too Prosperous to Allow a Cure](#)

[Unapproved but Effective Cancer Cures](#)

[Phoenix Children’s Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion on Dangerous Cancer Treatment](#)

by **Terri LaPoint**
Health Impact News

Tonya Brown is “just a mom who is in love with her kid,” adorable 8-year-old Christopher Reign Brown. Because Tonya questioned a very risky, painful procedure for her son, Tonya reports that his doctor at Phoenix Children’s Hospital

enlisted Child Protective Services to take him away from her custody.

If the doctor has her way, Tonya could lose her beloved child forever in the upcoming hearings to permanently sever her parental rights later this month – all because a mother wanted to try less invasive options for her son before going to a treatment that carries sizable risks.

Tonya and Christopher's Story: Rare Leukemia Diagnosis

On September 23, 2011, Tonya received the devastating news that no parent ever wants to hear – her child has leukemia. Specifically, he was diagnosed with CML, chronic myeloid leukemia, a cancer that is extremely rare in children.

Chronic myeloid leukemia is considered an older person's disease. It was reportedly in stage 2, the accelerated phase. Christopher's doctor, Dr. Jessica Boklan, recommended 12 weeks of oral chemotherapy, followed by a bone marrow transplant. Tonya agreed to the chemo, which began immediately, but had reservations from the start about the bone marrow transplant.

Research and Questioning Risky Procedure

Tonya is the former HR director for *Sky Mall*, the magazine in the seat backs on airplanes. She is no stranger to researching information that she needs to find. What she learned about the only treatment option the hospital was prescribing was not reassuring.

Besides being a very painful procedure, there was no guarantee with the bone marrow procedure. Even with a

matched donor from a close relative, there is risk of the body rejecting the bone marrow. But in this case, the transplant would require an unrelated, mismatched donor. There are no blood relatives available, because Christopher was born and orphaned in Guatemala. Tonya adopted him when he was a toddler. According to medical research discovered by Tonya, with no family matching donor, Christopher only had a 20% chance at success with this type of bone marrow transplant.

Treating a Sick Adopted Child, and Seeing Healing

Tonya says she fell in love with Christopher from the moment she laid eyes on him, and she knew that she was destined to be his mommy. When she first learned about him, his development was severely delayed, and there was brain damage. As she made preparations for his adoption, Tonya sought the best medical treatment options available in the United States.

Besides lining up some of the best medical care available, she enlisted friends and family to pray for a miracle.

And it happened! A brain scan later showed the damage was no longer present. Christopher began catching up and walking. His countenance changed. He was whole.

Disagreeing with Doctors

With that kind of miracle in his background, it was only logical for Tonya and Christopher to turn to their faith when hearing the diagnosis of leukemia, expecting the same kind of healing again. Like millions of other parents, Tonya Brown researched options, followed the doctor's directions, and prayed.

Christopher responded better than many to the chemo treatments, but still they made him very sick. He begged his mother to stop making him take the chemo.

As the time approached for the bone marrow transplant, Tonya made the decision to have Christopher delay with going through the risk, and what others had described as agonizing pain associated with the procedure, until they tried other, less invasive options first. She wanted the perilous bone marrow transplant to be the last resort.

After 10 weeks of chemo, Tonya stopped the treatment. At home, she began juicing, and treating him with a strict diet that has been recommended for cancer. She used nutritional treatments, and they prayed and believed God for healing.

Christopher Improved with Alternative Treatments for 18 Months

Shortly after that, Tonya reports that Child Protective Services called her and they played phone tag for a couple of weeks. Then, the calls stopped. Tonya and Christopher went on with their lives.

He reportedly got better. During the next 18 months, they went on vacations; he went to school; they went to birthday parties. They did missions outreaches. Pictures from that period show a happy little boy who obviously loves his family and friends. They lived life, and Tonya continued the dietary and nutritional treatments, and prayer.

CPS Visits and Finds a Well Boy at Home



After a year and a half, Tonya explains that Arizona CPS suddenly showed up at her home. Dr. Boklan had allegedly told them that there was a child whose mother took him out of treatment, and they would likely find either a dead child or a boy on his deathbed.

They found neither. Christopher happily bounced around to show the worker his room and his stuff. They showed her around the house. All in all, the visit seemed to go well.

Nine days later, in June of 2013, Tonya took him back in to Phoenix Children's. She reports that he was just beginning to show signs of a relapse – losing his appetite and bloating of his abdomen. Those were the same signs that had appeared before. Tonya knew that she had done everything she could do, and it was time to seek help.

A Return to the Hospital – Cancer Now Only Stage 1

When she took him in, Dr. Boklan expressed her displeasure at Tonya removing Christopher from treatment the year before. A bone marrow aspiration test was ordered. At the time of the original diagnosis, that test showed that 16% of his cells had cancer. This time, without the medical treatment that the doctors wanted, the new test showed that only 6% of his cells had leukemia. The tests showed that his leukemia was in the chronic phase, or stage 1.

Dr. Boklan insisted that treatment must begin that night. CPS was at the hospital when she came, saying they were there to ensure that Christopher got any necessary treatment. They assured Tonya that they were not there to take her son. When Tonya asked for a second opinion about the treatment, which she considered to be her due diligence as a concerned parent, she was denied. She agreed to allow him to be treated, because the cancer was back.

Hospital and CPS Seize Custody – Mother Denied Visitation

CPS was allegedly prepared to close the case when she agreed to chemo. However, Dr. Boklan insisted that they keep the case open. At her request, CPS put an anklet on Christopher to keep him on the floor of the hospital. After 20 days, Tonya says she was ordered to leave the hospital. Christopher was taken from her custody on June 25, 2013, in spite of the fact that his mother says she had agreed to all his treatments.

The alleged charges against Tonya were:

1. Medical abuse/neglect, because she kept him out of treatment for 18 months.
2. She is psychologically unable to make the right medical decisions because of her delusional religious beliefs (she believes in prayer and healing).

Christopher has been placed in a foster home, where they plan to adopt him, despite the fact that he has a mother who loves him and wants him back. CPS and the hospital have petitioned to sever all of Tonya's parental rights. She has not been permitted to see him since January 31, and the last time she spoke to her son was May 5.

Since the time that he was taken away from his mother, Dr. Boklan scheduled a bone marrow transplant, which took place in March. Tonya credits God with the fact that Christopher's body has not rejected the marrow from an unrelated, mismatched donor. She says that she learned that there is an 80% chance that, given those circumstances, his body could have rejected the transplant and he could have been very ill as a result. She is thankful that he overcame

those odds.

Doctor has Research Ties to Rare Leukemia

Dr. Jessica Boklan considers herself, per her testimony in court, to be the world's leading authority on CML leukemia. She has an impressive resume of research studies that she has co-authored or is participating in at present, most involving children, cancer, and drugs.

Tonya Brown reports that, from the beginning of her son's diagnosis, Dr. Boklan has pushed for her to enter Christopher into a research study. Children with his disease are allegedly extremely rare, and much prized for their value in research.

Tonya refused to give her consent for experimental research. She told *Health Impact News* that during every doctor's visit, Boklan would demand that she allow Christopher to participate in studies, asking, "Have you signed those papers yet?"

Children who are Wards of the State May be Used in Drug Trials

Now that Christopher is a ward of the state, the doctor is free to do medical research on him without his mother's knowledge or consent. Like Justina Pelletier, Isaiah Rider, the Deigel sisters, baby Kathryn, and countless other children who have been allegedly medically kidnapped, doctors are legally permitted to use little Christopher as a research subject, which many parents compare to using "lab rats" in scientific studies.

A recent bipartisan bill in Congress seeks to stop these

medical experimentations on children who are wards of the state (See: [“Justina’s Law” Seeks to End Experimental Medical Research on Children Seized by Child Protection Services.](#))

Despite Tonya’s efforts to get her son back, the system seems determined to defeat her. She reports there are documents that have been left out of the records, and there are medical records that have been changed. Although CPS has reportedly submitted the “full case file,” the record is allegedly missing the favorable CPS visit made to Tonya’s home nine days before his relapse.

Medical Records Allegedly Changed to Justify Taking Custody Away from Mother

Though medical records are not supposed to be changed, the records from Christopher’s hospital visit on June 6, 2013, have allegedly been altered. *Health Impact News* has obtained two allegedly different copies of the records from that day from the mother. The records have the time and date stamp of when they were faxed. The first copy was faxed on June 10 by a Phoenix Children’s Hospital caseworker to CPS. Apparently, that fact was missed, and the same documents were faxed by the records department of the hospital on July 18. Both bear the same date of entry. However, a number of changes were made. The following is just one of the changes.

On the June 10 version, a statement reads, “S/p Bone Marrow on 6/7 which demonstrated Christopher is in Chronic phase.”

The July 18 version states, “S/p Bone Marrow aspirate and biopsy on 6/7 which demonstrated Christopher is in RELAPSE after partially treated Accelerated Phase.”

The Chronic phase is phase 1 of CML leukemia, and the Accelerated phase is phase 2. The original report allegedly shows that Christopher's leukemia improved after the 18 months without conventional treatment, because he was in the Accelerated phase when he was first diagnosed. According to testimony by Dr. Boklan that she reportedly gave to court, that cannot happen. It is impossible, she told the judge, for leukemia to go from stage 2 to stage 1 without standard treatment. It appears that the records have been altered to substantiate the doctors' claims.

Are Constitutional Religious Freedom Rights Being Violated in some Medical Kidnapping Cases?

Tonya is accused of medical neglect for removing her son from traditional treatment. [Health Impact News reported last year](#) that a young Ohio girl's parents acted similarly to Tonya Brown, stopping Sarah Hershberger's chemo treatment for her cancer in favor of more natural treatments. Doctors at Akron Children's Hospital alleged medical neglect by her Amish parents and filed for the state to take custody of the child. The parents fled the U.S. to avoid having their young daughter taken away. Doctors reported the girl would soon die without treatment. However, many months later the girl was doing fine, and reportedly had tested cancer-free.

Another similarity between the Hershberger case and Tonya's is that their faith was called into question. Freedom of religion is one of the most cherished of American values, yet there seems to be an unconstitutional addendum added in recent years, specifying that freedom of religion may only exist as long as it does not interfere with medical dogma. Any religious belief that challenges the doctrine of "the doctor knows best" is thrown out as heresy, and violators are

now subject to their children being seized by the state.

Psychologists Hostile to Religious Beliefs

A common denominator that has been noted in a number of medical kidnap cases at Phoenix Children's Hospital is the use of a psychologist to come in and review cases in which children are removed from parents. In Tonya's case, the psychologist allegedly trampled her traditional Christian beliefs and used them against her, reportedly saying that she "continues to cling steadfastly to her bizarre religious beliefs," calling her faith "delusional," and questioning her ability to make right decisions in the future.

However, in these cases the parents had been following prescribed medical treatment, and were simply asking for second opinions, while incorporating prayer and their faith as part of the overall treatment protocol.

Based on this alleged psychological assessment that religious beliefs preclude someone from making sound treatment decisions for their child, every parent in the country who prays to God to heal their sick child is at risk of having their child taken away by medical authorities simply for practicing their religion. However, no law or government gives any doctor or psychologist the right to demand that parents not believe in God or pray for their child. The demand would be met with mass non-compliance if it were enacted.

That psychological assessment should have no bearing on Tonya's case, if the judge in Arizona decides to show the good sense demonstrated by Judge John Lohn in the case of Sarah Hershberger:

“The court cannot deprive these parents of their right to make medical decisions for their daughter because there is not a scintilla of evidence showing the parents are unfit.”
([Source.](#))

Mother in Danger of Losing Permanent Custody

Tonya is a mom who wants desperately to be reunited with the little boy that she sacrificed everything for to go rescue from a group home in Guatemala. He is reportedly a well-loved little boy, who was very happy when he lived with his mother.



Tonya Brown and her son Christopher.

Christopher Brown's situation is very perilous at this point. A family stands ready to adopt him if Tonya's parental rights are severed. There are two final hearings, on November 14 and 21, during which a judge could return her son back to Tonya, or she could lose him forever. Everything is reportedly riding on those two hearings.

An advocacy group has put up a Facebook Page to share news on Tonya and Christopher's plight: [FreeChristopher](#)

UPDATE: The family has called for a Press Conference and Rally at the Courthouse this Friday:



Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead



Lisa Meltzer with son Joey.

Health Impact News Editor Comments

Another child in Arizona taken away from a loving parent by doctors and CPS ! What is going on in Arizona?

We have [previously reported](#) that Arizona has the highest percentage of children being removed from homes and put into foster care of any state in the U.S. The situation is so bad, that [KPHO CBS5 in Arizona](#) is reporting that babies and small children are sleeping in Social Services' offices, since there are not enough foster care centers and homes to take care of them.

Are we really to believe that Arizona has up to 10 times more abusive families in their state than any other state in America? Or is something more sinister going on?

Joey Kangaroo's Mom Asked For Help For Special Needs Son – Arizona CPS Took Him Away

by Terri LaPoint
Health Impact News

Caring for a Child with Apert Syndrome

Lisa Meltzer is an Arizona mom of a special needs little boy – affectionately known as Joey Kangaroo – whom she “loves so much it takes [her] breath away.”

Joey has Apert syndrome, a genetic disorder in which the bones of his skull and face prematurely fused, requiring many surgeries and hospitalizations. The job of caring for a child with Aperts is very intensive, requiring constant care.

State Takes Child Away – Wants to Sever All Parental Rights

When Lisa and Joey got violently ill at the same time with a stomach flu, she asked for help. She naively thought that the state could help her in her time of greatest need. Instead, they have not only taken him from her custody, but they have also severed all her parental rights. Arizona is allegedly trying to adopt him out. Lisa is appealing the decision.

She wants her baby boy home! So does the rest of the family.

How A Loving Mother Learned how to Care for her Special Needs Child



Joey at birth – image provided by mother.

Joey Kangaroo was born in 2012 as the youngest of five

children. People told Lisa that he would be scary-looking, but that is not what his mommy saw at all. “He is really cute,” she thought. Though he spent much of his infancy in the hospital because of his medical needs, Lisa says that she “immediately bonded with Joey.”

She met the challenges, and got the special training required to take care of him. She taught him to take a bottle and to roll over, things that she had been told may never happen. Joey experienced a number of seizures and would sometimes stop breathing. A tracheostomy tube was inserted in his neck, which requires special care. His doctor told Lisa that she needed to “physically watch him 24/7 or his trach could get plugged and he would die.” Even simple car trips were complicated. Two trained people were always required for every car trip, due to possible complications with the trach. Lisa often had nursing help, but obviously the intensity of his care and concern for his safety was exhausting.

Mother gets Sick – Calls for Help

None of the nursing help ended up being around when she needed them the most. She and Joey both caught a stomach virus at the same time. His father was not in the picture much by this time, and did not help. A friend came over and they called an ambulance for Joey. Lisa was too sick to even go with her baby to the hospital.

She was still extremely sick several hours later when a nurse from Phoenix Children’s Hospital called for her to pick him up. While Lisa made arrangements to have trained people bring him home in her stead, the hospital called CPS. Only a parent could sign discharge papers, so they had to wait for him to arrive. By the time CPS arrived, Joey’s father and five other friends and family were there. The nurse was reportedly overheard telling CPS that Lisa didn’t want Joey,

but what she claims she said was that she was too sick to come and needed time to make arrangements. Big difference.

Joey came home that day, but CPS got involved, offering to put him in temporary foster care, so that Lisa could build more of a support system and get more people trained to help with Joey's demanding care. Lisa tells *Health Impact News* that she actually thought they were the good guys, offering to help. She had always believed, up until that point, that they removed abused children from bad homes, and that they also provided resources to help good families who love their children but need some assistance. She now deeply regrets her miscalculation.

CPS Puts Joey in Foster Home



Joey happy in his mother's care.

CPS put Joey Kangaroo in a temporary foster home. His mother agreed to release care of him while she worked to build her support system, connected with other parents of children with Apert syndrome, enlisted lots of backup care, and worked on her plan to make all things ready for bringing her little boy back home. It was a non-abuse case, and reunification was the promised goal. That is what she claims she was told.

But she says that isn't what happened at all.

When Lisa got everything in place, ready to bring little Joey home, a new CPS case manager arrived on the scene. That is when everything changed. It was a new plan, with new rules.

Despite the fact that Lisa has “collected a small army of people to be backup care for Joey in case [she] get[s] sick,” the case worker has not called any of them or allowed any of them to be trained. Lisa's mother and sister have documented training from nearby Hacienda care facility, but the case worker reportedly testified in court that Lisa has made no effort to find a single person to help with Joey. They have not even been permitted visitation to see their grandson/nephew.

Lisa believes the goal of CPS changed from professed reunification to termination of parental rights after the new case worker became involved. This move has reportedly puzzled Joey's guardian ad litem, who does not understand why she wanted parental rights severed.

Psychologist Used to Sever Parental Rights

“Her weaknesses are that she gets overwhelmed and frustrated,” according to Dr. Silberman, the psychologist

who works for CPS. He later allegedly labeled these “personality limitations.” Though she has never been charged with, or even accused of abuse, he reportedly testified that she might accidentally hurt him or give up in the future.

So of course, the obvious recommendation that he allegedly made was that Joey be permanently removed from the mother who carried him in her womb until his premature birth at 34 weeks, who bore him, and nursed him through major difficulties, and who loves him more than life itself.

Another family, unrelated to the child, to CPS and Silberman’s way of thinking, is apparently better suited to take care of this adorable, but incredibly high needs child. Are Lisa and the family to believe that no foster mom would get “overwhelmed and frustrated” with a high needs child she didn’t have the benefit of bonding with from birth and before, in the womb?

Apparently equally ill-considered by these “experts” is the effect on the child of being separated from his mother and family who love him, and being thrust into the care of strangers. Separation of a child from his parents is extremely traumatic on any child, yet the Arizona CPS seems to be utterly disregarding that well-established psychological principle.

Mother Fights for Parental Rights in Arizona



Lisa Meltzer at a recent rally for parental rights in Arizona.

Lisa Meltzer's parental rights were severed in June. CPS is talking about having Joey adopted by another family. Lisa is in the midst of the appeals process. It has been four months since she has been allowed to see her baby boy. To a baby not yet three years old, four months is an eternity. He has siblings who also love him and miss him terribly.

Lisa doesn't understand how a request for help could have turned into CPS taking her child from her forever.

"Parents shouldn't be shamed and punished for asking for help."

The CPS system in Arizona is fraught with problems. Lisa says the whole system is like a nightmare. She has tried to

speak with Gov. Jan Brewer's office. They told her that they cannot look into the case or get involved. She was also told that there are no "checks and balances" with judges and CPS in Arizona.

Parental Rights Abused in Arizona Court

During the termination of rights hearings, her court-appointed attorney reportedly did not call a single witness on the family's behalf, although there were many ready to speak out on behalf of her and Joey.

On August 13, Lisa reports that she went to a court hearing on Joey's case. The Attorney General allegedly said that she didn't want her to be there, so the judge declared it a closed hearing. Lisa says when she resisted, because this was her son they were discussing, the judge had her thrown out of the courtroom.

The deputy's alleged words to her protest are chilling, demonstrating a lack of respect for Constitutional principles. He allegedly told her that the judge was "above the law."

"In his courtroom, he can do whatever he wants."

Lisa feels she is caught in this cruel crossfire between innocent parents and children. Parents are caught in a catch-22, according to Lisa, where they "want to protect our kids, but we're not allowed to."

"The love I have for my son is so deep. I hope he knows how much he is wanted and loved." Lisa writes, "I love him just the way he is! It doesn't matter who he is, I will always love

Joey and be there for him no matter what! He is beautiful!”

It is to be hoped that Joey Kangaroo can indeed be returned to his own loving flesh-and-blood family. But it is not going to be easy. There is a Facebook page set up to follow Joey’s story called “[Joey Kangaroo Meltzer Apert Syndrome.](#)”

Why is the Arizona "Family Advocate" Threatening People Asking About Children in State Custody?



Maria Hoffman

Image from [Arizona State University website](#). (Page has now been removed apparently.)

Brian Shilhavy
Health Impact News Editor

Maria Hoffman carries the title “Director of the Arizona Legislative Office of Family Advocacy.” The photo above is from the 2011 Awards Gala – 7th Annual Arizona Behavioral Health Awards. She is listed in the program under “Leader of Advocacy.” The description of the [Gala Awards program is found here](#). Here is the description written about Maria Hoffman:

Maria Hoffman is the Director of the Arizona Legislative Office of Family Advocacy. Under contract to the President of the Arizona Senate and the Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives, and working for all ninety members of the legislature, Ms. Hoffman is the only person at the legislature who handles CPS constituent issues directly and with the Attorney General’s Office. ([Source](#).)

The statement “Ms. Hoffman is the only person at the legislature who handles CPS constituent issues directly and with the Attorney General’s Office” apparently means that parents who have questions about why the state seizes custody of their children can only be answered by Maria Hoffman, a contractor and not an elected official who is under contract with the Arizona legislature. Those elected to represent the parents and families, have to defer all questions regarding Department of Child Safety (DCS – formerly CPS) taking children away from families to her.

There are some very obvious problems with this according to parents we have spoken to. First, they would claim Maria Hoffman is no advocate at all, but rather works for the judges who order children to be taken away from parents,

often through medical kidnappings in which parents disagree with doctors about the treatment of their child. They claim that if anyone dares to ask any questions about how CPS/DCS works and why Arizona is taking more children away from parents than any other state in the U.S., they are threatened with arrest and being put in jail for daring to question a judge's order. This allegedly includes legislators as well.

Kristi Devine, who does not even live in Arizona but lives in Massachusetts, is part of a team trying to help one mother get her daughters back. She sent an email to Ms. Hoffman this week confronting her on this practice which strips all rights away from parents and their elected officials. *Health Impact News* was given a copy of the email (several media outlets were copied in the original email) and Ms. Hoffman's reply. Ms. Hoffman threatened Kristi Devine with jail time and fines, even though she doesn't live in Arizona! Here is a full copy of the email exchange:

From: Kristi Devine

Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 12:28 PM

To: Maria Hoffman

Subject: Urgent Matter

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

In accordance with any number of emails you have sent out, you are THE liaison between "... all 'children and family issues' for all members of the Arizona Senate." You go on to say that "the people" have no right to petition legislators in the state of Arizona for anything unless they have a premonition of what is to happen, because, according to you, once anything egregious happens, there is no recourse to

petition legislators as it is in the courts. That begs the question, why do you have any such job function when there is nothing to that job, and all people are shut down before they have reason to petition legislators?

I also question your job function in the wake of the fact that now, and long before, Arizona has had unbelievable and unconscionable problems with it's CPS/DCF agency. They have been funded hundreds of millions of dollars to care for the children in their system, and yet nobody is held accountable for anything, most especially, wrongdoing that amounts to child abuse in state custody. WHO do "the people" petition their grievances to for the following when children in Arizona are being kidnapped by the state, by the very agency the Governor saw fit to abolish because it is so out of control?

CPS is breaking their own rules every single day in ways that are destroying families throughout the state, and causing far reaching and long lasting damages to Arizona's most important, and most vulnerable, the children . . . Arizona's and America's future! Moreover, THEY ARE BREAKING ARIZONA'S LAWS!!!

- 1. CPS never filled the oversight panel.*
- 2. CPS is not following their own laws such as holding a trial within 90 days.*
- 3. Children are being abused while under the state's care.*
- 4. Arizona is taking so many children right now that there is no room to house them and they are sleeping in CPS offices. (This is stated to be over 32 children a day!)*
- 5. Parents are screaming foul play as rights are being terminated without trials.*
- 6. Out of state (unlicensed in this state), specialists are being hired to testify against parents at the taxpayers expense.*
- 7. Children are being entered into drug trials, being starved without their feeding tubes and forced to have bone marrow*

transplants by local hospitals.

8. Judges are teaching judges that money is more important than returning the children (so make sure you check the right box so that the state can get federal funds to rip children out of loving homes with no investigation or evidence before doing so!)

9. A billionaire scientist is behind a new super computer at Phoenix Children's hospital, which happens to be the hospital that is taking the most children in Arizona.

10. Arizona takes more children than any other state in the country.

11. Parents are gagged, and/or being threatened to be gagged, or arrested for speaking out on what is happening to their own families and children.

12. There are financial incentives to adopt children out, and away from their loving families.

13. Phoenix Children's Hospital gets \$865 every time they turn a child over to CPS.

The list goes on and on, and every citizen of Arizona's rights, most especially parental and free speech rights, is under attack. You are not only saying there is no recourse, but are even threatening JAIL for those that speak out, and seek recourse from our legislators, and JAIL for the legislators themselves:

Again, (you say) this is a judicial matter, a federal matter, and that is why no member of the Arizona Senate or a member of the Arizona House of Representatives or the governor can get involved—that would be against our Arizona Constitution regarding "separation of powers" and against our Arizona laws and a judge would have the right to have any elected official who tries to investigate or get involved to hold that person "in contempt of court". The fine for that could be jail time, a financial fine or a combination of the two.

And so I ask you, how do the people of Arizona speak out against wrongs and even government officials who are breaking the LAW, and how do they protect their children against the abuse and assault on them by these law breakers? What exactly do you suggest “we the people” to do in the face of such tyranny, government sanctioned kidnapping, and the destruction of families?

The Revolution was over Tea and Taxes. We seek more peaceful remedies over an assault far greater, i.e., an assault by the government on Families and Children. Please advise on how we may STOP this carnage. You seem to provide no options, and I still believe in AMERICA!

Sincerely,

Kristi L. Devine

Hoffman’s reply:

From: Maria Hoffman

To: Kristi Devine

Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 3:51 PM

Subject: RE: Urgent Matter

Ms. Devine: I am not a legislator—the 90 members of the Arizona Legislature—30 members of the Senate—and 60 members of the Arizona House of Representatives—make the laws.

If a bill passes out of both chambers, then the bill goes to the Governor. The Governor can veto the bill, sign the law or let it become a law without her signature.

The Legislature does not go back into session until the second

Monday of January and in most cases, the bills usually go up to the Governor between May to June, which means if the bill is to become law, then it usually won't take effect until September—in other words, September of 2015.

I do not make laws.

And, once a Superior Court Judge signs a motion/petition from the Attorney General's Office to place a child into state custody, if the Judge signs the motion/petition to place the child in state custody, then the child is in protective custody of the Judge.

Only a Superior Court Juvenile Judge can close a case and return a child to the parent(s) or sever the child from the parent(s) and decide who adopts.

Once any matter involves a Judge of any type—a City Magistrate, a JP, a Superior Court Judge, a Court of Appeals Judge, a Supreme Court Justice—NO elected official in Arizona at any level—and this includes the Governor, members of the Arizona Legislature, a Mayor, a member of a County Board of Supervisors, etc.—can intervene in, investigate or change a decision made by a Judge.

Our Arizona laws and our Arizona constitution do not allow any intervention of any kind or change of a judicial decision by an elected official—that would be against the law.

I want to advise you on another matter. You are putting in writing statements regarding a current Superior Court Judicial matter—you are in violation of the state law regarding stating confidential matters about a state dependency matter in Superior Court/Juvenile Division. You can be held in contempt of court by the Superior Court Judge

and a person doing this can be subject to a fine, jail time and/or a combination of the two.

Maria Hoffman

Ms. Devine's reply (in part):

With regard to your claim that “You are putting in writing statements regarding a current Superior Court Judicial matter—you are in violation of the state law regarding stating confidential matters about a state dependency matter in Superior Court/Juvenile Division. You can be held in contempt of court by the Superior Court Judge and a person doing this can be subject to a fine, jail time and/or a combination of the two.”, I seek clarification for how I, or others seeking answers and transparency could be found in contempt of court when we are neither under any unconstitutional gag order, or writing statements regarding any particular case currently in Superior Court, but rather, ALL cases where children have been unjustly taken from their loving families.

Others Claim Maria Hoffman Uses Intimidation Tactics

Since launching the MedicalKidnap.com website a few weeks ago, *Health Impact News* has had many parents and victims contact us regarding the actions of taking children away from parents in Arizona. We asked one of them about Hoffman's threatening response to Ms. Devine, and this is what they said:

Maria Hoffman is the funnel for all CPS issues. When the new legislature comes in this January, they will be warned and intimidated to funnel "all" CPS issues of any kind through her. She is the buffer to stop these issues.

She is used to taking away our representative form of government. When a Mom goes to her elected officials with anything to do with CPS the elected official immediately sends everything they are given to Maria Hoffman. Then Maria starts to confuse and gain the confidence of the Mom as if she was going to help the Mom.

It is difficult to find who she answers to or what her exact position is. Her contract is under 50k so there is no bidding process. You have to ask for her contract specifically from the Senate. Nothing goes through Arizona procurement.

Health Impact News also contacted someone who formerly worked in the Arizona Legislature and has had dealings with Ms. Hoffman in the past, to ask about some of the allegations made about Ms. Hoffman, and the threatening manner in which she addressed Ms. Devine. Here is what that person, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated:

As a representative of elected officials, she is standing in the way of accountability with elected officials and agencies. Hoffman threatens that Kristi and others who question her and the system are breaking state law and can be held in contempt, without backing it up by citing the law. Where is that "law"?

She is intimidating people with threats of contempt. But we don't need a lesson in government; we know how it works.

Where is the accountability for Hoffman? She is part of what appears to be a cover-up. She is acting as a barrier to truth and transparency. The system seems to be hiding something, but Hoffman is hindering those trying to learn what it is.

Is the agency being held accountable? Parents can't fight for themselves in this kangaroo court. Checks and balances are needed, and that IS the job of the legislative branch. The judges aren't elected.

Why Are These Judges Ordering So Many Children to be Taken into State Custody?



The evidence seems to point to the suggestion that Maria Hoffman is not a true family advocate serving the State Legislature at all, but rather a protector of the Family Court judges removing children from homes.

Why?

We have [reported previously](#) that judges have a very large financial motive to put as many children into foster care as they can. A video clip from the Arizona [Judicial Branch government website](#) from their *Dependency Video Series* training Family Court Judges on how to handle Dependency cases in family court, Judge Aimee Anderson and Judge Mark Brain of Maricopa County give a presentation that instructs judges how to handle cases brought to family court by CPS. Watch this 3 minute clip:

<https://youtu.be/KJjWyAZbUjo>

It appears from this video that the first concern of the family courts is not justice, but federal funding. Judge Brain makes it clear that if they do not remove the child from the parent immediately, they will lose federal funding. Quote:

If you are removing a child, in a Contrary to the Welfare finding, that order is mandatory. If you do not make that finding whenever you remove that child from a placement, you're forfeiting federal funds... The federal government says that if you did not make that (decision) right at the outset the first time through, you're not going to get any federal money for those services, ever... CPS is going to have a kid they cannot pay for.

As we have pointed out in another article ([The Medical Kidnap Business: Bilking Medicaid](#)), a child taken into state custody can have all of their medical care billed directly to Medicaid, and this alone represents an industry worth hundreds of millions of dollars nationwide. There are other funds also available for programs like foster care. Obviously, children with medical needs present the greatest amount of federal funds the state can receive per child.

So what if the child was removed unnecessarily? What if the child actually was NOT in danger with the parents? Is it the responsibility of the family court judge to find out?

Apparently not. Here is what Judge Brain said:

What happens then when a majority of the removal team under (section) 8-822 doesn't agree with the removal? Is the remedy to dismiss the dependency in these kinds of cases? (someone in the classroom can be heard on the video actually saying "Yes it is.")

My answer is "no." And the reason is that there are two ways to remove a child. CPS, yes, can go in and grab them... The second way is upon order of the court children can be removed.

Judge Brain makes it clear that his order even supersedes CPS if they are uncomfortable removing the child. If the parents don't like it, according to Judge Brain, they can fight it out in Civil Court and pay a lot of money.

So is this training video for judges in Arizona designed to carry out their oath and seek justice for protecting families, or to fill their quota of children that need to become wards of the state in order to receive federal funds to pay everyone's salaries and benefits? Is Maria Hoffman's job to protect these actions by the judges from inquiring minds in both the Arizona State Legislature and their constituents?

Legislators Need to Represent their Constituents – Oppose Maria Hoffman and the Family Court Judges!

If you live in Arizona, this is a great time to contact your state legislators, particularly those who may have just been elected and have not yet been sworn into office, and tell them to oppose Maria Hoffman and her intimidation techniques, according to the parents and victims who have contacted *Health Impact News*. MedicalKidnap.com exists as the voice for the parents and alleged victims who claim to have suffered at the hands of CPS/DCS, Family Court judges, and medical professionals who have taken children into custody at a higher rate than any other state in the nation. They are demanding justice. MedicalKidnap.com, and now many other media sources as well, will continue to publish their stories.

**[More Articles about Medical Kidnapping in
Arizona](#)**

CPS Caseworker in Arizona Turns Whistleblower - Reports on Abuse of Power



Health Impact News Editor Comments

ABC 15 Arizona interviewed a former CPS caseworker turned whistleblower regarding some of the alleged abuses in the Arizona foster care system. The caseworker reportedly quit her job after seeing the abuse of power within CPS last year.

Keeping her identity hidden, the former caseworker claims that many of her colleagues forged reports and were not truly investigating the welfare of children taken into state custody. She claims there was one instance in which a child died while in state custody, and the caseworker knew nothing about it.

The Arizona CPS Child Welfare Administrator appeared on camera with ABC 15 and when asked if there were cases that

“slipped through the cracks” she replied:

From my perspective, I don't see that.

However, a couple months after this aired on ABC 15, Governor Jan Brewer abolished CPS because there were reportedly 6,000 reports of child abuse or neglect were never investigated.

ABC 15 did an excellent investigative report showing court documents in which judges admitted that children were removed from their parents' home simply because the caseworker “got ticked off” at the parents. The Arizona CPS whistleblower states in the interview that these are not isolated cases, but happen frequently.

ABC 15 then shows a statement by DES Director Clarence Carter stating that “there is not” any issue with CPS caseworkers bullying parents.

So how credible is the leadership of these government agencies overseeing the Arizona foster care system? Are we to believe there are no bad apples in the bunch at all, as they claim?

Watch the investigative report from ABC 15:

<https://youtu.be/6XrVUROe2Hs>

Phoenix Mother Who Lost Son to CPS in Medical Dispute Appears on Local TV



Photo Courtesy of AZFamily.com

Health Impact News Editor Comments

When we bring the stories of parents who have had their children taken away from them by a government-funded social agency like CPS (Child Protection Services) because they disagreed with a doctor or a prescribed medical procedure, and publish those family's stories on MedicalKidnap.com, we always get lots of comments and questions from readers such as:

- How do we know this is a real story, since my local media is not reporting it?
- What are the sources for your story?

Our source is always the parents and families themselves, who want the public to know what is happening to them. We often break these stories, and local media then follows, if they are able to also interview the parents. In some cases, judges issue gag orders, which many legal experts consider unconstitutional. This then intimidates the parents from speaking out, because they are still trying to get their children back.

One of the stories we broke recently was [the story of Tonya Brown](#), and her adopted son who has leukemia. She lost custody due to a disagreement regarding cancer treatment. She was interviewed by Fields Moseley of Phoenix 3TV just prior to her last court appearance. You can watch the interview below.

Fields also interviewed Charles Flanagan, who oversees the new department created earlier this year (2014) by Governor Jan Brewer to replace CPS in Arizona. He basically admits that a parent only has a “right to choose” when that choice does not conflict with a medical authority.

Yet, as we have reported frequently on Health Impact News, [the medical system is the biggest defrauder of the U.S. Government](#), and [the largest criminal cases in U.S. history have been settlements over criminal charges against pharmaceutical companies](#). The medical system also causes more deaths per year than any single disease through hospital errors and side effects of prescription drugs. Should they have unquestioned authority to overrule a parent on medical decisions?

Ariz. mother claims state took son after disagreement over cancer treatment

by [Fields Moseley](#)

Excerpts from the above video:

PHOENIX — A Florida infant was taken away from his mother for five months because he was underweight and she only wanted to feed him soy formula. A Connecticut girl was taken from her parents for one year after a disputed diagnosis.

Some parents and their advocates say the same thing is happening here in Arizona. They claim aggressive doctors and caseworkers are pushing parents out of the picture after the parents disagree with a diagnosis.

3TV started asking questions about a completely different case in October after it was widely publicized on social media websites. But the judge issued a gag order and no one from the state, even legislators, will discuss it publicly.

The confidentiality is designed to protect children and families, but it also hides these cases from public scrutiny.

Parents describe a system where they have to prove they are innocent.

One last prayer in a circle of supporters and Tonya walked into the juvenile court building to try to get custody of her son. The night before, Tonya flipped through a photo album showing herself and a beaming little boy. 3TV is not revealing his identity because he is in Arizona custody. She told us the story of adopting him from Guatemala.

“He just has a really miraculous story,” she said. “He was 4 pounds when he was born and dropped to 3 pounds and there is no NICU and he was an orphan.”

She uses the word “miracle” in the literal sense. A self-described Christian, Tonya believes God guided her to this boy, cured him of a brain injury and most recently, kept him alive during cancer treatments.

“And I’m just open about my faith,” she said. “I don’t know how not to be.”

Tonya said her son was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia at Phoenix Children’s Hospital in September 2011 and the doctor said the cure was a bone marrow transplant.

“I just didn’t want him to have a bone marrow transplant because it is very invasive,” she said. “It’s very invasive, oftentimes fatal. I’ll say ‘invasive, oftentimes fatal.’ They will say ‘life-saving cure.’”

Tonya admits the doctor said this was a life or death situation but she didn’t go back. The hospital called Child Protective Services, but she never connected with the caseworker. She prayed, put her son on a strict organic diet and they went about life for 18 months.

In May 2013, a new caseworker followed up and her son’s leukemia symptoms had returned. She took him to Phoenix Children’s Hospital and agreed to restart chemotherapy.

“I was scared,” she said. “And I’m like, ‘I’ll do anything, just don’t take him.’”

But she continued to question the bone marrow transplant

and by the end of June, her son was in state custody.

She had seven different caseworkers. When asked if that is normal practice, Charles Flanagan, the director of the newly created Department of Child Safety, immediately said no.

Flanagan cannot address specific cases but said they have reviewed recent claims that hospitals are pushing DCS to remove certain children.

“Yes, I do believe that parents have the right to refuse treatment when it is not going to harm the child,” Flanagan said.

Attorney Lynda Vescio is not representing Tonya but handles cases in juvenile court where parents fight to get their children back.

“The problem is because we don’t have the access to people who will second guess PCH, we don’t have the ability to come in and challenge the ‘findings of abuse,’” Vescio said.

Vescio believes too many cases end up in court, wasting time and money. And the parents are in a system where they have to prove their innocence.

“I’ve had multiple cases where the person who the department tasks with overseeing this family and making recommendations says this case should be dismissed, this family is safe and their supervisor who’s never even met the family overrides them,” she said.

Read the [full story here](#) and let Fields Moseley know you appreciate him and his news team covering these stories.

Another Arizona Medical Kidnapping: 4 Children Removed from Family after Booster Seat Accident



Infant using a “training Bumbo seat” to learn how to sit up. Stock image.

Valley family claims DCS wrongly removed children after booster seat accident

By [Sandra Haros](#)

[KTAR News](#)

Excerpts:

A Valley family's lives were turned upside down right before Thanksgiving.

At the center of the chaos is a child booster seat and the agency once known as Child Protective Services.

On Nov. 22, a five-month-old boy was checked in to a hospital with a skull fracture. The Department of Child Services alleges the boy was abused while the family — who wished to remain anonymous — says he was simply a victim of a booster seat accident.

A nurse from Cardon Children's Medical Center in Mesa called authorities to state that the injuries sustained by the boy were inconsistent with the story told by parents. Later that day, DCS removed the boy and three other children from the care of the family, handing them over to paternal relatives.

“Surprise (Ariz.) police came in, (DCS) came in and told my wife she was going to prison,” the boy's father told KTAR News on Monday. “They just started threatening her — basically trying to force a confession of something that didn't happen.”

According to the family, the case worker, Tiffany Hughes, did not access the child's full medical records, contact the baby's pediatrician or check with other close family members to see if there was history of child abuse before deciding to remove the family's four children from the home. The three older children were turned over to their biological father who has a documented history of domestic violence, though close family and friends willingly volunteered to care for the children. Included among that group were relatives who work in law enforcement.

The injured baby, meanwhile, was released to the care of the paternal grandparents — a recently retired Phoenix police officer and his wife, who stand by the young parents maintaining this was an accident.

“We weren’t lying about what happened,” the mother said. “The case worker said the baby had a ‘Y-shaped’ fracture on his skull, but that was a lie. We have a copy of the X-ray. She also wrote down nonfactual information on the report — things I did not say.”

The family’s attorney, Alane Roby, believes the case was grossly mishandled.

“These are productive members of society, they are good parents,” she said in an interview with KTAR. “I’ve reviewed the boy’s medical history, he had a full body scan. There is no indication this child has ever been abused. He’s happy, alert, he’s at the perfect weight, there’s no bruising, no scars, no evidence of broken ribs or bones.

“This is a child who had an accident.”

According to Roby, the Department of Child Safety has not much different than the original state agency entrusted to protect Arizona’s children.

“Case workers are overworked, underpaid, there’s no accountability. The case workers are generally very young, inexperienced and don’t understand the ramifications of the decisions they make. Children are ripped from their homes, placed in foster care even when family members are available to care for them and often,” Roby said.

“I think it’s a broken agency. Before the case workers were

under attack for not investigating cases of child abuse. Now, the cases that I have involve DCS over-dictating terms when there needs to be no DCS involvement, as is the case with this child. It's almost like they are over-compensating."

Though all children involved have been placed back into their home, the injured boy's mother is currently under criminal investigation because of the incident. She told KTAR that she fears for her job as a teacher.

The family's attorney stressed that the parents did everything they should have done, including calling the boy's pediatrician while en route to the emergency room, but were unable to tend to him soon after arriving at the hospital due to the DCS investigation.

"The scariest thing in the world is that this could be happening to anyone and they'd be going through the same thing," Roby said.

Read the [full story here](#), and please thank [Sandra Haros](#) for covering this story!

Arizona Mother of Two Girls Medically Kidnapped Breaks Gag Order and Speaks Out



by **Brian Shilhavy**
Health Impact News Editor

A History of Civil Rights Abuse in Arizona?

Health Impact News originally reported the story concerning the two sisters in Arizona who were taken away from their mother over medical disputes: [10 and 12 Year Old Sisters Seized from Family by Hospital in Phoenix.](#)

When we broke this story, the mother, Melissa Diegel, had just been ordered by the court to take down her blog, Facebook Page, and other social media sites where she told the story of her daughters' medical conditions, and how the State of Arizona stepped in and took custody away from her because she allegedly questioned the doctors' treatment. Melissa believed her daughters were getting worse, and not better, and wanted to seek a second opinion. She also believes that her daughters are part of a drug trial program, without her consent.

Seeking to obey the court order with the hopes that she could regain custody of her children, she took down all of her information from the Internet. However, an advocacy group which had been following her case put up a different Facebook Page containing much of the information surrounding the family's case. Health Impact News republished information from this Facebook Page, and several other media sources did as well.

As the Diegel family story gained national exposure, the family court judge in this case apparently threatened Melissa Diegel. We had never spoken or corresponded directly with Melissa Diegel, but she sent us this email message on October 3, 2014:

The court has ordered that I contact you and ask you to to remove information regarding my daughters case.

Sincerely, Melissa Diegel

Health Impact News did not comply with this request, and neither did several other media sources practicing their Constitutional right to freedom of speech.

Soon after this, many other parents and advocates from Arizona began to contact us at Health Impact News with very similar stories, and MedicalKidnap.com was born. What parents and former foster care victims told us painted a picture of a very corrupt system operating in the State of Arizona. We published a follow-up article: [A History of Medical Kidnapping at Phoenix Children's Hospital](#).

But since the publication of that story in October, we have published many many more stories and articles about the system in Arizona that takes children away from families and puts them into foster care *at a rate higher than any other state in the United States*.

[Learn more about abuses of parental rights and medical kidnappings in Arizona](#).

Mother Threatened with Arrest in Arizona for Speaking Out

In the meantime, it appears that Melissa Diegel has lost hope that the court will return custody of her two daughters, whom she claims are being mistreated in the hands of the State, and has defied her gag order. A [blog has been put up](#) documenting the alleged abuses of the Arizona medical abduction system. The "[A Miracle For Two Sisters](#)" Facebook Page also remains active with current updates.

In a [recent blog post](#), Melissa Diegel reports how a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) tried to intervene and explain to the court how the two sisters were not faring well in foster care, and would perhaps be better off under their mother's care. But when the caseworker and court refused to listen to her, she resigned as advocate, after spending more than 130 hours on the case. An affidavit submitted to the court by the CASA worker Ms. Shipp states:

Ms. Shipp indicated that although this was a difficult decision for her, she resigned when concerns she had been raising had been rejected or ignored, and the case environment had grown increasingly hostile as a result of her advocacy on behalf of the children.

Some of Ms. Shipp's concerns, while functioning as an advocate for the children while in foster care, were:

- concerns about Kayla's weight loss
- delay in restarting Kayla on her feeding tube
- treatment of Kayla and Hannah by foster care
- bruising on forearms, shoulder and legs of Kayla
- the girls had not bonded with their foster mother, as she "lacked compassion."

The affidavit has been released to the public and copies are currently published in various places on [Melissa Diegel's blog](#), and the "[A Miracle For Two Sisters](#)" Facebook Page. You can also [view it here](#).

Since releasing this information, Melissa Diegel has [posted on her blog](#) that there is a court order for her arrest for breaking the gag order:

9. A new website has been linked to the Facebook page and the posting on that website begins on November 30, 2014. (Content from amiracle42sisters.wordpress.com, obtained on December 4, 2014, attached hereto as **Exhibit 18**);

Due to this new information, the Department moves to supplement the record submitted with its November 4, 2014, Motion for Order to Show Cause and urges the Court to find Mother in contempt of court and issue sanctions in the form of attorneys' fees and incarceration until Mother agrees to maintain the integrity of these proceedings and obey court orders.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 5th day of December, 2014.

THOMAS C. HORNE
Attorney General

Kathleen E. Martoncik
KATHLEEN E. MARTONCIK
Assistant Attorney General

As we have reported previously, these gag orders issued by family court judges against parents have been called unconstitutional by many attorneys in the United States: [Family Court Judges' Unconstitutional Gag Orders On Parents](#).

We still do not have direct contact with Melissa Diegel, and all the information provided in this story comes directly from [her blog](#), or the [advocacy Facebook Page](#). Melissa has

also published a video explaining her case:

Video no longer available.

Legal Help Needed for Arizona Medical Kidnapping Cases!

We know from talking to many other families in similar circumstances as the Diegels, that it is very difficult to find attorneys who are not appointed by the court, and are willing to fight the system to help these parents get their children back. There are many other families in Arizona currently who would like to go public, but are fearful, because they cannot afford good legal representation to protect them if they go public. Melissa Diegel has taken a bold step.

Please [contact us](#) here at MedicalKidnap.com if you can help these families in Arizona.

Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident



Photo provided by Shoars family.

UPDATE 12/01/2017

[Nevada Rules Against Arizona CPS on Shoar Family Baby – Remaining Children Still Held as Prisoners in Arizona Foster Care](#)

UPDATE 6/08/2017

[Nevada Judge Rules Against Seizure of Shoars Baby – Baby Returned Home to Parents](#)

UPDATE 6/07/2017

Arizona Convinces Nevada CPS to Kidnap Shoars Baby Despite No Imminent Danger

UPDATE 5/26/2017

Arizona Successfully Kidnaps Shoars Kids from Nevada After Judge Terminates Parental Rights

UPDATE 9/13/2016

Shoars Children Kidnapped from Nevada to Arizona Still not Returned

UPDATE 8/26/2016

Arizona Kidnaps Shoars Children from Nevada, Children Scream in Terror As They are Dragged Away (audio)

UPDATE 4/7/2016

Children Kidnapped by State of Arizona Finally Returned to Parents After 600 Days

UPDATE 12/5/2015

Tabitha Shoars sent this email message to Health Impact News on December 4, 2015:

TO ANYONE THAT HAS POSTED OR TALKED ABOUT THE SHOARS CASE

I (Tabitha Shoars) am writing you regarding my case "The

shoars Family” here in Arizona. On August 14th 2014 until June 2015, I Told my story about how truly Corrupted my case is here in Arizona and due to unconstitutional gag order that was placed on me in December 2014 which I didn't know about until Jan 16th 2015 I am here by having to inform you that any information that you or anyone you know that has been put on the internet about my case needs to be taken down immediately. I'm also hereby having to inform that my case is confidential and is No longer to be talked about by anyone or NO longer able to be posted anywhere on the internet PER the State of Arizona. I also having to inform everyone that I am NO longer able to talk about my Case to NO one any more.

Sincerely Tabitha Shoars,

Tabitha N Jeff Shoars

Health Impact News chooses to exercise our 1st Amendment rights. Numerous attorneys have stated that such gag orders are unconstitutional.

[Arizona Judges Continue to Threaten Parents and Restrict Free Speech](#)

UPDATE 1/16/2015

The judge issued a gag order on the parents forbidding them to talk about the case. Story here:

[Arizona Court Issues Gag Order on Family of 7, Detective Wants to Subpoena Interview on Radio](#)

by Terri LaPoint

Health Impact News

The unthinkable happened to a family in Arizona. Their three-year-old daughter mysteriously collapsed while her parents were away from home, and she died shortly after. As horrible as that tragedy was, Khloe's death was only the beginning of the devastation to the Shoars family. Child Protective Services immediately came in and took away all seven of their other children, placing them in various foster home settings around the area.

The children now don't have their parents, or even each other, as they try to grasp what has happened to their sister. None of the children, ranging in age from 2 to 9 years old, have been placed with family or friends, and they cry to come home. They don't understand what has happened, and neither do their parents, Jeff and Tabitha Shoars.

"It's like a bad nightmare you can't wake up from," says Jeff.

No charges have been filed against anyone, yet the state of Arizona has already begun the TPR process, Termination of Parental Rights.

Khloe's Story: Beautiful Daughter Born in Troubled Circumstances

Khloe has been described a "bubbly, bouncy, giggly" little girl who was a huge blessing to her family. Jeff says that this is "way too soon for her to be out of our lives."

Khloe's life began under very difficult circumstances. Her mother Tabitha was sexually assaulted by two men when the

family lived in Minnesota. The men went to prison, but Tabitha found that she had become pregnant from the attack. She says that abortion was never an option for her, and together she and Jeff made the choice to give life to the baby that had been conceived.

Tiny Khloe only weighed a pound and a half when she was born prematurely, at just 27 1/2 weeks. She had a brain hemorrhage at birth, and she was in very serious condition at the same time that her mother suffered a placental abruption. While the doctors fought to save Tabitha's life, Jeff, who has always been terrified of needles, never hesitated when the baby needed a blood transfusion, promptly volunteering to donate blood for Khloe.

The doctors allegedly told the Shoars that she would grow out of the brain hemorrhage condition, and despite Tabitha's requests, no further testing was ever done on Khloe to monitor the situation. Like the rest of the Shoars children, Khloe was fully vaccinated, and always got the annual flu shot.



Jeff Shoar vowed to always protect Khloe

A Family that Loved Her

Khloe captured the hearts of her family from the very beginning. Even though she was conceived from assault, Jeff says that he “always considered her mine,” and he vowed to always protect her. According to Tabitha, “she came from a bad situation, but she is our blessing.”

When the Shoars learned Tabitha’s attackers were about to be released from prison, they decided to move cross-country in March 2014, settling in Avondale, Arizona, a city just outside of Phoenix. Leaving the fears for their safety behind, they found that life was going well for the big family with lots of kids, until that one horrible night in August.

These are the pieces that Tabitha and Jeff have been able to put together of the events that occurred.

A Terrible Accident



Khloe with parents.

On the afternoon of August 14, Jeff and Tabitha left together at about 3:30 pm, leaving their children in the care of a babysitter whom they trusted. The young man, in his twenties, has been described as being “like a big brother to the kids,” and he had a history of playing with and caring for the children, both with and without the parents’ supervision.

She didn’t have much of an appetite for dinner that night, although her family reports that she usually eats seconds. After dinner the kids were playing outside, and Khloe fell and hit her head on the ground. Her siblings and the babysitter found no mark or bump. She went to bed early, which her mother says is what she would do whenever she had a headache. Tabitha also reports that she had a headache

a few days before, but they thought nothing of it, since it went away.

After Khloe went to sleep that night, she woke up with a high-pitched scream, then she was crying. The babysitter ran in to her to see what was wrong. He says that he thought at the time that she must have had a nightmare. He helped her get out the bed where she had been asleep with the younger children, and walked her to the kitchen for a drink of water. He reports that she was wobbly on her feet, but he thought that she was just sleepy. After she sipped some water, she collapsed in the hallway, with her eyes rolling back in her head and gasping. The babysitter called 911. Her lips were turning purple as he was trying to do CPR.

When the police arrived before the paramedics, the first officer on the scene moved him out of the way and squeezed her. She threw up, but remained unresponsive. Later, the medical reports would show kidney damage on the side of Khloe where she was squeezed.

Jeff and Tabitha were about 45 minutes away in a Phoenix suburb when they got word that their baby had collapsed. By the time the frantic parents got home, there was police tape surrounding their house. Tabitha was directed to go to the Phoenix Children's Hospital, and Jeff stayed behind to check on the other kids and talk to the officials at their home.

What this mother found at the hospital was "every single parent's worst nightmare." The doctor told her that Khloe (who had been admitted as a Jane Doe) had bleeding and swelling of the brain and kidney damage, and that she was unresponsive. She was on life support.

Tabitha says she was distraught and tried to get answers, but

there were none to be had. She wanted to know what happened, but the doctors reported that nothing showed up in her blood work. “There was no bruises, scars or marks, or signs of anything! She wasn’t bitten, she wasn’t stung, she wasn’t shaken NOTHING.”

CPS Removes Remaining Children from Home



The Shoars Children. Photo provided by Shoars family.

When Jeff arrived at the hospital, he told his wife that CPS was taking the other kids for 72 hours, because it was “protocol for them to investigate.” At the time, they were fine with that because they needed to focus on Khloe. None of their family lived in Arizona, and Tabitha and Jeff didn’t question the actions of CPS, which seemed reasonable to them at the time.

As the day progressed, it became clear that it was only the life support machines keeping their little girl alive. Tabitha says that CPS didn't even want to let the other children come to the hospital to say goodbye to their sister, but that the doctor insisted that CPS let them come.

Tabitha tearfully described to me the most heart-rending day of her life, as she had to let go of her baby Khloe. Jeff choked up as he told me, "I adored her and I loved her more than anything." They lay with her in the hospital bed as her heart stopped and she let go of this life.

And yet, they still haven't had a chance to grieve the most difficult thing a parent could go through, because CPS didn't bring their other children back to them. Even now, they only get to visit a few hours a week.

No Charges Filed, but Children Not Returned

Understandably, there was an investigation. The babysitter was originally arrested, then released. The parents have been investigated. The police are allegedly calling this a homicide investigation; however, to date no charges have been filed against anyone. The investigators allegedly do not appear to be looking at the babysitter any more.

Jeff says that they still don't know the answer to the big question: "what happened to Khloe?" It's kind of like Sherlock Holmes trying to put together all the pieces.

Health Impact News spoke with Tabitha's sister-in-law Lisa Shoars R.N., who said, "The symptoms that were described to me definitely seem to be consistent with a brain aneurysm, from what I've learned in nursing school."

An autopsy was performed, but the results have not yet been released. The Shoars are hoping that the autopsy will help to fill in the pieces. The Shoars are concerned about the fact that they were told that the autopsy was completed, but that the medical examiner is waiting for the police report before releasing the autopsy. Supporters have told Tabitha and Jeff that this is not the usual order of things.

They report that all of the doctors say there were no signs of abuse. A rape kit was done, and it came back negative. Tabitha says that she does not believe that the babysitter hurt Khloe, and the family's thinking is that their little girl died from tragic natural causes.

Reasoning Behind Why Children were Removed from Parents is Not Clear



Photo provided by Shoars family.

Family and Child Advocate Steven R. Isham M.A., L.B.S.W., recently met with the Shoars and has reviewed the available records. He expresses concern that there are a number of issues with the state of Arizona's treatment of the Shoars family. Among his findings are the following:

- The court documents and child protective services documents misrepresent and conflict with the facts. There is documentation that has been added to reports that did not occur. There seems to be documentation of threats made to the children by the Foster Parents, and by CPS workers to elicit certain behaviors and language.
- I was unable to discover in the records or through conversation exactly what the accusations are that drew the conclusion of imminent harm and immediate removal of the children from the Parents and from the Grandparents.
- Concerns for the children:
 - Medications not provided in state care
 - Long absences from school
 - Holidays and Family milestones ignored in state care
 - Multiple separation anxiety provoking events in state care with no evidence of accompanying support services for those many events
 - Separated from original home
 - Separated from Parents
 - Separated from Grandparents
 - Separated from siblings
 - Separated from schools
 - Children told to address Foster Parents as Mother and Father causing confusion and distrust in these already traumatized children as listed above.
 - Placed with Hispanic families with cultural differences causing anxiety with language, foods, clothing, and a variety of other cultural items

- It is reported that one child was told by Foster Parent that biological Mother was in heaven with deceased sibling. It is reported that child was shocked and confused when he saw the biological Mother at the next visit.
- It appears that the Parents and Grandparents participation has already been discontinued if it ever was actively sought during the reunification process.
- It does appear that Parents and Grandparents have actively participated in every condition asked of them. There is nothing that shows they have not fully participated when asked to do so by the court or by Child Protective Services.

Arizona CPS: Presumed Guilty Until Proven Innocent

Despite the fact that there have been no charges filed, and the autopsy has not even been released, Arizona's Child Protective Services appears to have condemned the Shoars without a trial, deeming them guilty until proven innocent. A caseworker allegedly told the family that the accusation is neglect, because the parents allegedly failed to protect the children from abuse by the babysitter.

There is a hearing scheduled for January 16. This hearing is reportedly about three things:

1. TPR – to determine if the state will terminate parental rights to the Shoars seven living children. The Shoars have been told that at least one of the foster parents wants to adopt some of her kids, the kids who have parents who love them. It is unclear if this is the same foster parent who makes the children call her

“mom.”

2. to determine if the grandparents may be awarded custody. Currently, two of the children are in a group home, and two others are in a non-English speaking home (the Shoars report that all of their children speak only English).
3. a pre-trial conference

Tabitha says that she is worried sick about her children and scared for their safety. She has heard horror stories about what happens to kids in foster care, and wants desperately to protect them from that. The Shoars are concerned because their children have reportedly been sick quite frequently since entering foster care.

“The CPS is traumatizing our kids.” They reportedly cry and beg their parents to let them come home, but their parents are powerless to do anything.

The Shoars have named a star after their little girl, who would have turned 4 on December 19. The star “Khloe Madison” is in the Sagittarius constellation. “This star shines for you in your memory.” Tabitha hopes that knowing that there is a star in the sky looking down on them in their sister’s name will somehow bring comfort to their other children.



Photo provided by Shoars family.

A Family Torn Apart During Time of Tragedy

Jeff and Tabitha want answers, but more than anything, they want their kids back, these children whom they love “more

than anything in the world.”

Tabitha says, “I want my kids to know that I will always fight for them.” The Shoars have suffered the tragic unexplained death of one of their children. How cruel to have to suffer the loss and separation from the rest of their children.

Mr. Charles Flanagan is the Director of DCS/CPS in Arizona. He may be reached at 1-602-542-5844. Concerned citizens might want to ask him how his agency can think that it is acceptable to attempt to terminate parents’ rights when no charges have been filed against them, and there are allegedly no signs of abuse.

Newly elected **Governor Doug Ducey can be reached by phone or email here.**

For those who want to follow the Shoars family story and support them in their struggle to get their kids back, there is a Facebook page set up:

Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family. #justice4shoars

The next court hearing is on Friday, January 16, at 9 am at the Family Courthouse at 3131 West Durango, Phoenix. The family welcomes people to come to the courthouse in support.

Arizona Court Issues Gag Order on Family of 7, Detective Wants to Subpoena Interview on Radio



Photo provided by Shoars family.

by **Health Impact News Editor**

Friday January 16, 2015 the Shoars family had a hearing in Arizona family court over the custody of their 7 children that were taken away by the State after the accidental death of their three-year-old daughter Khloe. We covered the Shoars family's story here:

Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident

At this hearing, the judge reportedly issued a gag order on the parents, and ordered them to stop discussing the case on the Internet. The [Fight for Lilly Foundation](#) was present, along with other supports, at the court house in Arizona, and they issued the following report at the [Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family Facebook Page](#):

At court today, the Judge had been made aware of our petition, told the parents to tell us to take it down, and closed the court room so that these parents would have ZERO support or witnesses to the repeated violations of this family's Constitutionally protected parental rights.

Apparently, when I first made this page, DCS retaliated and petitioned to violate these parents' 1st Amendment right to freedom of speech and of the press by obtaining an order prohibiting dissemination of information regarding this case.

The order was granted, and filed Dec. 22nd, but the parents were never informed.

Their incompetent public defenders never informed them or gave them a copy of the petition, never gave them a chance to respond to it, and never gave them the order.

So the parents never knew...

Today, the court used taxpayer dollars to threaten these parents with contempt of court on an order they never received.

Moms public defender quit two days ago, and the new court appointed attorney quit on her today, just 5 minutes after meeting her. He refused to even discuss the case with me present, despite Tabitha's repeated request that I stay as her legal advocate.

It was a mess, and the judge just continued the pretrial for a couple weeks out. They are facing contempt of court charges for the interview with medical kidnap, but are going to fight, because they were not aware of the gag order.

Tabitha and Jeff will make their own decision in regards to that, but in the mean time, I am here and will not be going away. I will continue to advocate for their legal rights, until those children are home and this family is complete once again.



Supporters gathered at the Arizona Court House for the Shoars hearing on January 16, 2015. Photo courtesy of [The Fight for Lilly Foundation](#).

One supporter started video recording inside the court house

and was then asked to leave:

https://youtu.be/bvkGo_Y9VcM

Robert Scott Bell Radio Show Contacted by Law Enforcement Regarding Mother's Interview

Two days before this hearing, on Wednesday January 14, 2015, Tabitha Shoars was interviewed by Ty Bollinger on the [Robert Scott Bell](#) syndicated national radio program. The segment of the show where Tabitha was interviewed can be heard at [Epic Times here](#).

On the Friday night (January 16, 2015) broadcast of the [Robert Scott Bell show](#), they reported that a “Detective Kalcum” from Arizona had contacted their syndicator wanting to “subpoena” the broadcast of the show with Tabitha Shoars. They apparently were not aware that the show was [archived and available for free download](#). A search online for a “Detective Kalcum” revealed that there is a “[Detective Olivia Kalcum](#)” in Avondale Arizona listed on the [Avondale Police website](#), who might be the person that called Genesis Communications Network.

Producer Don Naylor of the Robert Scott Bell show asks:

“What have you got to hide Arizona?”

In the original interview with the mother, Tabitha Shoars, which can be [heard here](#), Ty Bollinger and Tabitha Shoars discuss the fact that the State of Arizona is considering permanently severing the parental rights with the mother

and father of the 7 Shoars children, even though no formal charges have been brought against them, nor the babysitter who was watching the children at the time of the accident that led to their 3-year-old daughter's death.

Follow updates on the Shoars family on [The Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family Facebook Page](#).

[Original Story here](#).

Parents Escape Hospital and Medical Kidnap Threat in Arizona



Photo from [video at ABC 15](#)

Health Impact News Editor Comments

ABC 15 in Glendale Arizona has reported that parents removed their 2-day old baby from Banner Thunderbird Hospital without hospital approval, after Child Protection Services allegedly threatened to take away the baby.

Details as to why CPS was threatening to take the baby were not given, but in many of these stories of newborns in hospitals being taken by CPS, there are [disputes between parents and health authorities over newborn vaccinations](#).

Police are reportedly not investigating, saying no crime was committed:

Glendale police confirm that the baby is not sick, injured or in any kind of health danger.

On Wednesday evening, police said they are no longer actively investigating the incident and have determined no crime was committed. ([Source.](#))

We applaud the Glendale Police for investigating this matter and not simply being used as pawns in the “Child Protection” business of taking children away from parents when no crime has been committed.

Arizona has the highest rate of highest rate of children leaving biological parents and being placed into the foster care system of any other state in the U.S. (See: [Arizona’s Exploding Foster Care Intake: Kids sleeping in State Office Buildings.](#))

[Story from ABC 15.](#)

Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed



Happier days. Leanna with her two daughters before they were taken away by medical authorities and Arizona CPS.

UPDATE 10/23/2015

Shocked Arizona Mother Finds GoFundMe Page for Medical Needs of Daughter Medically Kidnapped

UPDATE 4/22/2015

This case has now been heard at the 9th Circuit Court:

Arizona Family Court, CPS, and Doctors on Trial in 9th Circuit Court

A Sick Daughter. A Distraught Mom. So Arizona's Child Protective Services Stepped In.

Was this a Medical Malpractice Cover-Up or Did Leanna Smith Deserve to Lose Custody of Two of her Three Children?

**By Jennifer Margulis
Health Impact News**

At the baby shower for her little sister, Chaunell Roberson couldn't stop smiling. The 12-year-old was sitting on a couch across from her mom, Leanna Smith, watching her open gifts: an impossibly tiny onesie with cherries on it, a pink leather diaper bag, and a Laura Ashley baby stroller. Chaunell wrote down which of her mom's friends gave her what present so they could send thank you cards afterwards.

It was a fun afternoon: they had baby bottle sucking races ("My mouth hurt for twenty minutes afterwards," remembers one guest, laughing), toilet papered Leanna's burgeoning belly, and ate cake decorated with red and yellow flowers and the words "Welcome Girlfriend" in bright red frosting.



Baby shower birthday cake

Leanna and Darrell Smith, expecting their first child after first meeting twelve years earlier, had already picked out a name for the baby, but they weren't spilling the beans.



Leanna pregnant with Jameelah

When her baby sister was born on April 1st, 2006 at Banner Desert Medical Center in Mesa, Arizona, just outside Phoenix, Chaunell was even happier.

“She was just a little angel entering the world,” the proud father, Darrell Smith, 58, soft-spoken and articulate, remembers of the birth that Chaunell and her 14-year-old brother Cordell also witnessed.

“I thanked God that they were both okay, alive, and healthy. Everybody was smiling, everyone wanted to see and touch the baby. Life gives you moments. My grandmother always said, ‘Plan like you’re going to live 500 years but don’t forget the moments.’ It was a great moment.”

They named their 8 pound 8 ounce baby girl Jameelah.

From Joy to Tragedy

No one had any idea that seven months later, in the evening of November 4, 2006, 12-year-old Chaunell Roberson would be lying intubated in the same hospital, in a coma, having just had a stroke.



Chaunell in the hospital.

Or that, despite thousands of pages of medical records, the doctors who were caring for Chaunell would accuse her mother of fabricating her daughter's illness in order to draw attention to herself.

Arizona CPS Takes Away Daughter – Puts into Foster Home with No Medical Care

On September 3, 2008, because of a complaint filed by Banner Desert Medical Center, Arizona's Child Protective Services would take Chaunell into custody.

Chaunell was put in a home—as court documents would later allege—with an incompetent and inappropriate foster

mother who would refuse to let her see a doctor even though she complained of being in pain, would smoke and drink in front of her, and would forbid her from contacting her court-appointed lawyer. For a year and a half Chaunell, separated from her family, would send emails and letters begging to come home.

Health Problems Worsened – Suicide Watch

Chaunell's complicated health problems would worsen while in state custody: She would visit the school nurse 32 times in a 5-month period, be put under a suicide watch and spend four weeks in a locked psychiatric ward, and be hospitalized with bacterial meningitis for five weeks.

Lawsuit Against Hospital and CPS Filed

Then, on September 19, 2009 Leanna Smith's lawyer would file a lawsuit against Banner Desert Medical Center, as well as Barrow Neurological Institute, where Chaunell had also been treated, naming also Child Protective Services, the State of Arizona, and several of the doctors and professionals who had been involved in her daughter's care.

CPS Takes Second Daughter

Twenty months later, in what many close to the case believe was retaliation for the lawsuit and an attempt to intimidate Leanna into dropping it, CPS would come to Leanna's apartment and take her younger daughter, Jameelah Smith, away.

Unfit Parents, or Medical Kidnapping?

Did Leanna and Darrell Smith lose custody of their youngest

daughter because they were really unfit parents and Jameelah would be safer with another family? Or were they being punished for their disagreements with the doctors and the hospitals, and for refusing to stay quiet about medical mistakes made in their older daughter's care?

* * *

Arizona: History of Parental Rights Abuse?



Janet Napolitano is the former Governor of Arizona, and was sworn in as the third United States Secretary of Homeland Security, January 21, 2009.

Experts who have studied the system contend that there is

an unjustified bias in Arizona against families. Since 2002, when Governor Janet Napolitano announced that Arizona would “Err on the side of protecting the child first and we will sort it out later,” more children than ever before are being taken from their homes without any kind of investigation. Critics contend that parental rights in Arizona are being severed without adequate justification.

This seems especially true when a child has any kind of hard-to-explain medical condition or a bad medical outcome and concerned parents are looking for answers.

“It’s a good defense to go on the offense,” explains Loren Pankratz, Ph.D., a retired professor of psychiatry at Oregon Health and Science University and an expert on [Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy](#) (the mental illness that Leanna Smith would be accused of).

“You demoralize the parents so badly that they can’t do anything. It protects all the doctors that made mistakes. And you delay any attorney taking steps against the doctor or the hospital.”

Arizona: Highest Rate of Children Entering Foster Care

When Janet Napolitano became the governor of Arizona in 2002, there were only about 6,200 children in foster care. [1]

Since then, as other states are successfully decreasing the number of children removed from their families, the number of children in Arizona’s foster care system has grown exponentially.



A Social Services office in Phoenix used to house babies who are taken away from families to put into foster homes. There are many more children than foster homes. [Image from CBS5 Arizona.](#)

As of September 30, 2012, there were a staggering 14,111 children [2] who were removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Children, like Chaunell Roberson and Jameelah Smith, are put in what the state calls “out-of-home placements” supposedly due to neglect or abuse at the hands of their parents.

Today, experts say, there are [over 16,000 kids in foster care in Arizona.](#)

Are Innocent Families Losing their Children?

The knee-jerk reaction of people who have never dealt directly with a state child welfare agency—which was what I first thought when I started researching this story—is that a state agency would never remove children from their homes unless the parents were doing something really awful and

the children were genuinely in harm's way.

It's too unbelievable—and too painful—for many of us to imagine that caring, responsible parents could lose custody of their own children.

But Arizona's child welfare system, which has been plagued by scandal, has often failed to follow its own protocols, taking children away from blameless parents while at the same time failing to adequately investigate legitimate cases of neglect and abuse.

The situation with CPS became so embarrassing to the state, and so devastating to Arizona's children, that the previous governor, Jan Brewer, made the unprecedented move of completely disbanding it last year.

Arizona Child Protection Services a Failure



Former Governor Jan Brewer. [Image from Jan Brewer Facebook.](#)

“It is evident that our child welfare system is broken,” Brewer announced in her State of the State address on January 13th, 2014, “impeded by years of structural and operational failures.”

Among the scandals facing CPS at that time was the revelation that 6,500 abuse and neglect reports had been closed with no investigation or follow-up of any kind.

What is also indisputable is that Arizona’s children are not doing very well.

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a national foundation that researches and reports on child welfare in

the United States, Arizona ranks among the top five worst states in the United States to be a child. Twenty seven out of every hundred children in Arizona live below the poverty line [3] and 64,000 children under six years old have parents who are both unemployed. [4] The State's Child Abuse Hotline purportedly receives over 25,000 phone calls in any given six months with allegations serious enough to warrant a report. [5]



CASA of Arizona

When Gov. Brewer disbanded CPS, she set up a new agency: the Department of Child Safety (DCS), directed by Charles Flanagan, an \$834 million agency [6] that is now facing a reported backlog of 15,000 cases. [7]

* * *

Leanna and Darrell: A New Family is Started

Leanna and Darrell first met when Cordell was two and Chaunell was just six months old. Smarting from betrayal, Leanna was not ready to rush into a new relationship: she had found out when Chaunell was three months old and a sheriff knocked on the door that her husband, who was in the military, had been having an affair with a neighbor and now owed thousands of dollars in unpaid alimony for the baby born out of wedlock. They fought about it that night, Leanna remembers. Her husband hit her. She took her two babies and left.

So when Leanna ran over a razor blade and the tow truck hauled her black Nissan pick-up to a service station on the corner of Southern and Mill in Tempe, that Darrell's friends happened to own, finding a soul mate was the farthest thing from her mind. Darrell was captivated by her lively green eyes and Leanna couldn't stop looking at him.

For hours after the station closed, they stood talking, leaning against Darrell's Chevy Monte Carlo. Darrell told Leanna that he worked in construction and was an avid antique collector; that he planned to open a museum of artifacts and documents related to Americans of African descent someday. Leanna told Darrell she was a respiratory therapist. They exchanged phone numbers.

Leanna Meets a Friend While Working as a Respiratory Therapist

Leanna's job at Mesa Lutheran Hospital included caring for anyone who was having trouble breathing, from premature babies to stroke victims to people with chronic health problems like asthma or emphysema.



A pediatric patient prepared by a Respiratory Therapist.
[Image from Wikimedia.](#)

One day not long after Leanna met Darrell, a co-worker overheard her talking to a nurse about how she was having trouble finding a trustworthy babysitter who could watch her little ones during her three 12-hour hospital shifts, but did not want to put them in daycare for that many hours at a time. Sonya Stockhaus, a single mom and a certified pharmaceutical technician, scribbled down the name and number of the woman who watched her kids and was looking for more hours. Leanna was so grateful she burst into tears. Stockhaus took an instant liking to the respiratory therapist who struck her at the time as a “really nice, obviously hard-working, stressed” young mom.

They became fast friends, working together at the hospital, having lunch at the cafeteria, and dangling their feet in Stockhaus’s pool while their kids—who were about the same age—went swimming. Stockhaus was amazed at Leanna’s efficiency: On her day off, Leanna would batch cook and

freeze a week's worth of meals so when she came home from work dinner would be ready quickly.

A Working Mother Caring for her Family

Leanna was always diligent about making sure the kids did their homework. Both Cordell and Chaunell did well once they started school. And Stockhaus marveled at how polite Cordell and Chaunell always were to adults, wishing her own rambunctious sons would behave as respectfully in public.



Cordell graduation with Leanna

Now 48 and a mother of five, Stockhaus is not afraid to speak frankly about the friend she has known for over 20 years: “She could be tough as nails as only a single mother knows how to be, but she loved her children more than life itself,” Stockhaus says.

Darrell and Leanna waited twelve years before they thought about having a child of their own. Leanna says they wanted to be more financially stable.

They sat down with Cordell and Chaunell to talk about adding a new member to the family. Cordell didn't have much of a reaction ("I was like, 'Okay. Cool. We get to have a baby,'" he tells me), but Leanna remembers that Chaunell was thrilled.

* * *

Chaunell's Medical Problems

When her baby sister was six months old, Chaunell started complaining of severe headaches and stomachaches. Her blood pressure, too, was abnormally high.

In early October 2006 the stomachaches, vomiting, and blood pressure spikes got so bad that she was admitted to Phoenix Children's Hospital, where she spent 25 days. But the doctors were not sure what was wrong. Her brain scans kept coming back normal and although she tested positive for H Pylori, they told Leanna—who kept insisting that something else must be going on—that the stomachaches were psychological.

It was frustrating to both the doctors and the family not to have a clear diagnosis. Chaunell still couldn't keep any food down when she was discharged, so the doctors had put in a nasogastric tube, giving Leanna 14 medications for her daughter to take.

A day later Leanna took Chaunell to the pediatrician. Stewart Van Hoosear, M.D., knew the family well. He had been

Chaunell and Cordell's doctor since Chaunell was six months old and he was Baby Jameelah's doctor as well. He welcomed Leanna with a warm smile but his face fell when he saw Chaunell's blood pressure reading, 151/118, so high that Chaunell was at risk of a stroke. In an urgent voice Van Hoosear told Leanna to take Chaunell to the ER at Banner Desert Medical Center, the hospital closest to his office.

Doctor-Advised Trip to Hospital Goes Wrong

But the medical staff at Banner Desert Medical Center acted unconcerned. When Geetha Rao, M.D., the on-call doctor, consulted with Gary Silber, M.D., the gastroenterologist at Phoenix Children's Hospital, she was told that Chaunell's problems were probably psychological and that the mother had a tendency to overreact.

At Banner a nurse injected Zofran and Lortab (a combination of acetaminophen and hydrocodone that is used for pain relief) into Chaunell's IV line. When Leanna questioned her, the nurse responded, "Dr. Rao thinks she just needs to calm down."

Seconds later Chaunell was crying out, "Mommy, what's happening?" Her breathing became labored and irregular, her heart rate went up to 150, and she was transferred to the pediatric ICU.

Her mother, who had worked in a neurological ICU and recognized that her daughter's irregular breathing patterns (called Cheyne-Stokes) indicated that she may be having a stroke, begged the doctors to intubate her so her brain would not be deprived of oxygen. Cordell was there too. He remembers one doctor standing back with his arms crossed, looking unconcernedly at his sister, as if there were no real emergency.

“Self-inflicted” Coma?

Instead of intubating Chaunell, they monitored her. Five hours later Chaunell slipped into a coma that would last ten days. Less than an hour after she became completely non-responsive in the coma, Imad Haddad, M.D. intubated her, which is what her mother had been asking them to do all along. Without that breathing tube, Chaunell would have died.



Chaunell intubated in the hospital.

Later Dr. Haddad would say that there was nothing medically wrong with Chaunell and tell Leanna that her coma was “self-inflicted.”

The hospital doctors originally denied that Chaunell had indeed had a stroke. But a Banner pediatric neurologist, Dr. Jay Cook, who assessed the child’s condition, wrote: “Try to avoid any more CNS [central nervous system] strokes” in her

file.

At Banner, Chaunell's baffling condition was finally diagnosed. She had pseudotumor cerebri, an unusual medical condition most common in overweight women. Weaning on or off steroids is a risk factor, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. [8] Pressure from spinal fluid builds up in the brain, causing the same symptoms as a brain tumor, but without a brain tumor present.

When she came home from the hospital, Chaunell was not the same child. Every morning before she and Cordell left for school, Darrell would sing them a song ("It's a happy happy morning/The sun is shining bright") and they would sing along, but now Chaunell could not remember the words. When she saw herself in home movies, she could not remember being there. She even forgot that she loved her mom's pancakes, once her favorite food.

But the one thing that did not change was her being in pain: The headaches and stomachaches continued.

A Mother Wants Answers for What Appeared to be Medical Mistakes

As her daughter's condition continued to deteriorate, Leanna pressed the doctors for answers to what had happened to her child and why. She began audio recording every meeting, both so she could be sure she understood what the doctors were advising and because she had become worried that Chaunell's doctors did not know what they were doing, giving her daughter too much medication, and making medical mistakes that needed to be documented.

The antagonism escalated quickly. Leanna came into conflict

with the doctors not only over the question of whether her daughter had had a stroke in their care that could have been avoided, as well as an allergic reaction to a medication she may not have needed in the first place, but also over the ongoing treatment Chaunell was receiving.

Leanna felt her daughter needed an internal shunt to reduce the amount of fluid in her daughter's brain, but each doctor she spoke to had a different idea of what kind of shunt and the advisability of doing surgery.



Chaunell in the hospital with Cordell and baby Jameelah

The prognosis for pseudotumor cerebri is usually good. The biggest concern for patients with this condition is that the build-up of fluid in the brain can damage the optic nerves and lead to blindness (one small study found that 24% of patients became blind [9]). But the intracranial pressure Chaunell was experiencing had actually become life-threatening, so much so that in October 2007, nearly a year

after her medical problems had first started, doctors suggested to Leanna that she sign an advanced directive not to resuscitate their daughter if she had a heart attack.

Leanna felt desperate, as any mother in her situation would feel. If her daughter suffered so much brain damage that she would never regain consciousness and have to be maintained on life support, a “do not resuscitate” order made sense. So she agreed to sign it. Later the doctors would accuse her of suggesting the order in the first place, and CPS would use this as evidence that Leanna was an unfit mother, going so far as to tell Chaunell that the DNR order was proof that her mother did not care if she lived or died.

Leanna was exhausted, spending 12 hours at her daughter’s bedside, with every doctor caring for her telling her something different. Darrell came to the hospital every night after work. Cordell sat by his sister’s side playing video games or doing homework. Jameelah, a good-natured drooly infant, napped in her stroller.

*“You just want to know what’s wrong with your child,”
Leanna explains.*

Are Doctors Ever Wrong?

Leanna says she did everything she could to help Chaunell recover from the comas and get her health back. Though she was distrustful of the doctors and continued to ask questions, she followed their instructions.

The medical professionals who worked most closely with her seem to agree.

“It has been a pleasure to work with this sweet young woman and her very supportive mother,” one speech and language pathologist wrote in her file on April 21, 2008.

But the back and forth with some of the doctors was turning into a showdown.

Things got particularly tense with Harold Rekate, M.D., a neurosurgeon who had been following Chaunell. On July 28, 2008, Rekate handed Leanna a letter accusing her of “refusing to follow the advice and treatment plan” and of “asking for tests and procedures that are beyond the standard of care.”

Rekate wrote that he was terminating their patient-doctor relationship. Chaunell, unable even to sit up by herself and with a shunt in her brain that needed to be closely monitored, was discharged from the Barrow Neurological Institute of St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center and taken home in an ambulance.

Medical Malpractice Suspected



Eli Newberger, M.D. [Image from EliNewberger.com](http://EliNewberger.com).

“She was inappropriately sent home by the hospital,” insists Eli Newberger, M.D., a pediatrician with 40 years of experience in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of child abuse and neglect, who reviewed all of Chaunell’s medical records on behalf of the Smiths.

“This was medical malpractice over the top.”

A few days later Chaunell was back in the hospital. Her medical records show that her mother’s concerns had been correct: this time her brain had herniated.

Instead of admitting to the medical mistakes they had made, the hospital’s chief medical officer, Charles Alfano, allegedly

told Leanna:

“You’re not going to like what we do to you next.”

She thought he meant that they would not allow her to seek a second opinion on Chaunell’s case. The hospital called CPS.

Was Daughter Taken Away by CPS to Cover Medical Malpractice?

On September 3, 2008 Arizona’s Child Protective Services section took custody of Chaunell Roberson from Banner Desert Medical Center after four physicians signed a report of suspected child abuse.



Banner Desert Medical Center – Mesa Arizona

The doctors accused Leanna Smith of having [Munchausen’s Syndrome by Proxy](#)—a mental illness where parents fabricate or create illness in order to call attention to

themselves.

Eli Newberger, M.D., has personally diagnosed and treated over 300 cases of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy during the three decades he serviced as medical director of the child protection team at Children's Hospital Boston. He tells me that it is easy to get lost in the medical weeds of this case because the medical records are so complicated. When he spread them across the floor, the thick 3-ringed binders of papers spanned 13 feet.

But he claims that the case is actually quite simple:

“If the doctors at Phoenix Children’s Hospital had taken the mother’s concerns seriously in the first place and correctly diagnosed and treated pseudotumor cerebri, the egregious and unfortunate medical mistakes that were later made—and then vigorously covered up by getting Child Protective Services involved—could all have been avoided.”

“There was nothing that the mother contrived to make happen,” Newberger explains. “The definition of Munchausen’s Syndrome by Proxy is when a parent causes a child’s illness by some action, or constantly misrepresents a child’s symptoms. There is nothing in the record that Leanna had done any such thing at any time.”

“I was there for most of those interactions,” Chaunell’s brother Cordell, who is 23 years old now, tells me. He has a hard time talking about what has happened to his family.

“She was just extremely like, ‘I need you to help my daughter.’ She questioned everything. That upset them a lot.

By the questions she was asking, she was saying, 'Are you sure, this time? This diagnosis doesn't make sense.' ... There's a difference between a crazy person and an extremely concerned person. My mom was definitely not the crazy one."

"The big issue here was the ambiguity of the diagnosis and the reluctance on the part of the doctors to engage in a serious discourse with the parents," Dr. Newberger continues. "Parents go to the doctor's office armed with information from the Internet and a lot of doctors take umbrage. In this situation Leanna was tremendously distressed because Chaunell was at death's door."

As anyone whose child has had a medical crisis knows, it can be intimidating to deal with busy doctors running from one patient to another. Sometimes the only way to get answers is to be aggressive. Yet this kind of aggressiveness makes some doctors bristle and, especially when something goes wrong, the hospitals push back.

The New Medicine: "Parent-Ectomy"

Instead of working together as a team to help the child, medical professionals and the hospitals perform an aggressive maneuver of their own, something that has become so common recently that doctors even have a name for it, as the Boston Globe reports: a "parent-ectomy." [10] They take the parent out of the equation to minimize the risk of liability or lawsuits.

"The risk-free course for the hospital is to encourage doctors to report child abuse, even when it doesn't exist," claims Richard Sullivan, M.D., who worked in emergency medicine

in Massachusetts for 26 years and is not involved in Chaunell's case.

Sullivan remembers one instance when he was told by hospital administrators to file a CPS report. He refused.

* * *

Worse Off in State Custody

The State of Arizona contended that Chaunell was better off separated from her mother. They pointed out that she had no further comas, and that she was able to go back to school.

But her records tell a starkly different and heartbreaking story, showing that Chaunell did worse in state custody than she was doing with her family.

Her first foster mother allegedly failed to keep doctor's appointments, told her to stop faking it when she complained of headaches, and drank and smoked in front of the 14-year-old.

A Daughter Begs to Come Home

For over a year and a half she begged her parents, by phone, email, letters, and even court testimony, to let her come home. She reported being terrified of saying the wrong thing that might be interpreted as evidence against her mom.

"...And there is a lot of beer in the house and yesterday I heard something very disturbing (and its not the first time)," Chaunell writes in one letter. "I heard Marysol having SEX!!!"

She was so loud And her bedroom door was OPEN!! I feel so uncomfortable here. GET ME OUT!! please (heart) Chaunell.”

Documents and Audio Recordings Sealed in Court



Chaunell’s letters to her parents are part of hundreds of documents and Leanna’s 1,800 audio recordings that were sealed by a juvenile court judge. Leanna and Darrell Smith refused to talk to me about them or about any details of their case that have been sealed—on top of everything else that has happened to them they do not want to go to jail.

Health Officials Clear Mother of Wrongdoing

A psychologist contracted with CPS to supervise visits between Chaunell and her family, both in Leanna’s apartment and in the hospital, followed the family closely for over a year. Connie Pyburn, Ph.D., took notes at every visit. She saw nothing untoward in Leanna’s behavior

towards Chaunell. In fact, she tells me, though she did find that Leanna and Chaunell were “enmeshed” (that is, not emotionally separate), Leanna was a well-educated mother who was loving and dedicated to all three of her children.

“She was very loving. She was very close. She was very knowledgeable about a lot of things,” says Pyburn, who also confesses that she stopped working for CPS because this and one other case were so troubling to her. “She was very loving with her other two children.”

Stewart Van Hoosear, M.D., the pediatrician who had been with the family for twelve years, agrees. “We saw them all the time and I didn’t see any signs of abuse but I got the feeling that the people downtown thought there was,” Van Hoosear says. “Mother seemed sort of flighty, that would be the only thing I could say about her.”

On Pyburn’s recommendation the family was going to be reunified. Leanna and Darrell were feeling more hopeful than they had in a long time. Their hearts had been aching since Chaunell had been gone.

Civil Rights Lawsuit Filed



Leanna could not file a medical malpractice suit against the hospitals or the doctors who, she felt, had so badly botched her daughter's care. But a civil rights attorney she found through the NAACP said that she could sue CPS. So in March 22, 2010 Leanna's lawyer, working pro bono, filed a lawsuit against the hospitals, doctors, and the State of Arizona for violating her civil rights when they took Chaunell into state custody. The foster mom who had mistreated Chaunell was also named in the lawsuit.

The case was moved to Arizona Federal Court. The case was thrown out on July 31, 2012 and is currently in 9th circuit court awaiting Oral Argument.

Second Daughter Taken by CPS

On May 21, 2010 two officers and a CPS worker came to Leanna's apartment to announce that they were taking her younger daughter, 4-year-old Jameelah, into state custody because of alleged child abuse.

Leanna was later told that her daughter Chaunell had made an accusation against her, the same daughter who had been begging to come home for so long.

Chaunell did not respond to requests for an interview, but both Newberger and Pyburn told me that they saw firsthand how a deliberate and concerted effort was made to convince Chaunell that Leanna wanted her to be sick.

One psychologist that works with CPS, Brenda Bursch, allegedly told Chaunell that her mother was mentally ill and had Chaunell read her report about her mother. She was also reportedly given a memoir to read, *Sickened*, about a 12-year-old girl whose mother had Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy.

How CPS Uses Psychological Warfare

Leanna, who had not seen her older daughter for over four years at this point, wonders if, when Chaunell realized that the state would not allow her to be reunited with her family, Chaunell thought at least she could get Jameelah to be with her.



Chaunell and Jameelah during happier days.

But how could Leanna's older daughter accuse her of abusing her younger sister if Leanna never did? Newberger, who personally interviewed both Chaunell and Jameelah, explains that Chaunell had been duped:

She was threatened that she would never see her mother again if she complained of pain or respiratory stress. She was denied access to physicians, and even to her own appointed attorney.

In this isolated bubble, her mother was misrepresented to her in derogatory terms, both by professionals and by her foster parents.

Chaunell was given to read a psychological report that demonized Ms. Smith, and cast herself as her victim. She was brainwashed and will need a sustained period of psychological recuperation if she is to function capably in

caring and intimate relationships as an adult.

Her attachment to her mother was systematically, and, I believe, intentionally, corroded, by Arizona Child Protection Services, and at least one contracted ‘therapist’ in the name of her protection.

* * *

CPS in her home, Leanna stalled for time, scooping Jameelah’s favorite stuffed animal, a white duck with a yellow beak, and gathering up the clothes, a hairbrush, and her barrettes.

“Mommy, where am I going?” Jameelah asked. Leanna did not know how to answer. She kept telling her over and over again that it would be okay.

Though he drove as fast as he could, Darrell did not make it back on time to say goodbye.

“The evidence wasn’t there to take a child away,” Pyburn insists, adding that she specifically testified that she did not see anything inappropriate with Jameelah but that things she had written in her notes—that Jameelah liked to play with a doctor kit, for instance—were used by CPS as evidence against Leanna.

“I really felt that the state was taking her younger child based on the things that were going on with Chaunell, and that it wasn’t really fair.”

Abuse in Foster Care Alleged by 4-Year Old Child

Darrell was allowed a supervised visit with Jameelah in the office of Katrina Buwalda, Ph.D., another psychologist contracted with CPS, on August 25, 2010.

Four-year-old Jameelah's face lit up with she saw her father. She put her small arms around his and rested her head on his chest.

Then she said something that would stop his heart. "Daddy," she whispered to him. "I hurt down there."

Darrell was stunned. He prayed he had not heard his daughter correctly.

"What, Baby?" he asked her quietly.

"I hurt down there," she repeated.

Darrell looked at Buwalda and asked her if she had heard what his daughter just said. She promised to look into it.

Parental Rights Completely Severed

Jameelah, who was placed in the same foster family as Chaunell, was never returned to her parents. On September 1, 2010 Leanna and Darrell Smith saw their daughter for the last time.

In late summer 2011 there were a series of hearings in juvenile court to determine whether Darrell and Leanna would keep custody of Chaunell and Jameelah. Two lawyers from Banner Desert Medical Center and two lawyers from

Barrow Neurological Institution were present at these juvenile court proceedings. One of the witnesses called to testify was Connie Pyburn, the psychologist hired by CPS, who followed the family most closely.

“I still feel bad about that case,” Pyburn admits. “CPS was really trying to get her to break the bond with her mother and testify against her mother. The counselors all work for CPS; even though they say they are giving family services, it’s not true. I was a witness for CPS and it felt like a betrayal to me ... the whole thing felt like it had been decided in advance.”



Chaunell and Leanna during happier days.

Familiar Story in Arizona

Leanna's is a story that has become devastatingly familiar to families in Arizona.

“The cards are all stacked against the parents,” argues Cliff Hoeltz, cofounder of the Arizona Family Rights Project, an organization working to reform the Department of Child Safety and educate parents about their rights.



“The parents never find out all the information about the charges against them or the accusations. But the foster parents know everything. And they use that information to corrupt the children to think their parents are bad.”

Abusing a child is a criminal offense. Though Leanna was investigated eight times for child abuse, no evidence of any wrongdoing was ever found.

And one minute before Chaunell turned 18, the case to terminate Leanna's parental rights was closed with no findings against her.

Children in State Custody Shield Hospitals and Doctors from Malpractice

“As long as that child is in state custody, that hospital is insulated from a malpractice action from the parents,”

says Beth Alison Maloney, a lawyer and author based in southern Maine who has over a decade of experience helping neglected and abused children and has not been involved in Leanna Smith's case.



Attorney and Family Advocate Beth Maloney. Image from BethAlisonMaloney.com

“The courts and the hospitals have been very successful in keeping it all quiet, with gag orders and sealed files,” Maloney continues.

“If custody is returned to the parents, they don’t want to say anything because it might happen again. They are walking on eggshells, keeping their mouths shut from fear. Threatening to take away your children is a very effective way to keep parents quiet about what is going on.”

But Leanna says she cannot give up. It’s not just that she wants to get her younger daughter back in the home where she belongs, she wants to expose the corruption in a state system that is supposed to be helping and protecting children but is being used to protect medical professionals and hospitals.


* * *

A Million Dollars Per Child – “Fraud at the Highest Level”

Six years ago Leanna contacted a man named Steve Isham to review her case, a pro bono service that he offers to families in distress if, after interviewing them and reading their files, he believes there is evidence of wrongdoing.

Child and Family Advocacy

The Complete Guide to Child Advocacy and Education for
Parents, Teachers, Advocates, and Social Workers



"If You Don't Know,
You Better Ask Somebody"

Steven R. Isham, MA, CBSW

Foreword by Coach Frank Kush

Steve Isham, [Author](#), College Instructor, and Family Advocate.

A social worker who spent six years as the director of a state-funded nonprofit to help mentally ill children and who actually participated in drafting CPS protocol guidelines in the late 1990s, Isham was shocked by the discrepancies he

saw in the files.

“I saw the financial records. CPS was billing over a million dollars a year for Chaunell,” Isham says.

“Then you have a contractor for CPS saying that most of the procedures that were done on Chaunell were uncalled for, and that Leanna was telling the doctors to do procedures they shouldn’t have done. The discrepancies in this case are too glaring to make sense. If it is really true that they were doing unnecessary medical procedures, that’s fraud at the highest level.”

Some Legislators Recognize there is a Problem



[Kelly Townsend](#), Arizona State Legislator District 16

State representative Kelly Townsend has introduced legislation to protect children from being separated from their parents because of disagreements with doctors. The

Bill, HB-2283, specifies that a child whose parents seek a different doctor for a second opinion, or refuse to give their children psychotropic drugs, cannot be considered an abused or neglected child for that reason alone. It also specifies that before a child is taken out of a parent's custody for medical reasons, three outside licensed physicians must agree with the assessment.

Townsend is optimistic that the situation for Arizona's children will improve.

“I have full confidence that our leaders will find a way—whether it’s through my legislation or changes at the agency or both—to see to it DCS is topnotch and does the job it is intended to do while protecting parents’ right and children’s safety,” Townsend tells me.

Leanna: “I will Never Stop Fighting”

There's a picture of Leanna and 12-year-old Chaunell from the baby shower for Jameelah before all the problems started. Chaunell is pink-cheeked and smiling. She's wearing a light green shirt that matches her mother's sparkling green eyes. Her hair is done neatly in cornrows, her arm thrown lovingly around her mom's shoulders. Even the corner of Leanna's eyes are smiling as she grins for the camera, a jaunty pink hat on her head, brown hair cascading past her shoulders.

“They made her think I wanted to kill her,” Leanna says, wiping away the tears as she looks at the picture. “But I've never stopped fighting for her and her sister. And I never will.”



[Legal Crimes AZ Facebook Page by Leanna Smith](#)

Listen to an interview with Leanna on the national broadcast of the Robert Scott Bell show:

<http://www.epictimes.com/robertscottbell/2015/01/leanna-smith-on-the-robert-scott-bell-show/>

Read the [Opening Brief](#) to their Civil Rights case in the U.S. 9th Circuit Court.

About the Author

Jennifer Margulis, Ph.D., a former Senior Fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University and Fulbright grantee, is an award-winning travel, culture, and parenting writer. Her work has appeared in many of the nation's most respected and credible publications, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, and on the cover of Smithsonian Magazine. A meticulous researcher who is not afraid to be controversial, she is nationally known as a journalist who opens people's eyes to the realities behind accepted practices in the care of

children.

A sought-after public speaker, Jennifer Margulis has appeared live on prime-time TV in Paris (she is fluent in French) to talk about child slavery in Pakistan and was prominently featured in a PBS Frontline TV documentary, “The Vaccine War.” She is the author/editor of five books, including, [Your Baby, Your Way: Taking Charge of Your Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Parenting Decisions for a Happier, Healthier Family.](#)

More Stories from Parents in Arizona Who Claim their Children were Medically Kidnapped:



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[Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead](#)

More stories on Arizona:

Arizona Foster-Care Census Rises

The number of children in Arizona's foster-care system rose 80% between 2003 and 2012, while foster care nationally declined 22% during that same period.

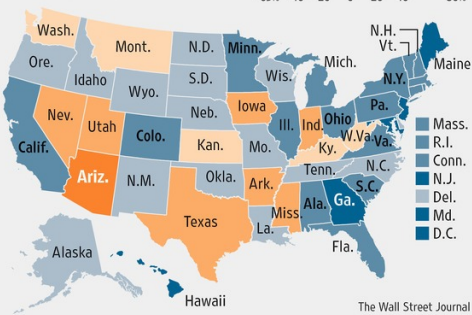
Percentage change since FY 2003



Note: Fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services

Percentage change, FY 2003-12



The Wall Street Journal

ARIZONA SUED BY ABUSED FOSTER CHILDREN!

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[Mother, interrupted: CPS accused her of everything from neglect to excessive care, never proved anything, and took her daughter anyway](#)

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Mom Who Lost 2 Daughters to Medical Kidnapping in Arizona Speaks Out Regarding Abuses



Leanna with her son Cordell, the only child of her 3 that was not taken away by medical authorities in Arizona.

Health Impact News

In a shocking interview recorded on the [Robert Scott Bell Show](#) Thursday January 29th, 2015, Leanna Smith gave details of how her two daughters were taken away by medical authorities and CPS in Arizona, and explained how her youngest daughter has allegedly been sexually and mentally abused while in State custody:

I have documentation of my daughter sitting on Darrell's lap (during a CPS supervised visit) explaining that she "hurts down there." I have documentation of physical, sexual, and mental abuse in state custody.. No one will protect this child who is in state custody.

While allegations have been made against the parents as a reason for removing their two daughters, apparently no criminal charges have ever been filed against either the father or the mother.

So why did Arizona take these two children away from their biological parents?



Leanna's two daughters, before they were removed from the family by CPS and medical authorities.

Medical Kidnapping Occurs to Stop Medical Malpractice Lawsuits

During this interview, Leanna explains to Robert Scott Bell how authorities in Arizona have been able to get away with taking her daughters away and covering up their alleged medical malpractice. She explains that once a child is a ward of the State, parental rights are severed and the parents can no longer sue the hospital or doctors legally, since they do not have custody of their children any longer.

“This is happening all across this country. I am just one isolated case. I hear from families all the time. Medical kidnapping is real. And until America wakes up and realizes that when a hospital makes a mistake, they have a fall back, which is Child Protection Services for that state. They can call in and stop the litigation for medical malpractice. And then if you continue to speak, a malice CPS report from the hospital, which is a criminal act... they will all retaliate against you if you turn around and sue them in federal court. And that is exactly what happened to me.”

Attorney and child advocate Beth Maloney explains that this is in fact a tactic used by medical professionals:

“As long as that child is in state custody, that hospital is insulated from a malpractice action from the parents.” ([Full story.](#))

Robert Scott Bell: Will Parents in Arizona Start Leaving the State now Due to Fear of Medical Kidnapping?

“You know I think at this point, with Arizona in particular, because of the cases we have been covering there, unless they change this on the state level.... I think there is going to be a mass migration for families with children out of that state because of the risk of losing [their children] just for seeking out medical help when needed.” – [Robert Scott Bell](#)

Producer Don Naylor states at the end of the show that they have just “scraped the tip of the iceberg” on this story, and will be featuring more interviews covering this horrendous story out Arizona within the next week. They will be interviewing people familiar with this case, including attorneys and doctors.

[Listen to the entire interview with Leanna Smith, the mother, at Epic Times.](#)

Read the [opening brief for this Civil Rights Case](#) currently in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which is available to the public.

[Full Story Here.](#)

Leanna Smith’s [Legal Crimes AZ Facebook Page](#).

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The Arizona 5: A Family of 5 Children Who Were Taken into Custody for the use of Biomedical Treatment for their Autism

Mother, interrupted: CPS accused her of everything from neglect to excessive care, never proved anything, and took her daughter anyway

Shocking Revelations of Corruption in Leanna Smith Medical Kidnapping Case in Arizona



Photo from [Legal Crimes AZ Facebook Page](#)

Health Impact News Editor Comments

Arizona Family advocate Steve Isham was interviewed on the [Robert Scott Bell radio program](#) on Sunday February 1, 2015 to discuss the Leanna Smith medical kidnapping story. You can read Leanna's story here: [Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#). Leanna Smith was also interviewed on the Robert Scott Bell show: [Mom Who Lost 2 Daughters to Medical Kidnapping in Arizona Speaks Out Regarding Abuses](#).

Leanna Smith claims that the State of Arizona, working together with doctors who were covering up medical malpractice with her oldest daughter, worked together with CPS to have both her daughters removed from her custody, and that they have been psychologically and sexually abused in foster care.

Mr. Isham, who is familiar with Leanna's case, revealed some shocking things about his work in advocating for families in Arizona. There have been many reports of abuse within the foster care system. He recounted how he has attempted to report these alleged abuses within the Arizona child protection social services, juvenile court, and foster care, but has not been able to get anyone to investigate any of these cases. Frustrated at what appeared to be local collusion between authorities and social services, he went to the FBI:

I spent about 7 hours total time on three different occasions (with the FBI). They did nothing! They even sat there and looked me in the eye, man to man, and said, "We know this is happening, but it's not our jurisdiction. You're going to have to get local law enforcement to do something. It's not a federal matter." I couldn't believe it!

Mr. Isham then asks the following questions, which should be a wake up call to everyone in the United States of America:

How on God's earth can a governor and 90 state legislators turn a deaf ear to the cries of children and the screams of mothers and fathers?

How can a governor and 90 legislators close their eyes to the tears, bruises, scars, burns, and physical handicaps achieved in state custody?

How can a governor and 90 legislators remain mute and pass the responsibility of their office to a woman that is not even an elected official?

How does a governor and 90 legislators go home at night and kiss their loved ones and hold their children with the knowledge that children in the State of Arizona in the numbers of more than 16,900 children are in a broken children's system, scared, alone, without anyone to hold them appropriately and comfort them and keep them safe.

How can a governor and 90 state legislators look at each other in the eyes and call themselves a man? a woman? a human being?

Tell me how there are not riots in the streets now that we know the facts of the Leanna Smith case and the torture that was allowed to be perpetrated on this loving, caring, healthy, family that did what is right no matter what was done to them! How can an entire population of Americans allow this to happen to one family after another?

I will tell you how; we are so happy it is not happening to us that everyone turns away. Good people allow bad things to happen.

Listen to the [full interview at Epic Times](#).

Read the [opening brief for this Civil Rights Case](#) currently in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit,

which is available to the public.

[Full Story Here.](#)

Leanna Smith's [Legal Crimes AZ Facebook Page.](#)

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Mother, interrupted: CPS accused her of everything from neglect to excessive care, never proved anything, and took her daughter anyway

Arizona Judges Continue to Threaten Parents and Restrict Free Speech



Health Impact News

Last month (January 2015) we published the story of the Shoars family in Arizona who told us that they had their 7 children taken away from them after they took their daughter to the emergency room after an accident. Their 3 year old daughter tragically died, and the State took their remaining 7 children away, even though there were apparently no charges filed against the parents. You can read the full story here: [Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident.](#)



Photo provided by Shoars family.

Shortly after the publication of our story on the Shoars family, the mother was interviewed on national talk radio by Ty Bollinger on the [Robert Scott Bell show](#). You can listen to [her interview at Epic Times](#). The interview was aired two days before the Shoars had a court appearance regarding the custody of their children in Arizona on January 16th.

During the custody hearing, the judge reportedly issued a gag order against the parents, forbidding them to discuss their case with the media or on the Internet. On the broadcast of the Robert Scott Bell show that night (January 16, 2015), they reported that a “Detective Kalcum” from Arizona had contacted their syndicator wanting to “subpoena” the broadcast of the show with Tabitha Shoars. (See: [Arizona Court Issues Gag Order on Family of 7, Detective Wants to](#)

[Subpoena Interview on Radio.](#))

Arizona Judges Do Not Want You to Know What They are Doing in Arizona

This week (February 2, 2015), Tabitha Shoars contacted Health Impact News:

The court has ordered me to contact you and to ask you to remove anything regarding my family's case.

Sincerely, Tabitha Shoars

We are told that [Judge Joan Sinclair](#) is presiding over this case.

The Arizona Family Court system is obviously putting pressure on the parents in this case. We have seen this tactic with other families. They do not like the media exposure. But instead of contacting us directly, they apparently threaten the parents, since they hold their children in State custody.

Health Impact News, of course, will not comply with this request. We will not take down our coverage of this case.

Gag Orders Unconstitutional

We have addressed the issue of these Family Court gag orders previously, quoting attorneys from around the country who cover these cases. These attorneys state that the gag orders are unconstitutional. (See: [Family Court Judges' Unconstitutional Gag Orders On Parents.](#))

Attorney and family advocate Beth Alison Maloney has recently been interviewed and made aware of the many cases of alleged medical kidnapping occurring in Arizona. She is a lawyer and author based in southern Maine who has over a decade of experience helping neglected and abused children.



Attorney and Family Advocate Beth Maloney. Image from BethAlisonMaloney.com

In an [interview with Health Impact News](#) recently about a different case in Arizona she stated:

The courts and the hospitals have been very successful in keeping it all quiet, with gag orders and sealed files. If custody is returned to the parents, they don't want to say anything because it might happen again. They are walking on eggshells, keeping their mouths shut from fear. Threatening to take away your children is a very effective way to keep parents quiet about what is going on.

Maloney appeared on the Robert Scott Bell show earlier this week, and you can listen to the [interview here at Epic Times](#), where she discusses the issue of medical kidnapping and gag orders.

She discusses how gag orders in Family Courts were originally put in place to protect the children, particularly in cases where abuse in the family was alleged, so that the children could continue to live in the community without the stigmatism associated with such cases.

However, today these gag orders are often used in the reverse sense, where the State wants to cover up something they are doing, such as medical malpractice. This terrible practice of taking custody of children to cover up medical malpractice is what allegedly occurred in the Smith family story in Arizona. (See: [Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed.](#))

Arizona Medical Kidnappings and Abuses Against Families Receive National Attention

Here at Health Impact News we have covered more medical kidnapping cases in Arizona than almost all the other states combined. Arizona has the highest rate of removing children from biological parents and placing them into foster care of any state in the U.S.

Earlier this week, Arizona made headline news around the country when it was announced that a federal class-action lawsuit was filed against the directors of the Arizona Department of Children's Services and the Department of Health Services by ten foster children, ages 3 to 14. (See: [ARIZONA SUED BY ABUSED FOSTER CHILDREN!](#))

The profiles of these ten foster children who have allegedly been [abused by the State of Arizona is found here](#).



Will Governor-elect Doug Ducey do the right thing for Arizona's children?

Arizona has a new governor, and his name is Doug Ducey. Parent advocate Steve Isham recently wrote an editorial: [Will Medical Kidnapping in Arizona Change Under Governor Doug](#)

Ducey?

You can [contact Governor Ducey here](#), and encourage him to tell Arizona Judges to STOP issuing gag orders on parents who have had their children taken by the State of Arizona, and yet have not been charged with any crime.

His [Facebook Page is found here](#).

The Arizona Superior Court (which includes Family Court) has a [Facebook Page here](#), and their phone number is (602) 506-1561. We believe [Judge Joan Sinclair](#) may be the one who has issued this gag order and told the Shoars to put pressure on us (and others) to take down their story.

[Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family Facebook Page is Here.](#)

Stories from Parents in Arizona Who Claim their Children were Medically Kidnapped and put into Foster Care:



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Mother, interrupted: CPS accused her of
everything from neglect to excessive care, never
proved anything, and took her daughter anyway

Dr. Gregory Smith Exposes Medical Kidnapping in Arizona



Truth, Medicine and Politics
with Dr. Greg Smith

[Download Podcast](#)



Health Impact News Editor Comments

Dr. Gregory Smith, M.D., is the executive producer of the award winning film *American Addict*, and hosts a weekly radio talk show on KABC 790 in Los Angeles every Saturday night.

This past Saturday, February 7, 2015, Dr. Smith discussed the problem of medical kidnapping in Arizona. He interviewed investigative reporter Jennifer Margulis, who recently covered the Leanna Smith case: [Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed.](#)

Also interviewed on the show with Dr. Smith was Leanna Smith herself, along with Child Advocate and author Steve Isham, and Attorney Beth Maloney.

Listen to the “[Dr Greg Smith – 02/07/15](#)” broadcast [here](#).

Follow [Dr. Gregory Smith on his Facebook Page here](#).

HSLDA Takes Prosecution of Arizona CPS Workers to Supreme Court



Arizona has a troubled history with the Child Protection Services. [CPS Caseworker in Arizona Turns Whistleblower](#).

Appeals Court Lets Arizona Social Workers off the Hook

by [James R. Mason, III](#)
[Senior Counsel Home School Legal Defense Association](#)

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit excused two Arizona social workers from liability for threatening to take John and Tiffany Loudermilk's children into state custody if they didn't immediately consent to a search of their home.

This case began in early 2005 when Child Protective Services (CPS) received an anonymous report that “dad is a handy man” and that there were “exposed wires and missing stair rails” inside the Loudermilks’ home. Sixty-one days later, the assigned caseworker called in sick. Her supervisor, Rhonda Cash, decided “I want to go hit this report of Brenda’s.” Before ever seeing the home she had her trainee call the sheriff’s department, because “it’s necessary at times to call in law enforcement if you have an uncooperative family.”

Soon two social workers, six deputies, and five marked government vehicles descended on the Loudermilks’ home. Rhonda Cash and one of the deputies demanded to be allowed inside the home to confirm that there were no safety hazards. The Loudermilks declined to allow them inside, citing their Fourth Amendment rights, and called HSLDA attorney T.J. Schmidt for assistance.

Schmidt quickly concluded that there was no legal justification for Ms. Cash to enter the Loudermilks’ home based on the two-month-old anonymous report. He spoke to Ms. Cash, her state attorney, and one of the deputies.

The deputy conferred with his sergeant and withdrew his demand to be allowed inside. They did not believe the circumstances amounted to an emergency.

But Rhonda Cash was not deterred. Instead of leaving when law enforcement no longer supported her demand, she escalated the encounter. She told the Loudermilks that she would take their children into state custody if they did not let her in immediately. She said this in the presence of the children.

And her trainee began filling out a Temporary Custody Notice, the form that would have authorized them to seize the children without first asking a judge.

Faced with the choice of losing their Fourth Amendment rights or losing their children, the Loudermilks did what any of us would do—they allowed Ms. Cash to enter their home. Once inside, Ms. Cash confirmed that the alleged safety hazards did not exist—and she looked inside their refrigerator—presumably in search of exposed wiring and missing stair rails.

The Court of Appeals assumed that the social workers violated the Loudermilks' rights. But it held that they were immune from liability, because Ninth Circuit case law “does not clearly establish that consent to a limited search is involuntary when given after the consenting party has had the opportunity to consult with an attorney.”

This opinion is hard to swallow. The Court is saying that because no Ninth Circuit case has ever dealt with similar facts, the social workers were therefore entitled to believe that the Loudermilks had consented voluntarily because they had spoken to their lawyer. We asked the Court to reconsider, but it declined to do so last week.

This result is deeply disappointing.

It allows CPS workers to continue to coerce parents into cooperating by threatening to take away their children. It endorses their tactic of calling in the police to intimidate parents in their own home. And it sharply discourages parents from seeking legal counsel to find out what their rights are.

Sadly, this all-too-common approach by CPS workers causes real harm to children.

“State officials cause real harm in their quest to protect children, including fear, humiliation, shame, and emotional devastation, not to mention the loss of the children’s and sometimes also their families’ Fourth Amendment rights and the fundamental interests these implicate,” writes Doriane Lambelet Coleman, professor of law at Duke University, in her *William and Mary Law Review* article, *Storming the Castle to Save the Children: The Ironic Costs of a Child Welfare Exception to the Fourth Amendment*.

This is why we at HSLDA take cases like this one. We do not believe that CPS workers are bad people. And we do not believe that there should never be investigations. But we do believe that those investigations should always show a healthy respect for civil rights.

All too often, we have seen how the system of CPS investigations can needlessly harm children when the investigators do not understand or respect the legal rights of those they investigate. As Professor Coleman summarizes in her article, “[I]n the name of saving children from the harm that their parents and guardians are thought to pose, states ultimately cause more harm to many more children than they ever help.”

We will be asking the Supreme Court to review the case. Please pray for favor—the Supreme Court only takes about one percent of cases every year. Our petition is due in June.

And if you are not already a member of HSLDA won’t you please consider joining today.

Case Timeline—A post script

The search of the Loudermilks' home happened on March 9, 2005. If you are wondering why I am still reporting about it, here's how the case has wended its weary way through the courts:

The case was filed in March of 2006. Defendants moved to dismiss in August of 2006, which the trial court denied in September of 2007. Then discovery took place and the defendants filed a motion for summary judgment in April of 2009, which the trial court denied in April of 2010. The deputies appealed but the social workers didn't. The social-worker part of the case was put on hold while the deputies' appeal was heard. The court of appeals ruled in the deputies' favor on November 1, 2011. We asked the court to rehear the case, which it denied, then asked the Supreme Court to take the case, which it denied in March of 2012. Back in the trial court before a new judge, the social workers were allowed to renew their motion for summary judgment, which was granted on September 19, 2012. Then we appealed. Briefing was completed in the court of appeals in June of 2013, all according to a schedule dictated by the court, but oral argument was not scheduled by the court until December 12, 2014. Our petition for rehearing was denied on March 16, 2015.

[Full Article Here.](#)

[Support the work of HSLDA!](#)

Stories from Parents in Arizona Who Claim their Children were Medically Kidnapped:



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



[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



[Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion](#)



[Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead](#)

More stories on Arizona:

Arizona Foster-Care Census Rises

The number of children in Arizona's foster-care system rose 80% between 2003 and 2012, while foster care nationally declined 22% during that same period.

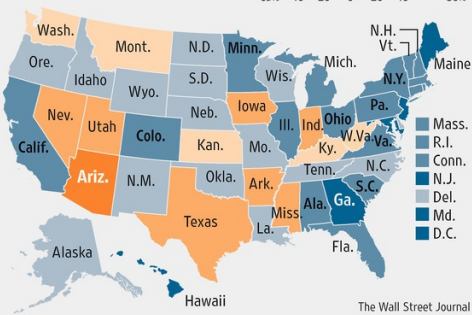
Percentage change since FY 2003



Note: Fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services

Percentage change, FY 2003-12



The Wall Street Journal

ARIZONA SUED BY ABUSED FOSTER CHILDREN!

15,000 Cases of Arizona Child Porn: Huge Child Sex Trafficking Ring in Arizona Ahead of Superbowl!

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Mother, interrupted: CPS accused her of everything from neglect to excessive care, never proved anything, and took her daughter anyway

Arizona CPS on Trial in Federal Court - Will Justice Prevail?



Image from [Legal Crimes AZ Facebook Page](#).

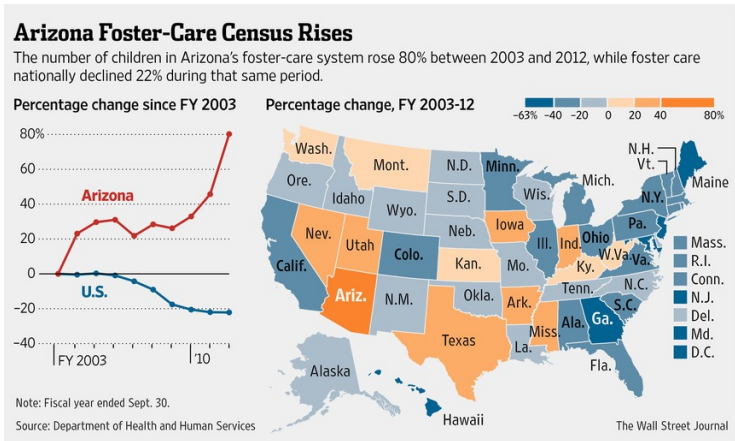
Health Impact News Editor Comments

Leanna Smith has been fighting the State of Arizona for several years for allegedly taking away her two daughters illegally in a massive medical cover-up and fraud case. Now she gets her day in federal court on Friday April 17th, 2015 at 9:00am in the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco.

But will justice prevail?


The state of Arizona is known as being one of the most corrupt states in the U.S. legally kidnapping children and destroying families. Arizona has the highest percentage of children nationwide being taken out of their families and

being put into foster care.



Is this because there are so many more terrible parents in Arizona than the rest of the country, or because the foster care system brings in hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue in federal subsidies, leading to children being abducted by the State from loving parents?

It is a well-known fact that children in Arizona foster care do not do well, and are suffering. Earlier this year (2015), a [federal class-action lawsuit](#) was filed against the directors of the Arizona Department of Children's Services and the Department of Health Services for alleged abuses against children suffered in the State's care.



Taking risks: Arizona foster care practices leave kids vulnerable to physical, psychological harm.

KPHO CBS5 in Arizona [reported last year](#) that there are so many children being removed from homes and put into foster care in Arizona, that there is a severe shortage of foster homes, and that babies and children are being “housed” in social services’ office buildings. ([Story here.](#))

The Case of Leanna Smith’s Two Daughters: Medical Malpractice and Sexual Abuse Alleged

Health Impact News has published the stories of several families who claim their children were medically kidnapped in Arizona (see below.) One of the most tragic stories we have published is the story of Leanna and Darrell Smith’s two daughters, which perhaps most illustrates the depth of corruption that many families have reported exists in the Arizona “medical kidnapping” system. The Smith family was completely destroyed, as they lost 2 of their 3 children, and they have been embattled in years of legal proceedings. Now, their case will be heard outside of Arizona in the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco Friday April 17, 2015.

To learn more about this horrific story, see:

Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed

Leanna Smith alleged has over 1700 audio recordings of interviews with government and medical personnel in the case, which have been sealed. Why have these recording been sealed for so long in Arizona courts? Will they finally be released, and will Leanna Smith be able to present her case against the State of Arizona and medical authorities in federal court?



Happier days. Leanna with her two daughters before they were taken away by medical authorities and Arizona CPS.

This case may very well determine the future of thousands of Arizona's children taken by the dysfunctional child protective services unit, renamed the Department of Child Safety.

Arizona has nearly 17,000 children in the foster care system drawing down hundreds of millions of dollars in federal subsidies and compensation. It is an allegedly corrupt system that many say is hidden in non-transparent and non-accountable juvenile court proceedings, uninvestigated foster homes, and mental and physical health care providers without oversight or accountability.

Parents languish in these juvenile court proceedings without the capacity to enter evidence and testimony that would explain their case and in some cases would completely vindicate the parents of any wrongdoing.

Law enforcement is allegedly held at bay, unable to share their findings, unless the Arizona Attorney General's Office asks for those findings from investigations to be submitted to the court.

State Legislators and even the Governor of the State of Arizona, are forbidden to speak and listen to their constituents about issues dealing with Child Protective Services or the Department of Child Safety.

Will the Leanna Smith case finally be the case that forces Arizona to clean up a system designed to protect children from abuse, but that is allegedly doing the exact opposite?

The public and media are encouraged to attend on Friday April 17, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, located in the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco.



Image from Facebook. [Click for address.](#)

Support the Smith Family cause by visiting their Facebook Page:



[Facebook Page.](#)

Read the [Opening Brief](#) to their Civil Rights case in the U.S. 9th Circuit Court.

More Stories from Parents in Arizona Who Claim their Children were Medically Kidnapped:



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Mother, interrupted: CPS accused her of everything from neglect to excessive care, never proved anything, and took her daughter anyway

Arizona Families Hold Umbrella Rally on Anniversary of Diegel Sisters Medical Kidnapping



Families rally at the capitol for children taken by CPS.
Source: [AZ State House Umbrella Rally Facebook page](#).

by Terri LaPoint
Health Impact News

It has been a year now since Melissa Diegel's daughters, Kayla and Hannah, were seized by Arizona CPS and Phoenix Children's Hospital, one year since that horrible week last April when the Diegel sisters joined the ranks of not hundreds, but thousands of children in foster care in Arizona, many of whom are believed to be there unjustly.

The [Diegel story](#) helped to thrust the issue of medical kidnapping into the national spotlight.

In commemoration of the painful anniversary, other families and supporters joined together for an Arizona State House Umbrella Rally, to “rally for the 17,000 Arizona children currently in State Care.” Umbrellas have become a symbol for these children, starting out as simply a tribute to the Diegel sisters because Hannah has always loved umbrellas. As the number of supporters grew, the umbrellas have come to symbolize much more, as a rallying cry for activists fighting to bring these children home:

“All children belong under the protective umbrella of loving parents.”



Source: [Umbrella Rally Event Facebook page](#).

Stuffed Animals Represent Children Legally Kidnapped

Supporters also brought stuffed animals, to “represent children who have been unjustly taken as well as the number

of days Kayla & Hannah have been in State captivity.”



Source: Umbrella Rally Facebook page.

Most of the umbrellas were decorated with photos of children taken by the state, as well as brief descriptions of their stories. At *Medical Kidnap*, we have covered a number of their stories, but there are many more that have not yet been shared with the world.

Parents and supporters are working hard to bring attention to the injustice that they say is happening in record numbers in Arizona. The data supports this claim, as several articles from *Medical Kidnap* and [others](#) have demonstrated.

Arizona CPS on Trial in Federal Court – Will Justice Prevail?

Medical Kidnapping: Billion Dollar Adoption Business

Arizona's Exploding Foster Care Intake: Kids sleeping in State Office Buildings

Activists posted photos of the event to Governor Ducey's Facebook page, in the hope that he would pay attention and help the families. There were reportedly about 40 people in attendance at the rally, talking to reporters, passers-by, legislators – to anyone who would listen to the tragic tales of children ripped from their families who love them.

Symbolic Blowing of the Shofar

Prayers were prayed, and friends were made. One supporter, Martine Meuret, brought a shofar – a traditional Jewish ram's horn, historically blown as a powerful wake-up call or call to action. According to one supporter, the blowing of the shofar is “Dedicated to all children in CPS foster care in the state of Arizona and families that have been wrongfully accused.” Martine's prayer is this:

“May the sound of the shofar break through strongholds and chains and BRING THE CHILDREN BACK HOME. It was an honor to sound the shofar for this cause. May God fill you all with courage, strength, hope and endurance and protect the children.”

https://youtu.be/cRE_HwujWN4

Diegel Sisters' Story Thrust Medical Kidnapping Into National Awareness

It has only been in recent months that the disturbing issue of medical kidnapping and CPS abuse has penetrated public consciousness. For decades, parents have been intimidated into silence with threats and gag orders. Justina Pelletier's father, Lou, broke his gag order, and the public first learned about the atrocities that were happening to his daughter. Yet, many believed that this was an isolated incident. A spattering of other stories hit the media, but again, other than those involved, most of the public did not realize that this type of thing is, and has been, occurring all over the nation. It was only after Melissa Diegel bravely began speaking out about the medical kidnapping of her daughters that the website *MedicalKidnap.com* was born, and many more voices began to be heard. Melissa's story is only the tip of the iceberg. Families are uniting and joining their voices at the Umbrella Rallies, like the family of Joey Kangaroo, and others:



Joey Kangaroo was taken when his mom asked for help with her special needs child. Source: AZ State House Umbrella Rally Facebook page.

**Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child
Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away
Instead**



Other families rally for justice. Source: AZ State House Umbrella Rally Facebook page.

Statement from Melissa Diegel

“Although it is sad that it takes such a horrific tragedy, such as ones child being taken away by the state in order to bring people together, in the sorrow I am deeply blessed to have met some of the most wonderful people I have ever known along this challenging journey.

“Today was an opportunity to raise awareness for so many families in Arizona who’s due process rights are not being followed such as not allowing a parent a proper trial within 90 days.

“It is our goal to continue to raise awareness and to effect change in a positive way. To help as many Arizona families and children be able to grow up feeling loved and safe in the proper environment in which God intended.”

A previous statement from Melissa Diegel on her family’s story can be heard in this interview which aired on a radio program prior to the court issuing a gag order on her:

<https://youtu.be/ltvHV9KyD9Y>

Next Umbrella Rally Planned for May 1

The Arizona group already has another Umbrella Rally planned, this time for May 1. They are hoping that even more people will join them. At this point, it is unclear whether this is limited to just Arizona families, or if this will grow, and there will be Umbrella Rallies at State Houses all across the nation, calling for action, until every child taken from loving parents is returned to the umbrella of protection of their families.



Source: [UMBRELLA RALLY for all children in DCS custody Facebook Event page](#).

More Stories from Parents in Arizona Who Claim their Children were Medically Kidnapped:



[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



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Mother, interrupted: CPS accused her of everything from neglect to excessive care, never proved anything, and took her daughter anyway

9 Year Medical Kidnapping Case in Arizona Reaches Federal Court - Mother Speaks Out

Video no longer available.

Health Impact News Editor Comments

Leanna Smith of Arizona recently spoke out on her federal medical kidnapping case on the Robert Scott Bell show (listen to interview above). The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco will hear her case at 9:00 a.m. on Friday April 17, 2015.

You can read the background of this case from Arizona here:

[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)

In this interview on the Robert Scott Bell show, Leanna explains that she has two cases that will be heard on the 17th. One case is against the doctors who filed a report against her to CPS allegedly to cover up their medical malpractice that caused her first daughter to suffer, and which resulted in her losing custody of her daughter.

The second case involves conspiring to take custody of her second daughter because she had initiated the first lawsuit against them.

A panel of judges from the 9th Circuit Court will review the

case. Leanna is hoping that the court will unseal over 1800 audio recordings in the case which will expose just how the medical system and CPS in Arizona work in taking children away from their parents by medically kidnapping them.

Parent advocate Steve Isham also spoke on the Robert Scott Bell show and stated that the secret dealings of Arizona Family Court will finally come to light in federal court. He stated that in his 40 years of working as a parent advocate on these cases, the secrecy in which family court operates in Arizona has never been for the benefit of the children, but to cover up injustice.

The public and media are encouraged to attend on Friday April 17, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, located in the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco.



Image from Facebook. [Click for address.](#)

Support the Smith Family cause by visiting their Facebook Page:



[Facebook Page.](#)

Arizona Family Court, CPS, and Doctors on Trial in 9th Circuit Court



United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit

Friday April 17, 2015 9:00 a.m.

Leanna Smith v. State of Arizona

by **Steven R. Isham M.A., L.B.S.W**
Health Impact News

The contrast between the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit and the Arizona Juvenile Courts is the difference between transparency and darkness; the difference between fairness and corruption; the difference between hope and despair.

Walking into the courtroom the feeling is one of awe and respect. The decorum required in the court room is one of mutual respect and dignity of everyone involved. The architecture is marvelous with the marble walls, the vaulted ceilings, and the pew like seating gives an aura of the commitment to fairness and respectability. When one looks at the American flag, “Old Glory”, it is a true sign of everything our judicial system stands for.

The Panel of three Judges and their staff demonstrate a professionalism and equality between themselves and the participants. Nowhere in their behaviors or interactions is there a single instance of bias or impropriety. The Panel revealed a comprehensive understanding of the case, the evidence, and the issues to be resolved.

The defense attorneys and the plaintiff attorneys were well prepared and “all” the evidence was on the table for consideration. Nothing was withheld, nothing disregarded. The behavior of all the attorneys was so different than ever before. The viewer could see that their performance was raised to the level of importance in this setting.

The sheer volume of evidence that was provided to the Panel that was not provided to the Arizona Juvenile Court proceedings, was overwhelming in its quantity and critical importance. The fact that information and evidence was withheld from the Arizona Juvenile Court and subsequently provided to the Panel exposes the improprieties consistently spoken about by Arizona parents and families cursed with involvement with the Arizona Department of Child Safety.

The Arizona Juvenile Court system is the “antithesis” of the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. It is completely inconceivable how the difference can be so glaring between the two courts and the standards of fairness

while no one seems to care.

The one irrefutable fact remains: The Mother and the Father are innocent of any wrongdoing!

What's next?

The United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit has up to ninety days to render the decisions on the two cases. The process was fair and now we will wait to discover if it is justice served.

Meanwhile?

- Criminal complaints to be filed
- Complaints to the Arizona Medical Board, the Arizona Psychology Board, the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

Watch the proceedings which were recorded in the courtroom:

https://youtu.be/l-DO8w_jePQ

<https://youtu.be/ZgXdpVYriFU>

The Leanna Smith Family story:

[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)

Arizona Mother Facing Jail Time for Speaking out Against Medical Kidnapping



UPDATE 5/18/2015

From the [A Miracle For Two Sisters](#) Facebook Page:

The court room halls rang with cheers and clapping as Melissa Diegel entered the halls for her contempt trial. With armed guards at bay, entrance to the courtroom was denied except for Melissa, the girls' father or anyone directly involved in the case of the Diegel sisters, Hannah and Kayla.... After refusing to enter the courtroom alone for fear of her life, and after much deliberation, Judge McNally finally agreed that an advocate could enter the courtroom with Melissa. Shortly after, they both returned to the hallway as Judge McNally issued a warning as well to the advocate who went in with Melissa ...that any "reporting by her as well could result in a contempt of court charge against her, and that she also, could face jail time." Although they did not take Melissa today...this is, I'm sure, far from over.... With more than 20 witnesses at hand, justice was, once again, denied to a family who has suffered at the hands of a corrupt DCS and Maricopa County judicial system.... Daphne Ball

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

One supporter has asked if this is a "hit list." Melissa Diegel has until Monday (May 18th) to turn over all the contact information, including phone numbers and emails, of every single person that she has communicated with about her daughters, or an Arizona judge says she will go to jail.

The Facebook page set up by supporters to follow the Diegel sisters' story has more than 9,000 followers, many of whom have been actively involved in advocating for the release of Hannah and Kayla from CPS custody.

Health Impact News was one of the first news organizations to report on the Diegel family story in 2014:

10 and 12 Year Old Sisters Seized from Family by Hospital in Phoenix

A judge ordered us, via Melissa Diegel, to take down our story back in 2014. The story is still up.

According to their page, [A Miracle for Two Sisters](#), Melissa faces a judge on Monday on contempt of court charges. Superior Court Judge Colleen McNally reportedly ordered her to turn over a list of all of the people that she contacted about her children's story. Melissa complied, turning over a list of entities and organizations that she had been in contact with.

Allegedly, this was not enough. It was reportedly not "complete compliance." Only complete compliance with the order will be enough to keep this mom out of jail.

IS MELISSA DIEGEL FACING A TOTALITARIAN DICTATOR?

"Not only does Melissa Diegel have to cope with the harm to her children she must also cope with a Superior Court Judge who has threatened her with jail for speaking out about her children and for associating with other parents and families victimized by the same corrupt system. The judge (a woman) has DEMANDED that Melissa HAND OVER the NAMES, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS and EMAILS of ALL HER FRIENDS and FAMILY and ANYONE she has communicated with regarding her children OR go to jail on Monday the 18th of May, 2015!"



Source: [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook page](#).

A supporter writes on the Facebook page:

On Monday, May 18th at 2:00 pm Melissa Diegel will be appearing in the Durango courthouse for contempt charges. The judge has instructed her that if she is not in complete compliance with the order that she will be incarcerated.

We support Melissa's first amendment right to free speech and to hold her in contempt for that very reason is unconstitutional.

If you live in Arizona we urge you to attend this hearing to stand in support of the principles she believes in and the rights she and every American are entitled to.

A great number of parents around the country have faced unconstitutional gag orders, which would prevent them from speaking out about what is happening to their children, and possibly expose corrupt actions by social workers, lawyers, and judges. Many parents have been coerced into silence, but increasingly, parents are speaking out and telling their side of the story, exposing their tales of injustice to the media and the public. However, the order by Judge McNally appears to be unprecedented.

Does an Arizona court have a right to your name, address, phone number, and email, if you communicated with Melissa Diegel? If you are one of the many parents going through a similar situation, and you reached out to Mrs. Diegel as an understanding ear, are you willing for her to give all of your contact information to a judge? Will this order have a chilling effect on the public's Constitutional Freedom of Speech?

If the judge can order such a list to be turned over, what are the implications for privacy? Has the judge crossed a line? Advocates for the Diegel family believe that it has.

Do we as a society want to have judges wearing jack boots under their black robes acting like third world totalitarian dictators? Melissa Diegle's case is more like a Stalinist purge than a US judicial proceeding. She has yet to receive a trial... the Judge refuses to acknowledge the motions Melissa has presented to her... strange that the cut off date to hear these motions or the case is closed falls on Monday the 18.. Please join the Court Watch of this case Monday, May 18th at 2:00 PM at the Courtroom of Judge McNally to witness this miscarriage of justice and persecution of this American woman and her children."

—Malinda Sherwin

Supporters are inviting everyone who can to show up at the courthouse at 3131 West Durango, Phoenix, Arizona, at 2 p.m. Mountain Time Monday, May 18, to be a witness to the proceedings in the court hearing. (“Court Watchers Needed” event information [here](#).)



Source: [A Miracle for Two Sisters Facebook page](#).

Melissa Diegel has issued the following statement on the event page:

It is important to express that I do not feel that I am above the law, but rather I expect that the Arizona courts should

uphold the Constitution. I have been denied a jury trial. I have been denied a trial within 90 days. I have been denied the right to see my daughters and I have been denied the right to prove my innocence in the court of law as “I have been accused” and stripped of my precious daughters.

I do not understand the Arizona system. Exactly what rules they going by? Are they following their own judicial policy or the statues?

Please stand together now families of Arizona. There is power in numbers. Rights will continue to be stripped if we do not stand up and say enough is enough!

I hope to see you on Monday You can make a difference.Just like Martin Luther King changed a nation we can too and it starts now and continues even after I get arrested.



Judge Colleen McNally.

Judge Colleen McNally [can be reached here](#), at 602-506-5961.

Record Number of Children Seized by Arizona CPS Sleeping in Offices



A Social Services office in Phoenix used to house babies who are taken away from families to put into foster homes. There are many more children than foster homes. [Image from CBS5 Arizona.](#)

Health Impact News

We reported last year how local media in Phoenix was reporting that Arizona social services are removing so many children from their families that they do not have enough foster homes to place in, so many children end up sleeping in the social services offices. (See: [Arizona's Exploding Foster Care Intake: Kids sleeping in State Office Buildings.](#))

KPHO in Phoenix is reporting that the situation has not

improved here in 2015, but actually has become even worse.

Record number of children sleeping in DCS offices

By [Adam Longo](#)

[PHOENIX \(KPHO/KTVK\)](#)

Excerpts:

There are more than 17,000 children in Arizona who are not sleeping at home. Instead, they are with a foster family or in a group shelter.

The number of children sleeping in Department of Child Safety offices is also higher than it has ever been before.

According to the latest figures released by DCS, 287 children spent at least one night in a state-owned office building near 19th Avenue and Osborn in Phoenix in April.

When we first reported on this issue in a series of reports back in October 2014, state officials were bringing cots and cribs into the office building as an emergency measure designed for children removed from abusive or neglectful homes.

Since then, however, the numbers have skyrocketed... the numbers reveal that more than half of the children removed from their homes spent the night in the office.

[Read the full story.](#)

Doctor Involved in Arizona Medical Kidnapping Case to Face Charges Before Arizona Medical Board



Kathryn A. Coffman, MD – [Image source](#).

Health Impact News

On Wednesday June 3, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. the Arizona Medical Board will review the complaint against the State of Arizona's expert witness on child abuse cases, Kathryn Coffman, M.D. [The meeting](#) will take place at 9535 E.

Doubletree Ranch Road, in Scottsdale, Arizona. (See [meeting agenda](#).)

Dr. Coffman is named a defendant in a [federal lawsuit](#) currently pending in the U.S. 9th Circuit Court by Leanna Smith, who has sued the State of Arizona, CPS, and doctors in the medical kidnapping of her two daughters. Read her story here:

[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)

Leanna Smith had her daughters removed from her custody based on the testimony of doctors who accused her of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, but what Leanna Smith claims was an attempt to cover up medical malpractice. Dr. Coffman was the lead doctor and expert on “child abuse” involved in the case.

According to filed court documents, Leanna’s attorney called on Dr. Eli Newberger as an expert witness, as he is one of the leading authorities nationwide on Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy. After reviewing the medical records in this case, Dr. Newberger wrote:

My opinion is that there was no evidence that Leanna Smith perpetrated any injury whatever on this child; that there’s no evidence that she misrepresented to doctors in the search for inappropriate or intrusive diagnostic studies or therapeutic inventions – interventions on this child; that there is a welter of speculations purported associations as both Bursch and Coffman would put it, possibilities that don’t cohere in any useful way. And that furthermore, the mandated reports of

suspected abuse re base on, in the case of the first report to CPS, misrepresented or falsified medical data made, in my opinion, in bad faith.

One of the claims allegedly made against Leanna Smith was an incredible claim that she gave “anti-freeze” to her daughter, a claim that was never even investigated by looking for toxicology reports to verify.

In addition to what Dr. Newberger stated was “misrepresented or falsified medical data made,” court documents indicate that Dr. Coffman allegedly had serious conflicts of interest in this case, as she represented several parties to the complaint, being employed by both the hospital making the complaint, and CPS investigating the complaint:

- Dr. Coffman works for St. Joseph’s Hospital at the Crisis Center located at Child Help USA
- Dr. Coffman did the medical reviews for CPS and Detective Page of the Tempe Police Department regarding the allegations of abuse against Leanna Smith
- Dr. Coffman testified at the dependency hearing on behalf of CPS
- Dr. Coffman worked for the very entity that made the initial complaint to CPS (St. Joseph’s Hospital) and was supervised by the same doctor. (Dr. White) that made the complaint.

Medical Board Review Open to the Public

The public will apparently have 3 minutes to make comments in the case against Dr. Kathryn Coffman in her hearing before the Arizona Medical Board. Parent advocates are encouraging any other parents who may have become victims to medical kidnappings in Arizona due to the testimony of Dr. Coffman to attend the hearings.

[Meeting details here.](#)

[Brief on Leanna Smith's Case in the 9th Circuit.](#)

Here are the charges allegedly filed against Dr. Coffman before the Arizona Medical Board:

- Dr. Coffman fell below the Standard of Care for a pediatric child abuse expert in her Reports
- Dr. Coffman violated the America Academy of Pediatrics policies regarding giving “scientifically sound” and “unbiased expert witness testimony.” Dr. Coffman’s testimony and opinions were biased, inaccurate, incomplete and unscientific.
- Dr. Coffman had a clear conflict of Interest
- Dr. Coffman early on showed she was biased, was not objective and was advocating for the doctors who had made the reports to CPS
- Dr. Coffman’s testimony to a reasonable degree of medical probability that CR was the victim of MSBP (medical child abuse by Mother) is based on speculation and is not supported by any evidence.
- Dr. Coffman unethically inferred that Leanna caused the comas by giving CR antifreeze

- Dr. Coffman's opinion the Comas incidents were psychogenic rather than caused by medications administered by the hospitals was speculation and not supported by the facts.

Stories from Parents in Arizona Who Claim their Children were Medically Kidnapped:



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



[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



[Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion](#)



[Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead](#)

More stories on Arizona:

[HSLDA Takes Prosecution of Arizona CPS Workers to Supreme Court](#)

[ARIZONA SUED BY ABUSED FOSTER CHILDREN!](#)

[15,000 Cases of Arizona Child Porn: Huge Child Sex Trafficking Ring in Arizona Ahead of Superbowl](#)

[Another Arizona Medical Kidnapping: 4 Children Removed from Family after Booster Seat Accident](#)

[CPS Caseworker in Arizona Turns Whistleblower - Reports on Abuse of Power](#)

[Why is the Arizona "Family Advocate" Threatening People Asking About Children in State Custody?](#)

[Arizona's Exploding Foster Care Intake: Kids sleeping in State Office Buildings](#)

[A History of Medical Kidnapping at Phoenix Children's Hospital](#)

[Congressional Testimony: Karla Johnson to Bill Windsor of Lawless America](#)

Medical Kidnapping Business: Judges Skirting the Law for Federal Funds

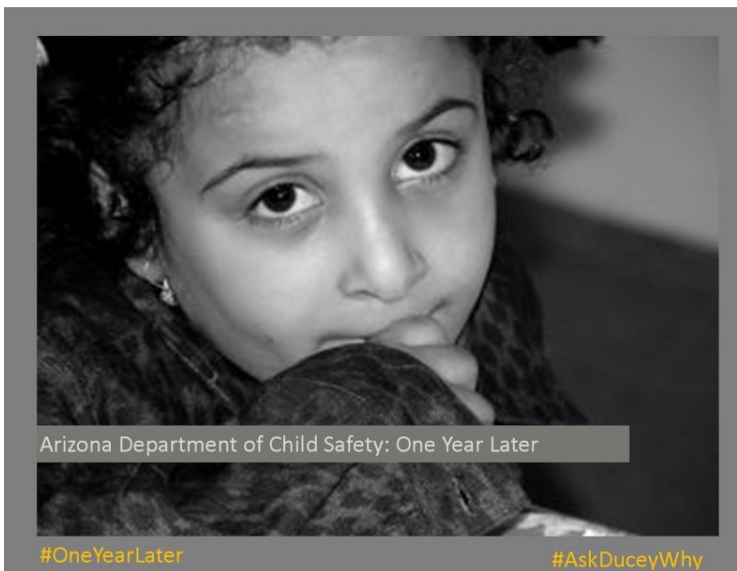
Mom who took child with cancer from hospital speaks out

Woman battles CPS to get her kids back

The Arizona 5: A Family of 5 Children Who Were Taken into Custody for the use of Biomedical Treatment for their Autism

Mother, interrupted: CPS accused her of everything from neglect to excessive care, never proved anything, and took her daughter anyway

Arizona Continues Record Pace of Taking Children out of Homes into State Custody - Now 1 of every 100 Children in Foster Care



Arizona House Democrats criticize Gov. Ducey and the Foster Care system. [Image source](#).

Health Impact News

Ever since the inception of MedicalKidnap.com in the fall of 2014, we have been reporting that the State of Arizona has the highest percentage of any other state in the U.S. in taking children out of their homes and putting them into

foster care.

Are we to believe that there are more criminal, abusive parents in Arizona than anywhere else?

Reports show that these state-sponsored kidnappings are only getting worse in 2015. [Local media reports](#) that the numbers are still rising.

Arizona State democrats have also criticized Republican Governor Doug Ducey in a [recent blog post](#), noting that 1 in every 100 Arizona children is now in foster care.

Ask Ducey Why

By [Arizona House Democrats](#)

The only thing more shocking than the number of Arizona children still in crisis is the governor's failure to develop a concrete plan for fixing the year-old Department of Child Safety. The Brewer administration created this department after disbanding the overwhelmed Child Protective Services, which left [more than 6,000 reports](#) of abuse and neglect uninvestigated.

The creation of the Department of Child Safety was supposed to ensure that child safety was a priority in the state. It was tasked with reviewing the uninvestigated reports and working through a 14,762-case backlog and then focus on prevention services that help keep families from moving into crisis. A year later, child safety services in Arizona remain in critical condition. And some argue the situation has actually gotten worse:

* The backlog is up from [14,762 in 2014](#) to [15,473 in 2015](#)

- * The number of Arizona children entering foster care is 56 percent higher in 2015^[1] than in 2014
- * One in every 100 Arizona children is in foster care^[2]
- * 287 children slept in DCS offices for at least one night in April 2015
- * About one in five kids removed from unsafe homes in Arizona were initially placed in group homes or shelters
- * About one in four reports of abuse or neglect remain unresolved since 2014

As long as the Department of Child Safety stays in crisis itself, it will never be focused on prevention, and the number of at-risk children in our state will continue to rise. The governor, so far, has not provided a meaningful plan for getting this department on track. House Democrats have asked repeatedly to receive regular updates about the department, so they can ensure it is getting the resources needed to keep kids safe. Those requests have not been answered sufficiently. But we will continue to ask.

To find ways to get involved, call for more accountability and demand a plan from the governor, [click here](#). It's time to #AskDuceyWhy things are still this bad #OneYearLater.

[Source](#).

More about [Arizona State-sponsored Kidnappings](#).

Arizona Mother Speaks Out on Medical Kidnapping of Her Daughters



Hannah and Kayla Diegel. Source: Diegel family.

UPDATE July 7, 2015

From the "[A Miracle For Two Sisters's](#)" Facebook Page:

Melissa Diegel's trial resumes TODAY and is scheduled from Tuesday through Friday on July 7,8,9 & 10th at 1:30 – 5:00 each day. These dates along with the opening day of trial should complete 1/2 of the trial with even more dates scheduled in the future. Brenda Bursch the Munchausen's "expert" is expected to be called to finish being cross examined.

If you live in AZ we are hopeful that you will attend as a court watcher to support Melissa's constitutional rights, parental rights, civil rights and most importantly support her for the daughters she has valiantly fought for.

Also from the "[A Miracle For Two Sisters's](#)" Facebook Page:

BREAKING!!!! NEW FACTS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC

Read about the molestation allegations, the swat team that stormed Melissa's home during the middle of the night *, intimidation by the state to the CASA *, the pre-determined ruling in the contempt hearing and how Phoenix Children's Hospital started to bill the insurance company for a condition months before the girls were taken for a condition K clearly does not have* along with much more.*

** #31 molestation allegations*

**#32 swat team*

**#36 PCH bills for a medical condition that doesn't exist*

**#47 & #48 Casa's intimidation*

[Read more.](#)

By **Guest Writer Melissa Diegel**
Health Impact News

Time keeps moving forward for most families across the United States. For my family, it has been 14 months since both my daughters Kayla and Hannah Diegel were taken. But I remember when I followed the Justina Pelletier story. I actually was Pro-Family back then. I was already involved in a legal battle with the school. They were violating both of my daughters' disability rights, so I contacted a pro bono lawyer from the disability law center. We were literally in the middle of fighting the school when CPS took my daughters away from me.

Although I had never home-schooled them, I had applied for homeschooling scholarships because I was tired of battling the school system. I knew I was capable of homeschooling, because I operated my own preschool for 5 years, and was educated in both business and early childhood. I received the letter that both my daughters were approved for their homeschooling scholarships for the following year, right after they were taken. Hannah was approved for a \$22,000 scholarship through the state. Instead, the Phoenix Children's Hospital and the state medically kidnapped them and made both of them unnecessarily repeat a grade.

I can see daily that time keeps moving forward, but things are clearer now, yet more hazy. They are clearer now because right from wrong has never been so obvious. But the haziness comes from me questioning humanity, and why CPS workers across our country might be taking children unnecessarily for monetary gain.

You know that “deer in the headlights” look? That jaw-dropping, “oh my gosh this can’t be happening to me” scenario? Well, it is happening to 450,000+ children a year, and nearly 700,000 parents a year. The statement, “We are here to take your kids,” isn’t a line from a movie. It is reality for many. Oftentimes this is done without a warrant in violation of due process of law.

I Live Your Pain Daily

My family’s case isn’t tiny; nobody’s is when it involves children’s lives. I have seen the most horrifying images. They are etched into my brain as if a hot iron has seared it there. I not only had my children taken, but now I have become an outspoken advocate, a writer, an activist, a fighting mother that was falsely accused.

Suddenly, I have found myself amongst thousands of families who are now intertwined with mine, and I can feel their pain because I know their pain..... because I LIVE THEIR PAIN. I too know what it is like to have a child ripped from my arms and taken from my home. Time keeps moving, but it’s like my heart has stopped.



The Diegels, before CPS. Source: Diegel family.

Diegel Trial Has Finally Begun

My trial has finally started in Arizona. The law here clearly states a parent is supposed to have an adjudication hearing (trial Statute 8-842) within 90 days, (120 at the latest.) But despite the fact that I filed several motions regarding this issue, it didn't seem to matter to the courts.

Out of the hundreds of families I have talked to in Arizona, not one has had their trial within the proper 90 days. That in itself is grounds for an appeal and a class action lawsuit on behalf of all the families, since they all qualify, as the most basic and fundamental statute is not being followed. I am not a lawyer, but I have been studying the law, and this is what I have found: in *Strunk v. United States* 412 U.S. 434 1973, the Supreme Court ruled that if the defendant's right to a speedy trial was violated, then it must be dismissed.

I filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus over 90 days ago. It was completely ignored by the courts. The judge never even bothered to answer back.

The judicial system has run amuck and our country is in crisis.

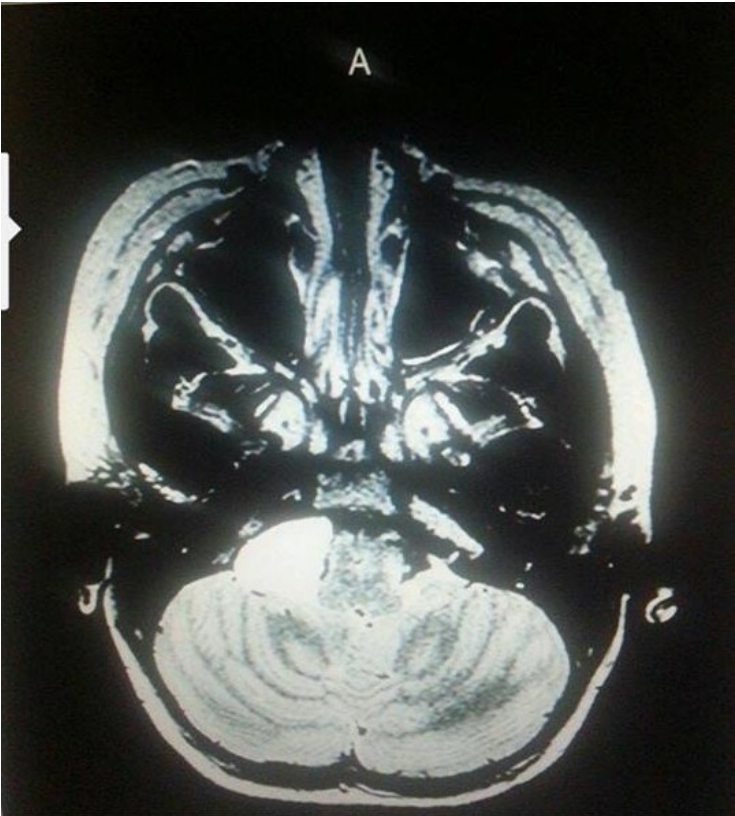
I am not a crazed mom. My psych exam was normal. Hannah, my youngest daughter, was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy in 2013 and treated for mitochondrial disease by Phoenix Children's Hospital, which falls under the M.D. umbrella.

It wasn't until I received the billing records that I could prove to everyone what the doctors had verbally said. The state had been withholding the medical records for over a year despite a judge's order to release them. I fought for one year to get the billing records through back channels of writing my primary insurance company. But I have them now. It proves it all, every diagnosis: from the paralyzed stomachs to the brain surgery to acid reflux. And guess what, the insurance company never bills for – “it is all in mom's head.”

Phoenix Children's Hospital billed their millions off of my children and then accused me, the mom, of Munchausen by Proxy, or as it is known now in the DSM-V, “Factitious Disorder.”

Brain Surgeon Orders Brain Surgery

There were real diagnostic tests that matched the symptoms that backed up what was happening with both Kayla and Hannah Diegel, now age 11 and 13. One such example would be the MRI that showed a large arachnoid brain cyst pushing on Hannah's brain stem.



Hannah's brain MRI. Source: Diegel family

This affected Hannah's ability to walk (gait and balance), which caused numbness and tingling, vision problems, etc. Dr. Spetzler, the brain surgeon at St. Joseph's Hospital, decided to do brain surgery to relieve the pressure. He did an excellent job. Hannah regained 100% of her balance, her vision improved enough where she didn't even have to wear glasses anymore, and the numbness and tingling disappeared completely! It was miraculous! (She did, however, continue to have headaches.)



Hannah after brain surgery. Source: Diegel family.

Another such example would be that both my children had gastric scans that showed their stomachs had delayed gastric emptying/gastroparesis. This is the crux of my case and many others across the nation.

So many children are being taken away for “Failure to Thrive” if they are “Disabled,” have “Genetic Issues,” “ADHD,” “Autism,” or “Are Feeding Tube Dependent.” And, unfortunately, under the code of federal regulation 46.116, some of them will be entered into drug trials, because the

state has the authority to to make those decisions while the children are under the guise of the state.

Some children were taken because they were abused. There are pockets of CPS agencies across the United States that I have heard work correctly. However, many children were taken for the wrong reasons. Some were the results of vindictive calls turned in. But the children are now worth federal funding. If the judicial system worked correctly and due process rights were not being violated, parents might stand a chance.

Brenda Bursch, PHD – “Professional Testifier”

So how are the courts successfully keeping these children?

In some cases, they hire professional testers like Brenda Bursch, who gets paid \$200 an hour to testify on the stand. She is contracted by different states, (in her case 5 different states.) She has been practicing for over 20 years, and has been working with CPS since the early 1990s. She now gets paid to professionally and falsely testify against the parents.

Brenda Burch has a PHD in psychology. She testifies against the medical records she has reviewed, but she is NOT a licensed medical doctor. Also, in most cases, she has NEVER MET the children or the accused parent IN PERSON until the day of the trial, yet testifies as to their supposed diagnosis on the stand.

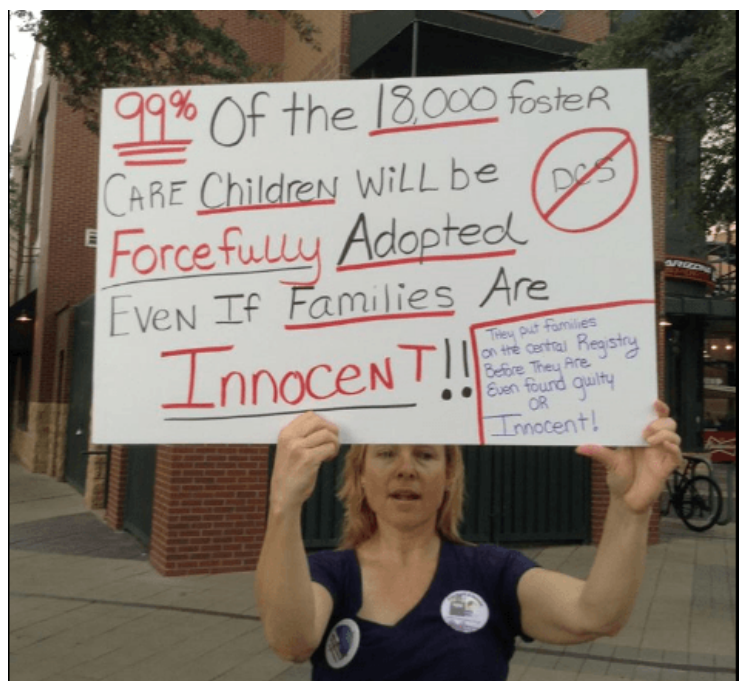
Her specialty is MBP. She boldly claims that a parent should never be able see their child again because the parent has made the child ill. In seemingly all her cases, she claims the parents suffer from “Munchhausen by Proxy/ Factitious

Disorder,” yet she has never spoken to the parent or child in almost all her cases.

It is the most unprofessional thing I have ever seen. Brenda Bursch has been involved in at least 9 MBP Arizona cases and was brought up on charges of practicing medicine in Arizona without a license. She has also been involved in multiple clinical research trials.

Where Our Country Went Wrong

[The Adoption and Safe Families Act](#) that Clinton Signed in 1997 gave financial incentive to states to adopt out children. This created a reward system to take more children and adopt them out. The numbers across the United States soared, and suddenly the children were not being returned home. More kids than ever were being taken and families were being shattered.



Source: Melissa Diegel

Arizona is a prime example of this. They take more children than any other state. 17,600+ are now in care. Over 35 children a day are being taken. Over 83% percent of the parents are being accused of NEGLECT, not abuse. Neglect can be something as simple as dirty dishes, the loss of a job, the house being too messy, a missed doctors appointment, and so on.

What Can YOU Do About It?

There is power in numbers. Educate yourself and join the rallies. Stop being silent. Become a court watcher... and pray if you are a believer. Never Give Up. Never Stop Caring.

www.amiraclefortwosisters.org
#TheArizonaTeam #MelissaDiegel

#Miracle42S

<https://youtu.be/ltvHV9KyD9Y>

Editor's Note: Supporters of the Diegel family have a [Facebook Page](#) set up for their cause:



Previous stories on the Diegel Family in Arizona:

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

[Arizona Mother of Two Girls Medically Kidnapped Breaks Gag Order and Speaks Out](#)

[Arizona Mother Facing Jail Time for Speaking out Against Medical Kidnapping](#)

Arizona Family Terrified - Foster Parents Taking Their Children to Mexico Against Their Will



Shoars family before DCS. Photo provided by Shoars family.

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

Tabitha and Jeff Shoars have just received word that a judge has allegedly approved a request for 2 of their children in Arizona DCF custody to travel to a dangerous area of Mexico for a week with their foster parents – a request that the Shoars did NOT approve. They are terrified for their children.

Unconstitutional Gag Order Was Issued in January

The Shoars were placed under a gag order in January so that they cannot speak publicly about the actions of DCS in taking custody of their children. Since that time, they have stayed out of the limelight and remained silent about their case, where a tragedy took the life of one of their children. Arizona DCS immediately seized the other 7 children, placing them in several different foster homes. Their story has drawn the compassion of tens of thousands of people.

Original story here:

[Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident](#)

No charges have been filed against Jeff or Tabitha, but their children remain in state custody.

They have chosen to cooperate with the restriction of their freedom of speech, which is seen as unconstitutional according to some of the top legal authorities in the United States. They have done so in the hopes that justice would eventually be served and their children would be returned to them.

[Arizona Court Issues Gag Order on Family of 7, Detective Wants to Subpoena Interview on Radio](#)

[Family Court Judges' Unconstitutional Gag Orders On Parents](#)

At Risk of Violating Gag Order, They Feel They Must Speak Up – For the Safety of Their Children

The Shoars realize that DCS will not be happy with them speaking up, but the threat of what could happen to their children if they go to Mexico is too great for them to remain silent.

The [U.S. State Department](#) has recently issued travel warnings for the region where the foster parents are planning to take the children, and these warnings are “terrifying” to the Shoars:

“Sonora is a key region in the international drug and human trafficking trades and can be extremely dangerous for travelers. Travelers throughout Sonora are encouraged to limit travel to main roads during daylight hours. The region west of Nogales, east of Sonoyta, and from Caborca north, including the towns of Saric, Tubutama, and Altar, and the eastern edge of Sonora bordering Chihuahua, are known centers of illegal activity, and non-essential travel between these cities should be avoided. Travelers should also defer non-essential travel to the eastern edge of the state of Sonora, which borders the state of Chihuahua (all points along that border east of the northern city of Agua Prieta and the southern town of Alamos), and defer non-essential travel within the city of Ciudad Obregon and south of the city of Navojoa. You should exercise caution while transiting Vicam in southern Sonora due to roadblocks that can be instituted ad hoc by local indigenous and environmental groups. U.S. citizens visiting Puerto Peñasco should use the Lukeville, Arizona/Sonoyta, Sonora border crossing, and limit driving to daylight hours.”

Tabitha is reportedly terrified for her children, wondering what possible valid reason the foster parents could have for wanting to take her children into such a dangerous region, where human trafficking and drug cartels are rampant, and drivers are cautioned to drive only in certain areas, and then only in the daylight.

The children do not have passports, and the foster parents assumedly only have copies of their birth certificates, not the originals or certified copies that would be required for re-entry into the United States.

Tabitha Shoars is asking:

“What if they don’t come back? What if they are kidnapped. Or worse?”

“Can we call the FBI?”



Photo provided by Shoars family.

Due Process Denied

When the foster parents first made the request, Tabitha and Jeff reportedly denied the request, as is their parental right, which they legally still retain. They learned on Friday that the foster parents petitioned the judge for the unusual

request, and he approved it. Allegedly, judges tend to universally deny such requests.

The Shoars state that the law mandates that there must be a conference or a hearing in such cases, for the parents to voice their concerns to the judge. This never happened. There is a hearing scheduled, but it will not happen until after the children are scheduled to be across the Mexican border.

Their court-ordered visitation will not be able to happen during the time that the children are to be in Mexico with the foster parents.

A supporter posted on the [Freedom and Justice for the Shoars](#) Family Facebook page posted this statement:

“Under [18 USC 1204](#) and [18 USC 241](#), this is considered kidnapping! Please also note that this is 18 years in prison per child.”

How Much Risk Is Acceptable for a Foster Child?

How much risk to a child does a parent have to see before the DCS authorities intervene? Or is intervention by child protective services only applicable when the children are with their biological parents? Why does the system remove children from their family of origin, only to place them in situations where they can be in more danger than they ever were at home? Why would a judge rule that people can take children who do not belong to them to a place known for human trafficking? These are some of the questions that

supporters of the Shoars family are asking.

What You Can Do

Phone calls may be made to Arizona Governor Doug Ducey at 602 542 4331 or 520 628 6580, asking him to intervene and stop the Shoars children from being transported out of the country to Mexico. Governor Ducey may also be reached [here](#). His [Facebook Page is here](#).

Greg McKay is the Director of Arizona Department of Child Safety. 602 255 2500 is the phone number for the DCS office, and the office may be contacted [here](#). Director Greg McKay is also on [Twitter](#).

[More about State-Sponsored Child Kidnapping in Arizona](#)

Adoption and Fostering for Profit: An Arizona Mom Who Lost her Children Exposes A Corrupt System



Melissa Diegel with her daughters Kayla and Hannah, before they were medically kidnapped.

The Cold Hard Facts About Foster Parenting & Adoption

by [Melissa Diegel](#)
[The Liberty Beacon](#)

There are good people in this world. I truly believe that. There are good foster parents too. There are good adoptive parents out there as well. In fact, my sister is an adoptive parent, and she does a great job and she has never received a dime. So this article does not apply to all parents.

However, I would be amiss to not disclose additional information that has recently come to light.

The system has become a well oiled machine working for profit. Many people in it are driven by money, and many good parents have had their children wrongfully removed so that others can greedily line their pockets for profit. I am still in shock sometimes as I peel back the layers to this system like a thick smelly onion, although I know I should no longer be shocked. One thing is for certain, it always leads back to the money and never seems to be about the “best interest of the children.”

Most of the general public is aware that foster families receive a monthly stipend for the children they have in their care. They don't however know how much each foster family receives. This of course varies by state, but here are Arizona's numbers:

Depending on if they are disabled or not they receive a different amount per day. This ranges from \$22.31 – \$37.49. OR \$669.30– \$1,124.70 a month.

Arizona's Daily Current Rates: [Family Foster Home Care Rates and Fees Schedule](#)

If however, families are doing kinship care, which means you or a relative are taking care of a loved one after the child has been removed by DCS/ CPS, the reimbursement which means you or a relative is taking care of a loved one after the child has been removed by DCS/ CPS, the reimbursement rates are \$1.74-\$2.63 a day/ \$78.90 a month. Which seems astronomically disproportionate and inappropriate.



Adoptive Parents Now Adopt for Free and Make a

Profit

This is the part where I really start to question the motive of people. Are you aware of the fact that adoptive families are compensated if they adopt a special needs child? This is known as a maintenance subsidy which falls under the umbrella of the adoption subsidy. Adoptive families receive this adoption subsidy if the children they adopt are special needs children in the state of AZ.

Let's stop here for a minute. I am the mom of two special needs children. I love them dearly. Most special needs moms I know would not give up their kids. There you have it, there is one of the problems. WHERE DID THEY GET THESE KIDS? I have read thousands of cases now. I have met hundreds of families. Many of these special needs children were wrongfully removed - horrifically separated for profit!



Let's take a very close look at the list to see who else qualifies in the state of Arizona.

The children only need to meet one of the criteria below to qualify for the adoption subsidy that would label a child special needs child:

- physical, mental or developmental disability;
- emotional disturbance;
- high risk of physical or mental disease that may result in a debilitating condition;
- high risk of developmental disability that may result in a debilitating condition;

- age six or older at the time of application for adoption subsidy;
- member of a sibling group being adopted by the same family;
- racial or ethnic factors when such factor(s) impede the child's adoptive placement; and
- high risk of severe emotional disturbance if removed from the care of the child's foster parent or relative as diagnosed by a psychiatrist or psychologist.

Source: [Arizona State Subsidy Profile](#)

Therefore, siblings are considered special needs if they are to be adopted by a family! A child over the age of six is considered special needs when put up for adoption as well. I have read several times that a child should not be reunified with the bio parents because it would cause emotional trauma since the child has "bonded" with the foster parents. Could it be that those children were deemed "special needs" and then qualified to stay with the foster parent for the adoption subsidy?

Adoptive Families Receive Monthly Maintenance Payments

In Arizona, families who adopt a special needs child, can claim the maximum credit regardless of their actual expenses. Families adopting children can claim up to \$13,400 per child, a year. Families can benefit only if they have federal income tax liability; current law allows it to be applied toward liability over a six-year period.

The follow video depicts an adoptive parent who was former

DCS employee. She became concerned because her \$3381.48 monthly check for her adopted children became delayed by the department of Child Safety and she was worried about how she was going to pay her rent.

Video no longer available.

It may very well be that many people adopt for the right reasons or not, but please keep in mind that many of these children may have been stolen to begin with, and the story you originally thought you may have been told about the bio family, might not be true.

Read the [Full Article at The Liberty Beacon](#).

Learn more about the [Diegel Family](#)

Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident



The Coumpy family in happier times. Source: [Parents Protecting God's Children Facebook page](#).

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

It started with a simple accident, something that could happen in any home with children. The child's doctor concluded that it was just that – an accident, one that happened in a good home with a “loving” and “attentive” mother, according to the family's pediatrician. But that didn't stop an overzealous daycare worker from calling Child

Protective Services (DSC) and reporting the mother.

She has never been charged with a crime, but now, Aprilli Coumpy is fighting to get her 5 children back from the state of Arizona. She faces a Permanency Planning Hearing at the Maricopa Courthouse on Thursday, July 30 at 9 am.

“My kids have never even been away from me! The state is trying to penalize me because I’m a single mom, and the kids were being kids.”

“Helpful” Children Accidentally Spill Hot Noodles on Toddler

The events that started the Coumpy family’s snowball into the nightmare they now face began with children just trying to help. As most experienced parents know, sometimes that “help” can be anything but helpful, but their heart was in the right places. For most families, the consequences aren’t nearly so steep as the price this Arizona family is now paying.

While their mom was still sleeping one Sunday morning in February, the 6 and 7 year old woke up early and decided to fix breakfast for their mother and the family. Ordinarily, if the children woke up before their mom, they would wake her up, and she would fix breakfast. But she had been working hard, and her children wanted to help out.

“Mama, we didn’t want you to have to cook breakfast today.”

They decided to add noodles to the menu, and some of the hot noodles got spilled onto their 2 year old brother's leg and burned him. It was allegedly an accident.

Their mother, who is not only an experienced mom with 5 children ranging from 16 years old to 1 year, is also trained as a medical assistant and a phlebotomist. When she phoned the doctor's office, she spoke with the nurse on call. She reports that she treated the burn with neosporin and aloe vera covered with a gauze dressing, as well as applied ice packs, per the nurse's instructions. The nurse reportedly did not seem worried, and told Aprilli to watch for signs of infection. They scheduled an appointment for Wednesday.

Day Care Reports Burn as Abuse and Takes Child to Hospital

On Tuesday of that week, Aprilli took her children to Jumpstart Learning Center, the day care that they have been going to for years. She reports that she let a day care employee know about the burn on her son Kingdom's leg, giving instructions to make sure to leave the dressing on the burn, to reduce the risk of infection. She told them that she had an appointment scheduled to take him to his doctor. She was told that she would simply need to bring in a note from the doctor for their files.

She was horrified to find that, while she was gone, the day care owner took it upon herself to take her son to the hospital and call Child Protective Services. The doctors at Maricopa Medical Center applied bacitracin, changed the dressing, and prescribed a pain medication for the burn they diagnosed as a 2nd degree burn. The day care employee had removed the dressing that Kingdom's mother had applied, which, according to Aprilli, subjected her son unnecessarily

to a risk of infection.

The hospital did not have any complaint about Ms. Coumpy, but a case was opened by Child Protective Services based on the call from Jumpstart Learning Center.

Family's Doctor Writes in Support of Mother

In a letter dated 2/18/2015, the day following the day care report, the family's doctor, Cynthia Jacquemart, MD, explains that the injury was an accident:

In regards to the recent accidental burn suffered by King: I have known this child since birth. King has been seen regularly in our office for well and sick visits. His mother ... has always been attentive to his needs and the needs of her other children. She has followed our medical advice consistently. King and the other children have a good loving relationship with their mother when observed in the office. They are well mannered, well dressed and well nourished.

This recent event that resulted in a second degree burn to King's thigh has been explained and is consistent with an accidental injury. As an experienced parent, [Mrs. Coumpy] often takes care of simple injuries without an appointment. She is not medically trained so she was unaware of the different treatments for the various burn categories, but she did keep the area clean and covered. ... My nurse did verify with mom that King was not in pain and the burn did not appear infected. I do feel that Mrs. Coumpy ... meant no harm to her child and is taking good care of this injury.

However, Child Protective Services was now involved. This was not going away any time soon.



Coumpy children at home together, before DCF. Source: Coumpy family

DCS Demands Meeting

Because of the report made by the daycare, DCS Specialist Geoffrey Harding sent a letter, dated March 4, to Aprilli Coumpy, stating that “we have concerns regarding the care of your children and request a team meeting” to be held on March 6.

“We will be discussing the services we can offer to better stabilize your family.”

She couldn’t believe that they were actually serious, because she had done nothing wrong. On March 5, she wrote a letter to CPS, informing them that she would not be attending:

“I Aprilli Coumpy will not be attending YOUR team meeting tomorrow. I have other things to be done; I am including references from my kids’s doctor as well as my medical

credentials in reference to my background. A daycare is only supposed to report abuse or neglect in which neither is present in this case. I gave Jumpstart specific instructions per Kingdom's Dr and they purposely ignored it and did what they wanted to do which is a violation of privacy for me and my children ... Again as I have told you before, if you have real concerns about my children, contact their Dr. Not a nosy childcare lady without ANY medical history at all. After giving specific instructions and due to Jumpstart unwrapping his leg, Jumpstart actually subjected my son to any type of infections. ..."

She told them that her 6 year old was having "emotional issues due to the extra drama caused by Jumpstart and CPS" and asked them to leave her family alone.

"It was an unfortunate accident but it was just that. An accident."

She also stated that "there are no resources you can provide me." Aprilli would later learn that when DCS "offered" their "services," it isn't actually an offering of optional services, but a demand for complete compliance with the consequence of losing one's children if the parent does not submit. Some would call that tyranny, or blackmail.

Oldest Child Runs Away

In the real world with real families, problems and crisis sometimes have a way of happening right on top of each other, and the Coumpy family is no exception.

Less than 2 weeks after the day care crisis, Aprilli's oldest daughter, who was almost 16, decided to run away after a conflict over house rules about chores. Aprilli called the police to report that she had run away.

Later, while Ms. Coumpy was in the shower, the 6 and 7 year old again decided to try to be helpful and go look for their big sister. This was not at all typical behavior for the children, reports Aprilli. Ordinarily, she could trust them to stay inside when she showered. A neighbor saw them outside searching for their sister, and apparently notified authorities. The police arrived at the door with a DCS caseworker, who had allegedly been watching them ever since the burn incident.

Children Seized: Mom Believes It Is Retaliation

They took all of the children away, citing a "lack of supervision," and "failure to control" the children. The caseworker reportedly took great issue with the fact that the children got up before their mother on the Sunday morning that King got burned.



She's cute, and she just wants to help. Source: Coumpy family

Aprilli believes that the actions of the case worker in seizing her children was retaliation for her letter standing up for her family and asserting that she didn't need their services.

It was 2 months before Aprilli was able to see any of her children again. They are now ages 1, 3, 7, 8, and 16 years old.

Services Used as Blackmail

It quickly became clear that acceptance of the services “offered” by DCF was a requirement, not a request. There was nothing voluntary about them. In fact, the court very clearly stated that failure to comply with whatever they “offered” could result in her children literally being adopted out.

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

JD30131

5/4/2015

make such orders with regard to such conduct as are just, including among others, any of the orders provided in Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court.

WARNING

As a parent, it is your responsibility to cooperate with all services offered, and work toward return of your child. A failure to do so, within a reasonable period of time, may mean losing your child forever through termination of your rights and adoption.

Screenshot of Coumpy family court documents. Source: Coumpy family

DCF-Required “Services” Not Easy to Complete

Aprilli is willing to comply with all of the demands, because, like most parents, she desperately wants to be reunited with her children. However, that is proving to be difficult.

Many parents have reported to Medical Kidnap that the court orders services, yet when the parents try to comply, they cannot get social services to provide the services that they

are demanding. It is a story that we hear over and over. Aprilli Coumpy is no exception.

A Parent Aide is supposed to meet with Aprilli every Sunday. However, Aprilli reports that the Parent Aide reschedules every single week, changing the date. She is working, and she has blocked out time out of her schedule for the meetings with the Aide. When she calls to reschedule, Aprilli has to scramble to rearrange her schedule to make it work.

DCF has ordered a psychological evaluation, but there is no one available to do the evaluation for months. Court is this Thursday (July 30th).

Aprilli has not been charged with any crime.

Baby Sent to Phoenix Children's Hospital for Questionable Surgery

The baby, Christian, was born with a condition that his pediatrician and mother have been watching. Aprilli says that her doctor says that there was a good chance that he would grow out of it. They had an appointment scheduled with a urologist, but that never took place because the children were taken by the state. Since that time, DCF allegedly said that he had a hernia, something that the family's pediatrician never diagnosed. Despite his mother and doctor's wishes that no surgery be performed, DCF took Christian to Phoenix Children's Hospital for the surgery.

Phoenix Children's Hospital has been the subject of a large number of articles involving medical kidnappings.

A History of Medical Kidnapping at Phoenix Children's Hospital

10 and 12 Year Old Sisters Seized from Family by Hospital in Phoenix

Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion

Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead

Family Is Broken-Hearted

Aprilli Coumpy is a strong woman, but the loss of her children has devastated her. Like so many families in her situation, she has felt alone, and has felt that the system is treating her children unjustly. All she wants is for her children to come home.



Baby Christian wants his mommy. Source: Coumpy family

Her prayer is that the judge will realize that her children should never have been in the system in the first place, and will return her children to her. There was an accidental injury, one which her doctor acknowledges was, indeed, an accident. But because daycare worker decided to report the accidental injury to the Child Protective System as abuse, her family has been torn apart.

“I couldn’t even see my kids on their birthday!”

She says that when she sees them now, the place they have her meet is dirty, and has roaches. Other family members are not permitted to see the children. Her oldest daughter is in a separate foster home from her younger siblings. They haven't seen her since this whole ordeal began.

The separation has been very difficult on the children. The 7 and 8 year olds blame themselves. At one visit, they said in front of the DCF caseworker:

“Mom, we’re sorry we ran away. We were just trying to find our sister. When can we come home?”

That is that question that Aprilli is asking as well. She prays that the judge will let them come home soon.

How to Help

Supporters are invited to come to the Maricopa County Courthouse on Thursday morning, July 30, for the Permanency Planning hearing at 9 am. The address is 3130 West Durango.

A Facebook page has been set up for supporters to follow their story, called [Parents Protecting God’s Children](#). Aprilli says that she realizes now that this is so much bigger than just her family, and she wants to work with other families to see justice happen.



These stories continue to come out of Arizona, the state with the highest percentage of children being taken from their homes and put into foster care. Are parents to fear that a simple accident will result in their children being imprisoned in the system or taken away from them forever? Activists have been calling upon Governor Doug Ducey to do something about this. He may be contacted at 602 542 4331 or reached [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Representative Rick Gray represents the Coumpy's district. He may be reached at 602 926 5993, or contacted [here](#).

The Senator for their district is Senator Barbara McGuire. She may be reached at 602 926 5836, or contacted [here](#).

Shocked Arizona Mother Finds GoFundMe Page for Medical Needs of Daughter Medically Kidnapped



Happier days. Leanna with her two daughters before they were taken away by medical authorities and Arizona CPS.

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

We have previously covered the medical kidnapping story of Leanna Smith, who had her two daughters removed from her family and eventually adopted out due to allegations of “medical abuse” and Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy. Leanna has been fighting in court for several years now to

seek justice, and earlier this year her case was heard in the [9th Circuit Court](#).

See the original story:

Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed

This week, Leanna found a [GoFundMe page](#) put up by the foster parents of her youngest child requesting funds for medical needs and to move out of their home which was infested with mold. Leanna wonders if CPS and the State of Arizona did any investigations with the foster parents as they have publicly admitted that her youngest daughter now has DRESS syndrome, severe rashes, and “serious damage to her liver.”

Criminal Complaint for Conspiracy Filed Against Doctors, CPS, Attorney Generals, and Foster Parents



Leanna’s oldest daughter Chaunell in the hospital.

Earlier this year on March 20, 2015 Leanna Smith filed a Criminal Complaint with Sheriff Joe Arpaio and Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney, asking them to open a criminal investigation:

The key to this complaint is the act of Dr. Brenda Bursch (“Bursch”) and Marina Greco (“Greco”), a licensed therapist who intentionally and knowingly practiced medicine without a license. They did so pursuant to a conspiracy to manipulate a child in CPS care and custody and were aided and abetted by Bonnie Brown, CPS Supervisor , Tammy MacAlpine, CPS Case worker, Katrina Buwalda, a licensed psychologist in Arizona, Foster Parents Kristi and Brent Mueller and Bruce MacArthur and Jennifer Hunter, assistant attorney generals. We are asking for an investigation and prosecution of these individuals...

The complaint states:

This prosecution is important because there is a serious systemic problem in Arizona Child Protective Services (“CPS”) now known as the Arizona Department of Child Safety (“DCS”), referred to collectively herein as “CPS,” in medical child abuse cases to take children from parents and to seek dependency and severance based on medical opinions not provided by medical doctors but by psychologists who cannot as a matter of law, give such opinions. Further CPS supervisors will seek severance and take a child permanently from a parent without justification. This has become a common pattern and practice within CPS.

4 Year Old Child Removed from Parents and Adopted Out Now Suffering



Jameelah with her sister Chaunell during happier days.

On May 21, 2010 Arizona CPS took custody of 4-year-old Jameelah because of alleged medical abuse, a charge never proven in a court of law. ([Full story here.](#)) The state changed her social security number and Jameelah Smith became Aaliya Hoffman Mueller.

Based on the [GoFundMe page](#) found by her mother Leanna Smith, Jameelah, now 9-years-old, has developed serious medical conditions that she did not previously have when in the care of her mother:

On January 5, 2015 she started developing a rash. I took her to the pediatrician the following morning and they reassured me it was something called Fifth's disease, common in young

children, that it had nothing to do with the medication and to continue to give it to her. On January 12, 2015 she woke up with what looked like a severe burn over the majority of her body. She was immediately admitted to the hospital for DRESS Syndrome, a rare but potentially fatal reaction to her medication. She has suffered with a severe rash, fluid buildup in her entire body and the worst is serious damage to her liver. At this time she is starting her 4th week in the hospital and has been in ICU several times.

The living conditions where Jameelah is staying is also apparently not very good, according to the [GoFundMe page](#):

A couple weeks into her stay here my oldest daughter contacted me and told me that they had moved a bed and that there was black mold growing up through the wood flooring. We contacted our landlord and a company came out to inspect our home. Apparently, the house had major flooding prior to our moving in and was not properly cleaned up. They found several areas of black mold throughout our home which required extensive cleanup. We were asked to move immediately as it was a danger for our family.

Health Impact News spoke with the mother, Leanna, who stated:

I fear for my daughter's life. She may need a liver transplant. Every day now I read the obituaries looking for her name.

Take Action

Citizens who want to express their outrage over this apparent abuse of power that has destroyed a family and is now possibly in danger of killing a 9-year-old child are encouraged to contact the following officials in Arizona:

Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney – [Contact Info](#)

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio – [Contact Info](#)

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey – [Contact Info](#)

Original story:

[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)

Arizona Child Traffick Racketeering via CPS and Doctors on Trial Before U.S. Supreme Court



Attorney Keith Knowlton representing Leanna Smith before the 9th Circuit Court. [Source](#).

by **Brian Shilhavy**
Health Impact News Editor

[MedicalKidnap.com](#) is a website born in late 2014 and is part of the [Health Impact News](#) network. We started MedicalKidnap.com because so many families were coming to us and begging us to publish their stories to the public – stories of how their children were taken away from them by an apparent collusion between medical doctors and social workers in Child Protection Services (CPS). The parents often felt like victims for disagreeing with doctors over the care of

their children, which resulted in them losing their children to the State. Children with medical needs seized by State social services bring a tremendous amount of revenue to the State, and federal laws actually allow children who are wards of the State to be involuntarily used in drug trials. See:

Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials



We soon learned that the State of Arizona had a higher percentage of children being taken out of homes and put into foster care than any other state in the nation. There are so many children taken away from their families in Arizona, that often they end up sleeping in administrative social service offices until a foster home can be found. See:

[Arizona's Exploding Foster Care Intake: Kids sleeping in State Office Buildings](#)



The situation has not improved in 2015, but actually become worse.

As Health Impact News began to report family stories of medical kidnappings in Arizona, Family Court judges in Arizona began to issue gag orders on these parents and threaten them if they did not get us to take down their stories. However, Health Impact News stands on its First Amendment rights, and we have not removed one single story from Arizona to date.

One of the most egregious cases we published from Arizona is the case of Leanna Smith, who had her two daughters taken away from her for alleged medical reasons, and adopted out. Sources who have followed this case closely have told us that pretty much everyone in Arizona in the political system knows that there was corruption involved in the Smith family case, as their 4 year old healthy daughter was taken away from them as an apparent retaliation against Leanna for exposing the corruption in the Arizona medical system that led to her losing her two daughters.

But everyone was too afraid to take a stand on the truth in

this case, as it exposes alleged conspiracy and racketeering between doctors, out-of-state psychiatrist Brenda Bursch from UCLA, CPS social workers and managers, and the foster parents who eventually adopted the 4-year old girl and changed her name. From State legislators to the Arizona Governor to the U.S. Department of Justice, no one seemed to want to touch this case. Even the Arizona Judge presiding over the initial case sealed much of the evidence, including over 1800 recordings by Leanna Smith that allegedly exposes the conspiracy and corruption.

In January of 2015 Health Impact News decided to publish their story, bringing it to the public:

[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



Due to the tireless efforts of the mother Leanna Smith who refused to give up, and her attorney Keith Knowlton, they continued to fight for justice. Their case finally got out of Arizona and [reached the U.S. 9th Circuit Court](#) in San Francisco in April of 2015.

It was hoped that the 9th Circuit judges would see the merits of the case and render an appropriate verdict. However, the 9th Circuit did not rule favorably, and seemingly ignored the merits of the case and instead ruled on a technicality of the timing of evidence presented, using a “*res judicata*” law to throw the case back to Arizona to effectively start the process all over again.

The Smith family attorney believes the 9th Circuit Court erred in this ruling, based on how *res judicata* has been used in other cases, and has therefore appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, filing a [Petition for Writ of Certiorari](#) (U.S. Supreme Court Case Number 15-732), instead of going back

to the Arizona courts.

The Ninth Circuit applied the doctrine of res judicata to bar Petitioner’s claims under § 1983 in the case below (hereinafter, “Smith III”), based on the judgment in a prior lawsuit (hereinafter, “Smith I”), 1 against largely unrelated parties. To the extent it applied res judicata to claims that accrued after the initial complaint in the prior suit, the Ninth Circuit’s decision conflicts with the prevailing rule adopted in virtually every other Circuit, as well as in a prior panel decision in the Ninth Circuit itself, that such claims are not barred unless they have actually been added to the prior case by a supplemental pleading. ([Source](#).)

Who Are the Accused in Arizona Conspiracy and Racketeering?

According to the [Writ of Certiorari](#) filed with the U.S. Supreme Court, the following parties are named:

Respondents are two separate groups of care providers: (1) a pediatrics doctor, psychologists and therapists (collectively referred to as “Professional Respondents”) that contracted with the State of Arizona to provide services to CR while CR was in the custody of Arizona’s Child Protective Services (hereinafter, “CPS”) and (2) CPS case workers and supervisors responsible to the care and treatment of CR while in CPS custody (hereinafter referred to as “CPS Employee Respondents”).

The Professional Respondents include Marina Greco (hereinafter, “Greco”), a therapist employed by Childhelp Children Center of Arizona who served as CR’s therapist;

Brenda Bursch (hereinafter, “Bursch”), a psychologist contracted by the State of Arizona to evaluate CR and provide therapy recommendations regarding CR; Katrina Buwalda (hereinafter, “Buwalda”), a psychologist contracted with the State of Arizona to handle visitation between CR and her mother; Buwalda’s employer, Buwalda Psychological Services PLLC; Kathryn Coffman (hereinafter, “Coffman”), a pediatric doctor; and Dignity Health, fka Catholic Healthcare West dba St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center (hereinafter, “Dignity Health”), Coffman’s employer who contracted with the State of Arizona to investigate medical child abuse claims against Petitioner and provide recommendations to CPS regarding those claims. The CPS Employee Respondents consist of Kristi and Brent Mueller, CR’s CPS- appointed foster family; Tammy Macalpine, the CPS case manager responsible for CR; Bonnie Brown, a CPS supervisor; Amanda Torres, a CPS investigator; and the State of Arizona, employer of each of these individuals.

What are They Accused of in the Conspiracy?

According to the [Writ of Certiorari](#) filed with the U.S. Supreme Court:

The Racketeers started by prohibiting Leanna from bringing JS (CR’s Sister), Cordell (CR’s Brother) and Darrell (whom she thought of as “Dad”) to supervised visits with CR and prohibited Leanna from praying with and discussing religion with CR. They, through the Foster Family, then exposed CR to movies, music, dress, makeup and profanity that they knew would not be approved by Leanna and that would be enticing to a teenager. As a result of these efforts, CR began to disagree with her mother’s values, began to swear and became angry because she could not see JS, Darrell and

Cordell at visits with Leanna. She blamed her mother for this and was never informed by CPS and the Racketeers that they had prohibited them from visiting.

The Racketeers' then influenced CR to believe that her mother was lying to her about Leanna's and Darrell's religious beliefs. They influenced CR into believing Smith and Darrell were really Muslims, rather than Christians and that Darrell had other wives. They also influence CR into believing that Leanna's litigation in the District Court against the doctors and hospitals would result in her not being able to become a nurse and that if she went home to her mother she would just do what her mother wanted and could not act independently of her. As a result of this manipulation, CR told Smith that she did not want to come home but wanted to continue to have a relationship with her mother and family. All this while DES was intending to pursue termination rather than reunification.

At the very point where CR indicated she wanted to remain in foster care until 18, but still have a relationship with Leanna and her family, and at the moment CR become angry with her mother and felt her mother was lying to her about why Darrell was not at visits and that her mother was lying to her about her religious beliefs, the Racketeer's had CR read the book "Sickened" and read Dr. Bursch's Report accusing Leanna of having mental illnesses and alleging that Leanna caused CR's medical problems as a child because of her MSBP.

"Sickened" is the story of a girl who lost her childhood because her mother had poisoned her as a result of having MSBP. Upon finishing reading the book "Sickened," with Greco, her therapist and Foster Mother, CR related to the child in the book and from that point on believed that Leanna had drugged her causing the unexplained comas she

had as a child. After reading “Sickened” and Bursch’s report, CR thereafter believed her mother is mentally ill, has MSBP, was trying to hurt her and deprived her of her childhood. Before the matter was ever heard by the Juvenile Court, the Racketeers had effectively destroyed the relationship CR had with Leanna to the point where CR does not want to have anything to do with her mother.

The Racketeers did not wait to litigate the MSBP issues before the Juvenile Court but did so in CR’s mind long before the matter came to trial. The Racketeers used Bursch’s report and testimony to take JS into CPS custody, even though no medical problems ever existed with JS. The Racketeers manipulated CR to bring allegations of physical abuse against Leanna to justify retention of custody of JS and placing JS in the same foster home as CR. Thereafter, they continued to manipulate CR to obtain false allegations of physical abuse against Darrell and physical abuse and sexual abuse allegations against Leanna.

The Racketeers knew that CR had become “enmeshed” with Foster Mother and used this relationship to manipulate CR and to obtain false allegations of abuse by having Foster Mother and Father attend counseling sessions with Greco and CR and Greco and the Foster Mother reading and interpreting Bursch’s report with her as well as reading with her and interpreting the book “Sickened.”

The existence and nature of the scheme to defraud is shown by the following. On 2/19/2010, Greco at the direction of and with the consent of Brown and MacAlpine, had a conversation with Brenda Bursch regarding therapy for CR. This was done before Bursch had prepared her report or interviewed CR or Leanna. In that conversation, Bursch offered Greco various interventions Greco could use with CR as victim on MSBP and suggested Greco integrate old medical

records into CR's treatment to help her "re-think past events" and to entertain a different view of her medical treatment than she then had which they believed came from her mother.

On 4/23/10, Dr. Bursch interviewed CR. At the conclusion of the interview, Dr. Bursch recommended CR read the book "Sickened, The True Story of a Lost Childhood" by Julie Gregory. Upon information and belief, Dr. Bursch had an off the record conversation with CR about her mother causing her unexplained comas and causing her medical conditions she had in the past and recommended she read this book.

On 4/28/2010 Marina Greco, Katrina Buwalda, Bonnie Brown, Tammy Hamilton-MacAlpine and the Foster Mother discussed by email whether they should stop what they were doing in therapy with CR. They were proud of CR that she no longer trusted or believed her mother and were concerned about whether they should continue further. It was agreed they should continue to answer CR's questions she was having about her mother. Greco informed the above that after her visit with CR where she expressed her anger with her mother that she was lying to her, that she had purchased the book "Sickened" that was recommended by Dr. Bursch for CR to read and would give it to her to read. She then gave the book to CR to read.

Bursch's report was completed by May 9, 2010. Upon information and belief, at about this same time, CR was provided Bursch's Report regarding Leanna by MacAlpine and CR read this report and the medical timeline contained therein with the Foster Mother and Greco.

On 5/13/2010, CR and Foster Mother completed the recommended reading of the book "Sickened." CR identified herself with the child character in the book and at this point,

believed that her mother drugged her to cause her comas. CR expressed concern about JS remaining in the home and it was at this point she stated she had memories of physical abuse of JS.

The above actions constitute a scheme or artifice to defraud Leanna and Darrell of custody of CR and/or JS and to damage or eliminate Leanna's claims against the Civil Rights case Defendants by manipulating CR into believing her mother had MSBP, her mother tried to kill her, that CR needed to protect JS and take JS out of her mother's home and to make false allegations of abuse (including sexual abuse) to assure termination of Leanna and Darrell's parental rights in CR and JS.

Leanna's parental interest in CR and JS constitutes a property interest that Defendants knowingly and intentionally schemed to deprive Leanna and Darrell of by having CR not want to have anything to do with them and manufacturing false allegations of physical and sexual abuse to present to the Juvenile Court and to have Leanna and Darrell prosecuted criminally. The acts set forth above constitute a pattern of racketeering activity that took place from January of 2010 and is ongoing to the present.

Greco was placed on 90 days probation with Child Help, starting 3/1/2010, following a Complaint made to the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners regarding Greco telling a young girl she was counseling that it would be in her best interest if Greco adopted her. Greco quit Child Help and CR and JS were then assigned to Southwest Network Counselor Laura Gonzales who continued to manipulate CR and JS in accordance with the scheme set out by the Racketeers.

The Racketeers presented and used the false allegations of

abuse before the Juvenile Court to seek termination of Plaintiffs parental interest in CR and JS. The Court denied DES's petition to terminate Leanna's parental rights in CR and dismissed the dependency petition filed by CPS. However, the Juvenile Court terminated Leanna and Darrell's parental rights in JS based on the false allegations of abuse involving JS and that matter is up on appeal. The ruling by the Juvenile Court was based upon fraudulent information intentionally provided to the Court by the Racketeers. Leanna was subject to multiple criminal investigations as each new allegation of abuse comes from CR. The Racketeers aggressively sought criminal prosecution of Leanna and Darrell based on the false allegations of abuse. No criminal prosecution took place and all cases have been closed by the police.

The Racketeers drove a wedge between Leanna and Darrell and CR. CR feels her mother is mentally ill, caused her medical condition she experienced as a child, has MSBP and has indicated she does not want to have anything to do with her Mother. Even though the Court ruled in Leanna's favor, Leanna does not know where her daughter is and is not able to contact her to reestablish their relationship.

Further, the Racketeers collectively constituted an enterprise, as defined in 18 USC s 1961 (4) to wit, an association which has been engaged in and the activities of which affect interstate commerce. Based on the above, the Racketeers have witnessed tampered and retaliated against a witness and exploited them under 18 USC 1962(c). The tampered and exploited witnesses were CR and JS.

UCLA entered into a contract with the State of Arizona, DES to provide services regarding MSBP. Pursuant to this Contract, Bursch was to provide the services. Bursch and UCLA contractually agreed to abide by all laws in the State of

Arizona and agreed to indemnify DES for any injuries or damages resulting from Bursch's conduct.

A Heartbroken Mother Standing on Faith Speaks Out

Leanna Smith has stated to me on several occasions that her faith in God is the only thing keeping her going all these years. She firmly believes that this trial and ordeal to their family has a higher purpose. Her desire is that this case will expose to the public the terrible corruption that currently exists in the “legal” kidnapping and trafficking of children in not only the state of Arizona, but in virtually every state in the U.S.

Just recently Leanna found out that her youngest daughter, who was in perfect health when taken away from her at age 4 and is now 9 years old, apparently needs a liver transplant, as the adopted parents put up a GoFundMe page for her. See:

[Shocked Arizona Mother Finds GoFundMe Page for Medical Needs of Daughter Medically Kidnapped](#)



Leanna writes:

A 9 year Cover-up has been exposed.

My youngest daughter was at the hospital everyday with me from 11/02/2006-2/272007 with the doctor talking to her, holding her, playing with her.

Then on 9/3/2008 CPS was called on CR by those same hospitals. JS was left in the home with CPS seeing her from 9/3/2008-5/21/2010 and not once had JS ever been sick or abused. JS was healthy when they stole her on 5/21/2010 at 4 years old. In State custody they physically, mentally and sexually abused her, placed her on multiple psychological drugs to the point where she needed a liver transplant on 1/27/2015.

A timeline tells it like it happened. This story tells how they systematically destroy a family. The racketeers network secretly and commit horrific crimes against innocent parents

and children. There is no extent to the low level of corruption and evil they will go to. The extent of destruction is beyond human reasoning. These racketeers are a menace to society. If our laws are not going to protect us, then there are no laws to follow. We hope and pray that the U.S. Supreme Court Hears our case and the leaders that uphold our Constitution will preserve and protect the rights of the people. Pray with us and for us. God sees all.

How Will a Nation Respond to Today's Medical Kidnappings and Child Trafficking by Our Government and Medical System?

Health Impact News is one of the few media sources willing to tell these family stories of medical kidnappings and child trafficking that is all done “legally.” When will the mainstream media start doing its job and start exposing this corruption? Are there any honest law makers left in this country that are willing to take a stand for justice, the U.S. Constitution, and the American family? How about the helpless children being systematically abused, trafficked, and in many cases murdered while in State custody? Who will speak for them?

Child “Protection” Services is a broken system, beyond repair. It is high time we end all federal funding for child welfare services that take children away from families, and allow state revenues to stay in local communities with local community solutions for those children that are truly abused.

For more information, see:

[Does the State Ever Have a “Right” to Remove Children from a Home?](#)

[Child Protection Services is Out of Control – What Ordinary Citizens Can Do About It](#)

[More stories about Arizona.](#)

Arizona Mom Loses Battle to Regain Daughters Medically Kidnapped - Pleads for Someone to Adopt Them



Melissa Diegel with daughters Kayla and Hannah before they were medically kidnapped. Source: [Miracle for Two Sisters](#) Facebook page

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

An Arizona court has ruled that the Diegel sisters are now eligible for adoption, and have terminated all of Melissa Diegel's rights to her children. In a recently released video, this mother displays an incredible act of love for the children that CPS will no longer allow her to parent. She pleads for someone good to step up and adopt her children, so that, if they cannot be with their family, they will at least be with good people who will love and care for them. It is a plea that no loving parent should ever be forced to make.

Melissa received the shattering news from the courts that Judge Kristin Hoffman has ruled to sever all of her and her ex-husband's parental rights to Kayla and Hannah. It was the day before Christmas Eve. She was devastated, and could not bring herself to make the bitter announcement to her supporters until recently.

See original story published on Health Impact News on October 4, 2014:

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

The Diegel Family story spawned a slew of families contacting Health Impact News with similar stories in Arizona, and around the country, and was the genesis for the birth of [MedicalKidnap.com](#).

In the update video, Melissa pointed out that the court denied them the Constitutional right to Due Process. Her side was not allowed to call any personal witnesses, nor was any of their exculpatory evidence allowed to be admitted into court.

Over the course of their ordeal, Melissa points out that she

and her team of supporters have posted a great deal of evidence online which demonstrates that she did not abuse her daughters, and that there was corruption behind the scenes in her case. Yet, none of that evidence was allegedly permitted to be part of the proceedings. Much of that evidence has been posted on a Facebook page set up for that purpose called [Evidence Matters](#), as well as the [Miracle for Two Sisters](#) Facebook page, and in various YouTube videos.

This calls into question the veracity and validity of all of the court hearings against Melissa Diegel. The idea behind a fair legal hearing is that both sides bring forth their evidence, and a decision is rendered by a judge or jury. Yet many times at Health Impact News, we have seen that parents are denied the right to show the court the evidence that would exonerate them.



Hannah and Kayla Diegel. Source: [Miracle for Two Sisters](#) Facebook page.

Melissa states that she tried to bring into evidence a document from Phoenix Children's Hospital which showed that they intended to take the Diegel sisters away from their family. This document allegedly dates to before CPS was ever even called, and before they ever spoke with Melissa or her daughters.

Also, as sometimes happens in family court, the public and the media were not permitted to be in the courtroom during the Diegel hearings. When that happens, transparency is lost. There is no way for the public to hold government officials accountable for misdeeds in court. Any decision made when the hearing takes place behind closed doors calls into question the integrity of the proceedings. How is the public to know if any such verdict is just or not?

Here is the video announcing that parental rights were terminated:

Video no longer available.

Melissa concluded the video with her poignant explanation of why she is "all over the internet":

One of the reasons that we have #MelissaDiegel is because the last day I saw my daughters 17 months ago, I said to my daughters, "You will never lose me. You will always be able to find me. I will be all over the internet." That is why it is #MelissaDiegel, so my daughters will always be able to find me. They will never lose me, because I am all over the internet.

On Monday, Melissa uploaded the video asking for someone good to adopt her children. She says:

It is my greatest wish that my daughters be safe. If the state of Arizona is not going to return my daughters to me or to their father, then it is my greatest wish that my daughters would be safe, in the arms of somebody else, that they would be raised in a safe and loving environment.

Melissa asserts that she has evidence that the girls have been abused, and continue to be abused, in the foster home where they currently reside. Arizona has refused to allow any kinship placement of the girls.

She vows to continue to fight to get her children back, and to fight for the many other children that are in the system unjustly.

Here is the latest video.

Video no longer available.

See more on the Diegel sisters' story:

[Girl Seized from Family in Medical Dispute In Grave Danger](#)

[Arizona Mother of Two Girls Medically Kidnapped Breaks Gag Order and Speaks Out](#)

Medical Kidnapping: A Threat to Every Child in America Today

Arizona Families Hold Umbrella Rally on Anniversary of Diegel Sisters Medical Kidnapping

Arizona Mother Facing Jail Time for Speaking out Against Medical Kidnapping

Arizona Mother Speaks Out on Medical Kidnapping of Her Daughters

Adoption and Fostering for Profit: An Arizona Mom Who Lost her Children Exposes A Corrupt System

Children Kidnapped by State of Arizona Finally Returned to Parents After 600 Days



Source: Shoars family.

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

There were happy children's voices in the background as Tabitha Shoars spoke on the phone Wednesday, April 6, with Health Impact News to share their great news. The Shoars

family has released the following statement:

We want to announce that after 600 days of fighting for our children against Arizona CPS, we are proud to announce that our case has been DISMISSED!

We want to thank all of our supporters far and wide for prayers and blessings that was sent and the words of encouragement that helped motivate us to push passed all the obstacles that was thrown at us.

We want to also do a special shout out to individual people that truly helped impact our lives by giving us the help, knowledge and getting our story out there.

Al and Nikky Mayhew

Serra Frank & William Fischer with the Fight for Lilly foundation

Elizabeth Gia and Steven Gia

Medical Kidnap

Don Naylor

Steven Isham

Anonymous family

And to everyone else we couldn't mention. We love you all and you all will always be our big family.

From the Shoars family

Tabitha and Jeff and their children are overjoyed to be back together again after their horrific ordeal. Tabitha says that the faces of the children lit up when they came home last week. The children, who range in age from almost 4 to almost 11, tackled their parents in their excitement to be reunited.

Health Impact News was the first to publish their side of their story:

Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident

Their Lives Were Ripped Apart After a Tragedy

Their lives fell apart on August 14, 2014. Three year old Khloe fell outside while she was playing, and later that night collapsed. Her parents had left the children in the care of a babysitter while they went out for a date night. They rushed home when they were told that the babysitter had called 911. While their sister was taken to the hospital, the rest of the children were taken by Child Protective Services and divided up into separate foster homes. Khloe passed away the next day.



Khloe Shoars - forever in their hearts. Khloe loved butterflies. Source: Shoars family.

Even though no one was ever charged with a crime, the children were not returned to their parents.

The autopsy report later revealed that the cause of death was “inconclusive.” Those close to the family suspect that Khloe had a brain aneurysm, but there is no definitive answer. From all appearances, her death looks like it was from natural causes. Despite this, Child Protective Services required the parents to attend all sorts of classes and jump through all sorts of hoops, all the while threatening to Terminate Parental Rights.

Every single day since the children were taken away on August 14, 2014, Tabitha and Jeff fought for their children, researching, networking, and doing everything that they could to get their children home.

During that time, Tabitha went back to school to get her certification and training as a massage therapist. Through every heartbreak, court appearance, and battle since then, she has maintained good grades, and will graduate in May.

“Case Dismissed”

The Shoars had their final court hearing on Wednesday, and the judge pronounced words that were music to Tabitha and Jeff’s ears: “Case dismissed.” She reports that when she came out of the courtroom on Wednesday, it felt like a huge load had lifted off of her shoulders and she wanted to scream in victory.

BRUCE R COHEN, COURTROOM 5. The presence of all parties, counsel and/or guardians ad litem is waived at the review hearing, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. IT IS FURTHER ORDERD dismissing the dependency action in Cause No. JD28935 and the termination action in Cause No. JS17744. The Department is relieved of all further responsibility in this matter.

Source: [Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family](#) Facebook page.



Photo provided by Shoars family.

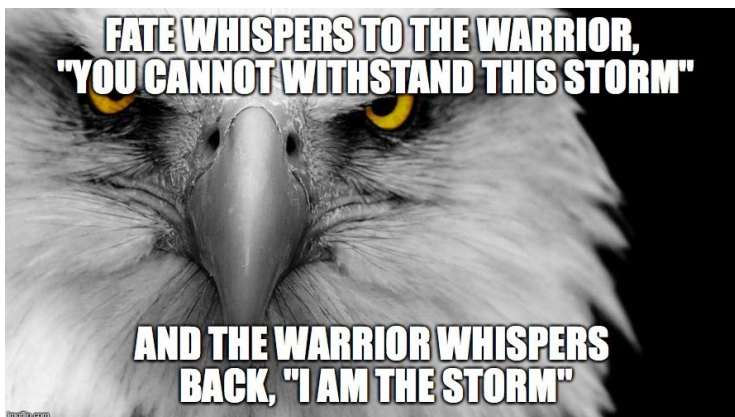
Tabitha says that she has only seen 3 cases in family court ever dismissed in the state of Arizona. She cites a figure she has seen that says that only 1% of the children taken in Maricopa County by Child Protective Services are ever returned to their families. Even so, the Shoars had resolved never to give up fighting for their children.

When they told their children that the case was dismissed,

the kids began cheering and jumping up and down. They couldn't be happier to finally be together again.

That battle is now over.

Now it is time for the healing to begin. Tabitha says that she and Jeff want to focus their attention on helping their children to heal from their long, traumatic experience. Their family has been through a nightmare and they need to heal.



Tabitha - "This quote has helped me stand through the fight." [Source](#).

More on the Shoars family story:

[Arizona Court Issues Gag Order on Family of 7, Detective Wants to Subpoena Interview on Radio](#)

[Arizona Judges Continue to Threaten Parents and Restrict Free Speech](#)

**Arizona Family Terrified – Foster Parents Taking
Their Children to Mexico Against Their Will**

Arizona Mom Still Fighting to Get Her 5 Children Back From the State 2 Years After Accident



by **Health Impact News/Medical Kidnap Staff**

Arizona mother Aprilli Coumpy is still fighting to get her five children, ages 2-17, back from the state. We published her story a year ago.

[Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident](#)

Her children were taken away by the state of Arizona after her baby was accidentally burned. Her 6 and 7 year old

daughters wanted to fix breakfast for their tired mommy and surprise her. They accidentally spilled some of the noodles onto the baby's leg.

The second degree burn was reported to child protective services by a day care worker the next day. When the burn occurred, Aprilli called her pediatrician's office and followed the nurse's instructions for dressing it. She also scheduled a follow up appointment with the doctor according to the nurse's instructions. The day care worker decided to take the baby to a doctor on her own and CPS swooped in taking all of Aprilli's children into foster care for two years now.

Mother Being Taken Advantage of by the State of Arizona?

Aprilli is feeling very defeated these days. She reports that her lawyers keep quitting on her because they tell her they don't have the time she is demanding that they spend on her case. She is supposed to be visiting her children every Saturday but that isn't happening.

According to Aprilli, the case workers seem to only grant visits when they feel like it. She says that she has no case plan and her lawyers won't fight for her. The judge has told her she is not allowed to speak in court for herself because she has a lawyer.

She filed a grievance against the Department of Children and Families and shortly after they split up her children and moved them away from one another into separate foster homes. Aprilli assumes it was retaliation. The case worker keeps accusing her of not participating in the case plan, but according to Aprilli, the case plan is nonexistent. She says that they do not notify her of what she is supposed to do and

where she is supposed to be resulting in being accused of non compliance.

Children Suffering in Foster Care – Mother Giving up Hope

Last Saturday Aprilli was allowed to visit with four of her children; her oldest wasn't there. The case worker told her that her oldest doesn't want to see her. The middle kids are having health and behavioral problems and she is very upset because her baby has regressed and is back in diapers.

She seems to have little hope left of ever getting them back.

I doubt she (ombudsman) calls or anything changes. It's going on 2 years now, I'm not stupid. I don't know how much more I can take at this point.

Arizona Violating its Own Laws in Taking Children Away from Parents with no Proof of Abuse?

The Arizona Department of Children and Families code states:

When a parent, guardian or custodian inflicts or allows the infliction of physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment. Physical abuse includes non-accidental physical injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns, cuts or other injuries. ([Source](#).)

“Non accidental physical injuries” – Is it unreasonable for parents to sleep? Did Aprilli intentionally harm her baby? Was Aprilli putting her children at risk when her 6 and 7 year old acted on their own to fix breakfast for their tired mommy? Waking up early and intentionally being quiet to let her sleep? Do parents put their children at risk by falling asleep? Should they stay awake all night just in case a child might wake up and they are asleep when it happens? What are single parents to do when they need to sleep? Is it now unsafe for parents to be single parents and should the state take away all children from single parent homes? How does the state define an “accident”?

Aprilli submitted a letter in the case from her family pediatrician explaining that the injury (burn to the babies leg) was accidental. The doctor further stated that she has treated the Coumpy children for many years and she has always found Aprilli to be a very good mother. So the statute states that non-accidental injuries are to be reported. This was an alleged accident, and yet the state has not dropped it (or presented a case of abuse) and has not returned these children to their mother.

Arizona law also states when abuse is to be reported:

Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of physical injury, abuse, child abuse, a reportable offense or neglect that appears to have been inflicted on the minor by other than accidental means or that is not explained by the available medical history as being accidental in nature, or who reasonably believes that there has been a denial or deprivation of necessary medical treatment or surgical care or nourishment with the intent to cause or allow the death of an infant who is protected under A.R.S. § 36-2281, shall immediately report or cause reports

to be made of this information to a peace office or to Child Protective Services in the Department of Economic Security, except if the report concerns a person who does not have care, custody or control of the minor, the report shall be made to a peace office only. [Source](#).

So investigators get these cases and go out into the field, speak with parents and any witnesses to determine whether the accusation of child abuse or neglect is warranted.

Attorneys representing the Department of Children and Families present their cases to judges who determine whether they agree with the investigators and allow the children to be taken into state custody. The judge bases this decision on the investigator's argument that the children are in reasonable danger of harm or neglect.

Parents who cannot afford private attorneys are appointed attorney's to represent them. These attorneys as well as the prosecutors for the state are both paid for by the state. Some people question whether this is a conflict of interest or not.

Arizona Has Highest Rates of Children Taken Away from Parents and Put into Foster Care

The [Arizona Republic](#) reported in October 2014 that Arizona has by far the highest rate of children removed from their homes and placed in foster care of any state in the U.S. While most other states in the U.S. are seeing declines in foster care placements, Arizona is seeing the biggest percentage of increase among U.S. states. Over the past decade, Arizona had the second largest increase in the nation, adding 7,296 children. Texas, with 4 times the population, had the most with 8,294. ([Source](#).)

Why is Arizona putting so many children into foster care? Are there really that many more abusive homes in Arizona than the rest of the country?

How to Help the Coumpy Family

Aprilli Coumpy's representatives are:

- Governor Doug Ducey to report that despite the attempts to improve the system in Arizona, families are falling through the cracks. Aprilli's children need to come home to their loving momma. He may be contacted at 602 542 4331. <http://azgovernor.gov/>
- Representative Rick Gray represents the Coumpy's district. He may be reached at 602 926 5993. http://www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=36&Legislature=51&Session_ID=110
- The Senator for their district is Senator Barbara McGuire. She may be reached at 602 926 5836 http://www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=103&Legislature=51&Session_ID=112
- Senator John McCain of Arizona is a co-sponsor of the **36a Parental Rights amendment**. <http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/http://parentalrights.org/sjres36><http://www.onenewsnow.com/culture/2016/06/23/soon-to-come-bill-puts-parental-rights-back-on-the-charts>

A Facebook page has been set up for supporters to follow their story, called [Parents Protecting God's Children](#). Aprilli says that she realizes now that this is so much bigger than just her family, and she wants to work with other families to see justice happen.



Parents Protecting God's Children
Community

Liked Following Message

Timeline About Photos Likes Videos

The image shows a Facebook community page. At the top is a large group photo of a family: two women, a young boy in a white shirt, and three young girls. Below the photo is the community name 'Parents Protecting God's Children' and the word 'Community'. To the right of the name are buttons for 'Liked', 'Following', 'Message', and a three-dot menu. Below this is a navigation bar with 'Timeline' selected, and other options: 'About', 'Photos', 'Likes', and 'Videos'. On the left side of the page, there is a small profile picture of a young girl in a striped shirt.

Arizona Kidnaps Shoars Children from Nevada, Children Scream in Terror As They are Dragged Away (audio)



The Shoars children were so happy to be together again.
Source: Shoars family

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

When Arizona Judge Bruce Cohen dismissed the case against Tabitha and Jeff Shoars on April 6, 2016, the family thought that their nightmare with Arizona DCS (Department of Child Safety) was over. They moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to try to rebuild their lives and heal from the trauma of being separated for 600 days. They were happy. Laughter once again filled their home.

The children welcomed home their new baby sister this week, on Tuesday, August 23, 2016.

Just 2 days later, on Thursday, August 25, 2016, their lives were abruptly shattered. Out of nowhere, Arizona DCS swept in and once again seized the children from their family.

At about 2 pm local time, Tabitha sent this message to one of our Health Impact News writers:

My kids are gone !!

Two Arizona Child Protective Services social workers, DCS Representative Victoria Jones and DCS Supervisor Amy Fox showed up in Nevada Thursday and announced that they had an emergency pick-up order. They seized the Shoars children and headed back to Maricopa County, Arizona. The family was devastated and blindsided.

It was 2 years before, on August 14, 2014, that the Shoars were first separated. While Tabitha and Jeff were out on a date, the children were home with a babysitter. Four year old Khloe fell and hit her head while playing, and collapsed later that evening. When her parents got home, they found emergency vehicles at their home. Tabitha was directed to go to the Children's Hospital. Investigators told the couple that, while they were investigating, the children were to be taken into state custody for 72 hours. Khloe was taken off of life support the next day, and her siblings never came home. Instead, they were placed into various foster and group homes.

See original story:

Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident

No criminal charges were ever filed against anyone, and the autopsy was inconclusive about the cause of death. She had been born very prematurely, at only 27 1/2 weeks, and had a brain hemorrhage at birth. Numerous professionals have stated that they believe she suffered a brain aneurysm.

Tabitha and Jeff fought for 20 months to get their children back from state custody, and on April 6, the case against them was finally dismissed.

Children Kidnapped by State of Arizona Finally Returned to Parents After 600 Days

Arizona CPS Required Parents to “Ransom” One of Their Children to get the Others Back

A fact that was not released at that time was that not all of the children were returned. Their oldest son Ian, who is autistic, remained in state custody and has since been forcefully adopted out. At the time, Tabitha reported that they were told that the state would allow the rest of the children to come home if they could keep Ian in custody. There was not a reason given, but the Shoars did not feel as if they had a choice.

Note: numerous families have told Health Impact News that they were given a similar “choice” by Child Protective Services, and that the only way that they could rescue ANY of their children from state custody was to leave one behind. The parents are then guilt-ridden and traumatized, but they were left feeling like they had no choice. Brenda Maney of Kentucky was placed in just such a situation, where the only

hope she had to save her autistic older son's life was to "voluntarily" surrender her baby daughter for adoption. See their story:

Medical Kidnapping in Kentucky: Mother Coerced to Give Up Daughter to Adoption in Order to Keep Son

Children Felt Safe in New Home – Away from Arizona Where Abuse Previously Occurred

After all the trauma that the Shoars suffered at the hands of Arizona, the Shoars decided to leave the state for good. They moved to a new home in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 1, 2016, and started the healing process.

Tabitha kept in touch with Health Impact News. During phone calls, our writer could hear happy, playful children's voices in the background. The kids were delighted to be back home with each other and their parents.

They have still had nightmares, though, and some of the children sleepwalk. Bentley, who is 4, spent some time in a group home, and shows signs of being molested. Even though the signs first appeared in foster care, and the parents reported it, DCS allegedly did nothing about the allegations.



Devin and Bentley. Source: Shoars family

Since the children have been home, they have gradually told their parents tales of abuse in foster care. As long as they remained at their house in Arizona, they often expressed fear that DCS would take them away again. After they moved out of the state into Nevada, Tabitha says they visibly relaxed, and would often say:

I feel happy. I feel safe.

Those safe feelings would soon leave, however.

New Baby Born Amid Complications

Before they left Arizona, Tabitha learned that they were expecting a new baby. She felt much safer with the pregnancy after they moved to Nevada.

When her water broke at just over 33 weeks of pregnancy, she went to the hospital, but the doctor sent her home. Tabitha's maternal instincts told her that something was wrong, so she went to another hospital, but again, the doctor sent her home.

Both doctors said they wanted her to keep the baby in for at least another week. She told Health Impact News that she was really scared for her baby and that a nurse said that the baby's heart rate was "flat" – not a good sign.

The next day, August 10, she went to a third hospital, where they recognized that she was showing signs of infection and that the baby had to be born immediately if she were to have a chance of survival. Baby Ny'Tallieya was born, and spent some time in the NICU after her birth

Tabitha doesn't know if one of the doctors got upset with her for refusing to accept what they were saying, when she knew that her baby was in danger. However, within days social workers from Nevada CPS showed up at the Shoars home with allegations that Tabitha had induced her own premature labor, and that someone, somewhere alleged sexual abuse with her other children.

Nevada Social Services Investigates – Finds Nothing Wrong

The Shoars later learned the allegation of sexual abuse came

from Arizona. They said that early in the investigation after Khloe's death, there were allegations made of sexual abuse and neglect, but those were unsubstantiated and unfounded. Some of the children had even been subjected to sexual exams and were cleared.

When the social worker showed up at their house, the family was terrified. The kids reportedly ran into their rooms and shut their doors, because they didn't want social workers to take them. Social workers were there for a couple of hours as the Shoars tried to straighten it out. The social worker allegedly told Tabitha that it was obvious that she was a good, protective mom, and that the house was in surprisingly good shape with having so many children. Tabitha says that the social worker saw how terrified the children were of CPS as well as how secure they were with their parents.



Makenize. Source: Shoars family

She said, because of the nature of the allegations, the children would still need to have a forensic interview at the CPS office. Tabitha and Jeff said they were very scared, but they knew that they had done nothing wrong. The social worker was very reassuring. The baby was still in the hospital, and they were afraid that if they didn't comply, they might come after the baby. They agreed to come to the CPS office on Thursday. The baby was released from the hospital on Tuesday without incident. Tabitha reasoned that, if they wanted to come after them, they wouldn't have let her come home.

Arizona DCF Workers go to Nevada to Kidnap Shoars' Children

As it turns out, Nevada CPS wasn't who they needed to worry about. It was Arizona. The Shoars had no idea that Arizona CPS still had them in their cross-hairs.

The Nevada social worker had assured them that the interview was just so they could get this new case closed out. She had looked into the Arizona case and said to Tabitha that the case makes no sense. She didn't even understand how Arizona had a case down there. She reportedly told Tabitha that she had no concerns about her or the new baby.

Interestingly, the social worker pointed out that Nevada has enough tourist and gaming money in the state that they didn't need federal money to balance their budget like Arizona does. Health Impact News has documented how [Arizona](#), as well as [other states](#), have used federal funds for foster care and adoption to help balance their state budgets.



Xzaviar is almost 5. Source: Shoars family

Nonetheless, on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, the children expressed fear about going to the interview. Tabitha and Jeff tried their best to reassure them, because the social worker had already reassured them. The children didn't want their daddy to go to work, but he kissed them goodbye and promised them that he would see them that evening, little realizing that Arizona had determined that wouldn't happen. Tabitha tearfully reported:

We promised them that everything was going to be ok and they would be coming home!

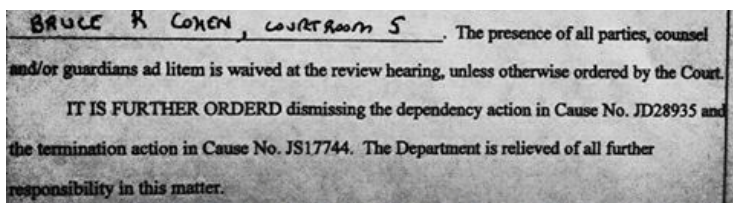
Tabitha, her friend Nikki Vinson, and the children arrived shortly before noon on Thursday. They were taken one by

one for the forensic interview. When all was said and done, Nevada social workers again stated that they had no concerns and that the Shoars were good parents.

Meanwhile, an emergency order from Arizona came through the night before to take the children. As the interviews finished up, two social workers from Arizona DCS showed up to seize the children, telling Nevada CPS that the case in Arizona was not closed.

When the Nevada social worker asked to see paperwork showing that the case was not dismissed, Arizona refused. How could they produce such documents when they don't exist?

According to court documents that the family received on April 6, 2016, the case was indeed dismissed by Judge Bruce R. Cohen, as Health Impact News reported April 7:



BRUCE R. COHEN, COURTROOM 5. The presence of all parties, counsel and/or guardians ad litem is waived at the review hearing, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERD dismissing the dependency action in Cause No. JD28935 and the termination action in Cause No. JS17744. The Department is relieved of all further responsibility in this matter.



Case Dismissed. Photo provided by Shoars family.

Federal Kidnapping? Old Charges that were Dropped Reappear

Arizona DCS Representative Victoria Jones and DCS Supervisor Amy Fox brought a notice of removal to Las Vegas as well as a temporary custody notice, which was signed by Judge Susanna C. Pineda on August 23. The grounds for such were listed as “violation of court order – court order pickup” and “alleged sex abuse and neglect.”

According to the Shoars, the alleged abuse and neglect are simply the recycled allegations from almost 2 years ago which were unsubstantiated; however, they are recycled onto new paperwork to make it look like this all stems from recent events in Arizona. They were not even there.

Jeff Shoars wants to know:

What court order did we violate?

The case was dismissed. The family was free to leave the state.

Nothing in any of the paperwork that the Shoars received Thursday indicates any statement about social workers having the jurisdiction to cross state lines to seize the children. The family has been out of the state of Arizona, and thus out of their jurisdiction, since June 1. The children were officially enrolled in Nevada schools.

None of this stopped the social workers from Arizona, who alleged that they have been “looking for them” for some time.

Tabitha reports that she has the same phone number that she did when she first contacted Health Impact News almost 2 years ago. She never received any calls from anyone in Arizona who was looking for her. The Shoars say that neither the grandparents, friends, or attorneys were contacted by anyone looking for them.

Children Scream in Terror: Family Terrorized by Arizona DCF

According to Nikki Vinson, a friend of the Shoars family who witnessed the incident, a social worker waltzed into the room where the children were, saying:

We're CPS from Arizona, and we're here to take you. You're going back to Arizona with Ms. X. [Ms. X is a former foster parent of 4 of the children.]

Immediately, the children started screaming and crying, as their mother tried to console them and understand what was happening. One of the social workers demanded that Tabitha stop talking to them and just leave, as she complained that she will have to drive those kids all the way back to Arizona for the next 6 hours. She said that Tabitha was “upsetting the kids.”

It is obvious that Tabitha was not the one upsetting the children.

Trigger Warning. Tabitha was able to record the response of the children to the news that they were being taken, where they are screaming in terror.

AUDIO MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN!

Video no longer available.

Devin, age 9, reportedly told CPS:

I'm not leaving my parents.

Oldest Child Fears for Life in Return to Arizona Foster Parent

The children were demonstrably happy and secure in their parents' care, but Arizona Child “Protective” Services is willing to remove the Shoars children from their safe, loving home and place them in a house where they are terrified to be. The children cried hysterically, and several of them cried out that “they’re going to kill us!”

The oldest child Cionhiah, age 11, reportedly became despondent when she heard the news, saying:

I'm not going back to Ms. X! She's going to kill us! She's got weapons!

She kept saying that she wanted an attorney.



Cionhiah and Akira. Source: Shoars family

Nikki reports that, with multiple police present and looking on, one of the Arizona social workers grabbed Cionhiah from

behind and dragged her out of the room, kicking and screaming. Social workers reportedly threw both Cionhiah and Devin on the ground and tried to restrain them. The social worker allegedly was laughing at all this. Nikki asked:

You think this is funny??

When Health Impact News asked about Cionhiah's response to Ms. X, Tabitha explained that X is one of the foster parents with whom 4 of the children stayed at one point, and that the children have disclosed some disturbing things about their time in foster care. The kids reportedly were afraid of her and felt like slaves there. Devin, age 9, burned himself on 3 different occasions, while he was made to cook. Ms. X allegedly put a used pacifier in 6 year old Makenize's mouth, telling her that she was acting like a baby.

The children told their mother that Ms. X has a handgun in the house, which they found. They told Arizona social workers about this last year, but nothing was allegedly done about it.

Tabitha wonders why the Nevada police officers did not intervene to protect her children when they started screaming that X would kill the children. There were at least 7 officers and a detective present. If anonymous tips merit investigation, shouldn't the cry of terrified children that someone was going to kill them warrant some type of intervention, or at least questioning?

In 10 Minutes Children are Abducted and Taken Away with Only the Clothes on Their Backs

From the moment the social workers came into the room until they were on the road, it was less than 10 minutes. Nikki told Health Impact News:

It was so chaotic and so quick. So damn quick.

The children hadn't eaten lunch, had no drinks or snacks with them, and they were snatched with only the clothes on their backs and none of their personal belongings or toys. Their parents just bought them \$600 of new school clothes.

Nevada Social Workers Allegedly Appalled

Nikki and Tabitha both told us that the Nevada social workers appeared “dumbfounded” and “mortified,” and some of them had to leave the room.

Both also allegedly said that the Arizona workers scare them, and they are afraid for the children's safety with them after the reactions of the workers. They don't trust Jones and Fox not to hurt the children. Tabitha reports:

My kids were manhandled by CPS and police officers.

Jeff never even got a chance to say goodbye. When he got there, the children were already gone. He tried to chase after them, but police threw him to the ground with a gun pointed

at him. He did nothing wrong, only wanted to say goodbye to his children. ([Source](#))



A father restrained. All he wanted was to say goodbye to his children. Source: Shoars family

The Arizona social workers did not take the 2 week old baby, likely because she was born in Nevada, not Arizona, and they have no real or imagined jurisdiction over her. Tabitha says that she was warned by a Nevada social worker never to take Ny'Tallieya to Arizona, because they would take her if they did. They had previously told Tabitha that they have no safety concerns and that Nevada was not going to take the baby.

The parents, Jeff and Tabitha, are wondering how the Nevada

police could honor an order from Arizona DCF? They have requested a report from the local police in Nevada, but reportedly are not being given one.

Message to Shoars Children from their Mom

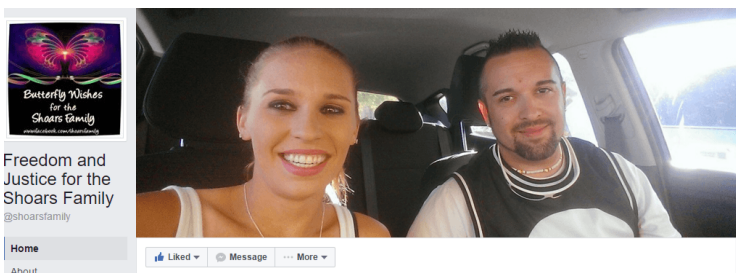
Tabitha sends this message to her children and hopes that they will see it somehow:

We are never going to give up the fight for you. Mommy and Daddy love you so much, more than anything in the world. We will work around the clock, and we will go to the moon and back, to the ends of the universe, to get you back.

Their prayer is that Judge Cohen will see what has happened with the other judge who signed off on the order to seize their children after their case was dismissed. They hope he realizes how wrong this is and that he will work to get the children back home with the family who loves them.

How You Can Help

The Facebook page set up by supporters 2 years ago is still there, and people are welcome to encourage and support the family at [Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family](#).



Greg McKay is the Director of DCS/CPS in Arizona. His office may be reached at 1-602-255-2500.

[Governor Doug Ducey can be reached by phone or email here.](#)

Shoars Children Kidnapped from Nevada to Arizona Still not Returned



The Shoars children were very happy to be together. Now they are separated again. Source: Shoars family

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

Their children's screams still haunt Jeff and Tabitha Shoars' dreams, and echoes of the laughter that once filled their home brings the couple to tears on a daily basis.

AUDIO MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN!

Video no longer available.

It has been almost 3 weeks since the horrific day that social

workers drove from Maricopa County, Arizona, to Las Vegas, Nevada, and seized 6 of the Shoars children without warning. They still have not seen or heard from their children since then. They want to know why, and they are terrified for the safety of their children. Tabitha asks:

Are they crying for us? Are they having a hard time going to sleep? The house is too quiet.

See:

[Arizona Kidnaps Shoars Children from Nevada, Children Scream in Terror As They are Dragged Away \(audio\)](#)

Since the children were taken on August 25, 2016, Tabitha and Jeff have not stopped searching for answers, but answers are slow in coming. Court dates, social workers, attorneys, and even judges keep changing.

The next court date is supposed to be on September 23, but there is no way to be certain that will happen. Jeff's parents, the children's grandparents, purchased airline tickets to attend the court hearing that was scheduled to be on Tuesday, September 13, but that hearing was moved up to the 8th. By the time anyone was notified of the date change, Gary and Patty Shoars had already purchased non-refundable plane tickets. They tried to move their flight to an earlier date in order to be present for the hearing on the 8th, but they were unable to find an available flight. Jeff had to scramble to change his work schedule.

Finally, less than 48 hours before the hearing, the family was

told that they could call in to the hearing, instead of making the 11 hour round trip from Las Vegas.

The hearing was canceled at the last minute. At 12:18 pm, just over an hour before the scheduled hearing, Jeff received an email from his attorney.

Date: Sep 8, 2016, 12:18 PM

Security: 

The hearing today at 1:30 before judge Duncan has been vacated. Do not call into her court . Will inform as soon as we know who the new judge is and when the new hearing is set

There was a previous hearing on August 30, but no one notified the Shoars until 8am, the morning of the hearing. Tabitha reports that, on August 26, she asked AZ social worker Jamie Jenkins when their court date would be, and Jenkins told her that there was no court until September 13. Tabitha called the courthouse to verify, and they also told her that their court date was September 13. By the time they found out about the hearing, it was too late for them to make the trip.

During that hearing, Assistant Attorney General Bonnie Platter reportedly moved to change judges. Judge Bruce Cohen was the judge who dismissed the case on April 6, 2016. It was a different judge, Judge Susanna Pineda, who signed off on the order to seize the Shoars children in August. The Shoars have reported that Judge Cohen seemed to be a fair judge, and they believed that he was the one who should have been hearing their case. However, because they were not present to contest the change of judge, AAG

Platter's motion was successful.

Five Judges Already, But No Court

With Judge Cohen out of the picture, Judge Pineda is also off the case. A third judge was named to the case, but that judge disappeared as well. Judge Sally Duncan was to be the next judge, but as of September 8, she is no longer on the case. The Shoars were recently informed that a fifth judge, Judge Alison Bachus, is expected to hear the case on September 23.

Why are there so many judges? Could it be, as Tabitha speculates, that the judges recognize how illegal and immoral the actions of DCF are and no one wants to touch it? Is it a political hot potato, from which judges wish to distance themselves?

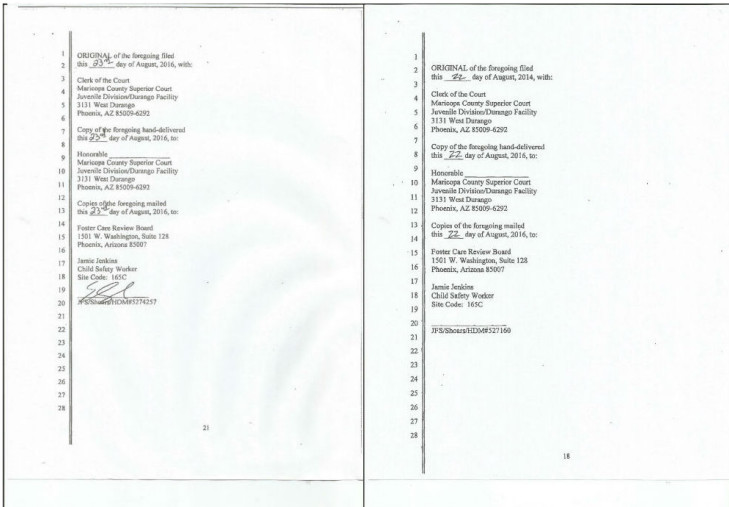
If the state of Arizona cannot find a judge to commit to hearing their case, the Shoars would like to know if their children could come home while DCF and the family court system sorts themselves out.

Document Issues

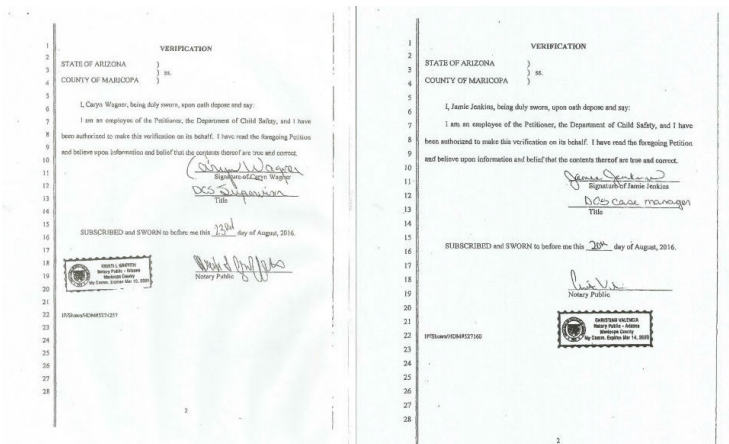
The family questions whether the pickup order that Arizona social workers used to pickup the Shoars children was a valid legal document, because there was no seal on the document and the social workers' names were merely printed, not signed. They received a copy, not the original.

There are also several discrepancies in the various copies of the petition for removal that the Shoars received. Note the date differences between the copy emailed to the Shoars by the Assistant Attorney General, Bonnie Flatter, on August 30 (left) and the copy mailed to Jeff Shoars by an attorney on

September 8.



Not only is the date different on the Verification page of the petition in the two copies, a different DCS worker signed the copies. Why?



Left – from copy emailed by AAG Platter – signed by Caryn Wagner on August 26. Right – from copy mailed to Jeff

Shoars by attorney – signed by Jamie Jenkins on August 20.

Grandparents Accused of Neglect

One of the allegations in the petition is that Jeff's parents, Gary and Patty Shoars, neglected the children. The petition states that they:

neglected the children by allowing them to be in the unsupervised custody of their biological parents. The legal guardian[s were] aware that the parents were prohibited from having any unsupervised contact with the parents during the course of their dependency case as to the children.

This is another example of a discrepancy between documents and court orders. Gary Shoars explained that what DCS alleges in the petition is not based on the facts of the dismissal of the case on April 6. Before the case was dismissed, the parents and grandparents agreed to allow the court to assign legal Title 8 guardianship of the children to their grandparents.

Tabitha told Health Impact News that AAG Bonnie Platter was very unhappy that the children were leaving foster care to be with their family, and that she was able to put a stipulation in the documents for transition that forbade Tabitha and Jeff to have unsupervised visits with the children during the time the children transitioned out of foster care from March 28 to April 6. However, that stipulation was NOT carried over into the dismissal documents.

The case was dismissed on April 6, 2016. The children were

placed under the guardianship of their grandparents, without restrictions. Judge Cohen declared that termination of Tabitha and Jeff's parental rights would not be in the best interest of the children. All of the social workers and the members of the foster care review board were relieved of duty in the case. The case was over.

Aug 24

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED appointing GARY AND PATRICIA SHOARS as permanent guardians of the children, CIONIAH SHOARS, DEVIN SHOARS, AKIRA SHOARS, MAKENIZE SHOARS, XZAVIAR SHOARS and BENTLEY SHOARS, and vesting GARY AND PATRICIA SHOARS with all of the rights and responsibilities set forth in A.R.S. § 14-5209, relating to the powers and duties of a guardian of a minor, other than those that may be set forth for the parents herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED awarding the legal and physical custody of the children, CIONIAH SHOARS, DEVIN SHOARS, AKIRA SHOARS, MAKENIZE SHOARS, XZAVIAR SHOARS and BENTLEY SHOARS to the permanent guardians, GARY AND PATRICIA SHOARS.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Letters of Appointment of a Permanent Guardian of a Minor Child shall be issued to the permanent guardians, without restriction. The permanent guardians shall immediately notify the Court of any address change and are responsible for all costs resulting from the failure to so notify this Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED setting an annual review hearing on the 3 day of APRIL, 2017 at 9:29 a.m. before the Honorable BRUCE R COHEN, COURTROOM 5. The presence of all parties, counsel and/or guardians ad litem is waived at the review hearing, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED dismissing the dependency action in Cause No. JD28935 and the termination action in Cause No. JS17744. The Department is relieved of all further responsibility in this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Foster Care Review Board is relieved of all further responsibility in this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce its final order of permanent guardianship.

-3-

At least, it should have been over. The Shoars – parents and grandparents alike – report that they were advised by their attorneys to get out of Arizona as quickly as they could. They were not from there, and their experience of Arizona had been a nightmare. They were afraid for the children’s safety (as well as their own).

Gary reports that one of the children saw a car following him as he rode his bike home from school. He says that there had been threatening posts on Facebook by some of the former foster parent’s friends, and that they had “plastered” his address and phone number all over Facebook.

The children were deathly afraid of her [the foster mother].

The children talked to their family about some of the abuse they had suffered in foster care. They allegedly couldn’t wait to leave.

Gary Shoars says that they waited until the children finished the school year, and until Tabitha graduated from Massage Therapy school. Then they all moved to the Las Vegas area at the beginning of June, where Jeff got a good job as an auto mechanic. They mailed a letter to the judge, per court order, to inform him that they had moved and to give him the new address. DCS allegedly says they never received the letter.

According to Tabitha, they all breathed a collective sigh of relief once they were out of Arizona. The children visibly relaxed, and they stopped looking over their shoulders at every turn. They were free, or so they thought.

Gary signed a lease on a house, and the 3 generations moved in and began working on the healing process with the

children. The children began laughing again, and they were all very happy to be together as a family again.

Illness Strikes – Grandparents Travel to Minnesota

Shortly after the family moved to Nevada, Patty Shoars' mother fell ill in Minnesota. She is elderly, and Patty and Gary felt that they were needed in Minnesota to help take care of her.

But we felt the kids were in good hands [with their parents], and that's why we left them.

They Skyped and talked on the phone every day with the children. He says that they felt no cause for concern. They were the legal guardians for the children, but they were with their parents as well. He wanted to lay to rest any assumption that Tabitha and Jeff “kidnapped” the kids. That is not what happened.

It's like having two sets of parents. That's exactly what it amounts to legally.



Shoars family with their grandparents and aunt, at a visit when they were in state custody before. Photo provided by Shoars family.

Because they were the guardians, they have the legal right to leave the children in the care of another family member. It is no different than a parent allowing the children to live at their grandparents' house or stay with an aunt and uncle. Because the case in Arizona was dismissed, and because they no longer lived there, they felt that Arizona no longer had any jurisdiction to have a say in their family life. They consulted legal counsel, who told them that was correct.

The family still believes that Arizona does not legally have jurisdiction over their children. They point out that nothing in the pickup order authorized DCS to cross state lines to seize the children.

DCS alleges that they were unable to contact the grandparents, and that their phone has been disconnected. They claim that this is not true. Like Tabitha and Jeff, they have the same phone number and email address that they had when the case was open. They report that they have not

seen any sign that DCS has tried to contact them – there are no emails, voice messages, or missed calls from Arizona on their phone.

Petition Allegations that were Already Dismissed

As reported in the most recent article regarding the Shoars family, there were allegations of sexual abuse. The petition states that their child that they were forced to leave behind in Arizona recently made allegations that there was sexual abuse that had happened to the children.

The allegation was reportedly made to Avondale, Arizona, police. The family has learned that their child has not spoken with police or social workers in many months for any reason, nor does he reside in Avondale. They believe that the allegation is a bogus accusation being used to reopen the case.

While the children were formerly in Arizona foster care, a similar accusation was made by DCS, and some of the children were subjected to invasive rape testing. Nothing was found and the allegation was unsubstantiated then. Based on the recycled allegation, Nevada CPS conducted forensic interviews of all of the children, and they determined that there was no cause for concern.

Mother's PTSD Used Against Her

In a cruel twist of irony, the trauma that Tabitha Shoars has suffered as a mother is being used as a justification for inflicting more trauma on her and her children.

*Mother neglected the children due to mental health issues.
Mother has been diagnosed with PTSD.*

Some would say that Post Traumatic Stress is a normal response to an abnormal situation. Tabitha has certainly suffered her share of trauma. Her child Khloe was conceived when she was violently raped by 2 men who subsequently went to prison. Tabitha and Jeff chose life for the baby, and they loved her dearly.

On August 15, 2015, they had to let her go. The day before, she had been a “happy, giggly little girl,” and they came home from a date to find police at their house and their baby girl close to death. She was removed from life support as they struggled to understand what happened.

They never even had the chance to grieve together as a family because DCS came and seized all of their other 6 children. They fought for 600 days before they were able to be together again.

Many people believe that this is stressful and traumatic due to the actions of DCS. DCS allegedly made an impossibly difficult situation all the more traumatic. They blamed her and Jeff for their little girl’s death. They kept her away from her children. She watched her children suffer in foster care. She was forced to relinquish all rights to one of her children and allow him to be adopted out.

But her children were the light of her life who helped her to deal with her PTSD. Tabitha says that, when her children are around her, she has less anxiety and PTSD symptoms. Her kids keep her grounded. Because her children need her, she has made herself overcome the trauma, so that she can be

there for them.

Cruel Accusation Made After Initial Charges Dismissed

All the allegations were dismissed against Tabitha and Jeff Shoars when their case was dismissed on April 6, 2016. However, in the new petition, DCS makes an allegation that they state as a fact – “Khloe was murdered while in the parents’ custody.”

Despite that assertion, to date, no one has ever been charged in Khloe’s death. Tabitha reports that she has tried for more than 9 months to contact the police investigator to find out if there is any more information on their case, but she had not gotten any response.

Khloe passed away on August 15, 2014, and an autopsy was performed on August 18. It was not until January 2015 that the family was able to get a copy of the autopsy report, which concludes:

... based on the provided information, accidental trauma cannot be ruled out. With no further information the manner of death will remain as undetermined.



Khloe's footprint. Source: [Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family](#) Facebook page.

The cause of death was ruled to be “blunt trauma of torso with left renal laceration.” After Khloe collapsed in her home, following an earlier fall outside while playing, the babysitter attempted CPR, but responders later reported that he was not performing CPR properly. The autopsy report states:

At no point did the informant(s) indicate that Ms. Shoars was complaining of abdominal or back pain, or other related

symptoms, as would have been expected based on the severity of the injuries of the torso.

One of the first police officers on the scene reportedly noted signs of possible choking and attempted to do the Heimlich maneuver. It is possible that the CPR and Heimlich attempts could have damaged some internal organs, especially in light of the fact that she never complained of pain, other than a headache after her fall.

Several medical people have told the family that they believe that Khloe could have suffered a brain aneurysm. She was born very prematurely, at only 27 1/2 weeks. As previously reported:

The doctors allegedly told the Shoars that she would grow out of the brain hemorrhage condition, and despite Tabitha's requests, no further testing was ever done on Khloe to monitor the situation.

See:

[Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident](#)

With the autopsy verdict as “undetermined,” the family may never know what really happened to their little girl.

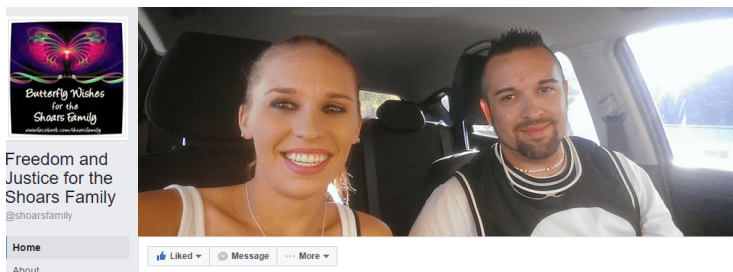
The fatality summary report was released to the public on April 6, 2016, which is the same day that the family court case was dismissed.

Where From Here?

Tabitha and Jeff have spoken with officials from the FBI and with federal marshals. Since the case has crossed state lines, federal agents can get involved. They reportedly want to investigate, but they told the Shoars that they need to get a police report. They say that they have to have a police report number before they can get involved.

They have tried repeatedly to file a police report, but have been unsuccessful. According to the website for the [Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department](#), they may be reached at (702) 828-3111.

The Facebook page set up by supporters 2 years ago is still there, and people are welcome to encourage and support the family at [Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family](#).



Supporters are welcome to call and ask why the Shoars children were taken from their home in Nevada, where they were already enrolled in school, when Nevada had no concerns. The Shoars have yet to have a day in court, as required by law, and judges appear reluctant to get involved. Since the case was dismissed, how can it be reopened based on allegations which have already been found to be unsubstantiated?

Greg McKay is the Director of DCS/CPS in Arizona. His office may be reached at 1-602-255-2500.

[Governor Doug Ducey can be reached by phone or email here.](#)

Arizona Medical Kidnapping Exposed in Mainstream Media Report



Image courtesy of Melissa Diegel. [Source](#).

Comments by Brian Shilhavy
Editor, Health Impact News

Reporter [Bob Ortega of the Arizona Republic](#) has published an expose on the atrocities of Arizona child kidnapping

happening within the state's Department of Child Safety (DCS). We welcome this new report from the Arizona Republic, [who has reported](#) over the past several years that Arizona has the highest percentage of children taken out of their homes of any state in the U.S. Only Texas, a state with 4 times the population of Arizona, removes more children from their families.

According to the [Arizona Republic](#):

This story is the first in an ongoing investigation of child-welfare issues in Arizona. In 2016, when the number of children removed from their families peaked at over 18,000, the Arizona Community Foundation gave The Arizona Republic and azcentral.com a three-year grant to support in-depth research on the topic. As part of that effort, reporter Bob Ortega and our other experts investigate the reasons behind the surge in foster children and the systems meant to support and protect them. Through our reporting and editorial pages, we seek solutions to those problems.

But will this report correctly identify the problems, before seeking solutions? Too often these kinds of reports covered in the mainstream media take the line that the reason child social services are failing is due to lack of funding, and lack of staff. But these are not the real underlying problems, and any report that ignores the massive amounts of federal funding these states receive for foster care and adoption, will never truly expose the real corruption that allows these child kidnappings to continue.

MedicalKidnap.com, part of the Health Impact News network, originally started because of parents in Arizona reporting to us that the state of Arizona was kidnapping

their children, usually through medical kidnapping where parents were disagreeing with doctors and then losing their children. We were among the first ones to report the alleged travesty of justice regarding one Arizona mother, [Melissa Diegel](#), who lost her two children because she disagreed with doctors over their care.

Health Impact News has published more stories about alleged corruption in child kidnapping in Arizona than any other state.

For our previous coverage of the problems in Arizona, see:

[**Arizona Mother Facing Jail Time for Speaking out Against Medical Kidnapping**](#)

[**Why is the Arizona “Family Advocate” Threatening People Asking About Children in State Custody?**](#)

[**Arizona’s Exploding Foster Care Intake: Kids sleeping in State Office Buildings**](#)

[**Arizona Continues Record Pace of Taking Children out of Homes into State Custody – Now 1 of every 100 Children in Foster Care**](#)

[**ARIZONA SUED BY ABUSED FOSTER CHILDREN!**](#)

[**A History of Medical Kidnapping at Phoenix Children’s Hospital**](#)

[CPS Caseworker in Arizona Turns Whistleblower
– Reports on Abuse of Power](#)

[Medical Kidnapping: Billion Dollar Adoption
Business](#)

[HSLDA Takes Prosecution of Arizona CPS
Workers to Supreme Court](#)

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

Arizona's DCS: Why are kids taken away? Too often the answer is unknown

[Bob Ortega, The Republic | azcentral.com](#)

Excerpts:

When Arizona workers refused to let Maribel Ontiveros see her son Christopher at the hospital, then came to her house three days later at 3:30 in the morning to take away her other two children, she kept asking what seemed a simple question: Why?

More than a year later, she's still asking.

Ontiveros and her common-law husband, Antonio Garcia, a house painter, had never had any run-ins with the police or child-welfare workers before they took their son Christopher, then 13, to Phoenix Children's Hospital in August 2015. They hoped doctors could figure out why he'd

started having debilitating panic attacks. The hospital kept the boy for observation.

But after several daily visits to Christopher, one Saturday, security guards refused to let his parents see him.

“‘You have to talk to DCS,’ they said,” remembered Ontiveros.

Shocked, confused, she called DCS, Arizona’s Department of Child Safety. But “they said they couldn’t give me any information,” she said.

Nor would DCS caseworkers say why they’d come, early on Sunday, when they knocked on the door in the dark and demanded to see the couple’s daughter Carolina, 9, and their son Irving, 16.

They wouldn’t say why when they returned with two police officers a few hours later and took the children away in a van, as Ontiveros sobbed and Garcia filmed their removal on his cellphone. He tried to calm her, saying it had to be a mistake they’d soon sort out.

All the caseworkers left the parents was a piece of paper with the vague word, “neglect.”

The Garcia Ontiveros family isn’t alone in finding that DCS can seem to be an informational black hole. There are a great many questions about why DCS removes children that the agency itself can’t, today, answer — because no one there knows.

Why does DCS remove so many children? Are Arizona parents simply the worst in the country? Or is something

else going on?

Continue reading the story at azcentral.com.

Medical Kidnapping Stories from Arizona



[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



[Arizona Mom Still Fighting to Get Her 5 Children Back From the State 2 Years After Accident](#)



[Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion](#)

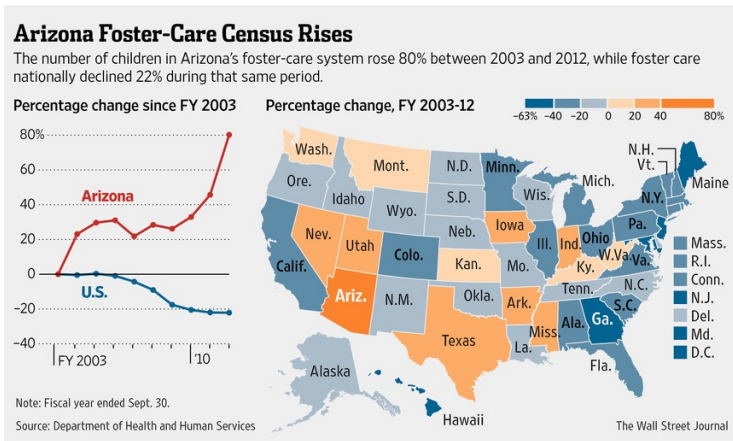


[Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead](#)



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

Arizona: Battleground for State-sponsored Child Kidnappings - Highest in the Nation



by **Monica Mears**
Health Impact News

A fight is raging across Arizona – parents, foster parents, activists, lawyers and even the Arizona Republic are refusing to back down against the state's apathetic resistance to real, meaningful solutions for its outrageous record as the top state in the nation for child removals.

Arizona has taken children out of their homes at a rate far higher than any other state in the country. And Phoenix (Maricopa county) ranks as the city with the highest rate of child removals by CPS – higher than New York, L.A., or any other major U.S. city. (Source.)

The state's shameful record goes back a decade or more, and frequently opposition has been disconnected or silenced. More and more families have been destroyed, children lost, and lives broken.

But no more – activists, legislators and local media are gaining strength and momentum.

Battle for Warrants and Parents' 4th Amendment Rights

The fight for warrants to protect parents' fourth amendment constitutional rights is one skirmish among several. That's right – in the surreal world of child protective services, it does not even require a judge's order to remove a child from their home. Hearsay and subjective opinion are all that are needed to destroy a family.

This past February, Arizona HB 2507 was proposed to require Arizona DCS to obtain a warrant prior to removing children from their families.



State representative Kelly Townsend (R-Mesa) introduced the bill, which was then killed by House Health Committee Chairwoman Heather Carter, who refused to bring it up for discussion.

No explanation was given.

Representative Townsend spoke out on her Facebook page:

I cannot tell you how much this breaks my heart. The trauma of a dirty home versus the trauma of removing a child from their parents and placing them in a broken foster system carries no comparison.

The permanent damage done to children who are really not in danger but in a situation that does not measure up to our expectation as a society is permanent. We tried to prevent trauma to children and in the process we inflicted harm deeper than any dirty house could ever begin to. These children who are placed into our system are now at risk of lifelong issues.

Furthermore, at what point are we going to start respecting the Fourth Amendment that requires a warrant? We have surrendered our rights at the airport and apparently in the home. I'm hopeful we are moving in the right direction, but my heart is faint.

Lies, Cover-up and Months of Separation from Family are the Norm for Arizona Stealing Kids

One activist has experienced very personally Arizona DCS' arrogance and destructive actions.

Del McArdle walked into Arizona's Durango court house in 2015 to file what he assumed was routine paperwork.

On his way in, he noticed two ladies protesting. Del had agreed to become the non-contested guardian of his 15-year-old nephew, who had already been living with him for several years.

There was no legal reason for any involvement by DCS.

But that day, the ladies protesting at DCS offices warned him that DCS was not the benign protector of children that most citizens assumed, and cautioned him not to come to the

department's attention, even for something as simple as filing a non-contested guardianship.

"I thought they were crazy," Del says. It sounded like a paranoid conspiracy theory to him, since he was following the law and it was an uncontested case.

Several months passed, as the legal process and papers wound through the system.

Then one day last January, Del answered a call from his brother, who had just gotten a text from his nephew.

He said DCS had taken him from his high school and that he was not being allowed to contact me directly.

Why?

The case worker had claimed to the judge that Del was being difficult to schedule a home visit and that she never met his nephew.

This was allegedly an outright lie. Del states:

I can prove perjury as I have the sign-in log from my nephew's high school and the seizing worker interviewed my nephew several times – which she lies about in her report.

This is a recording at the DCS central office in Phoenix, where Del raced minutes after he learned his nephew was seized.

The case worker purportedly misunderstood the judge dismissing my case to mean she should seize my nephew from his high school. I explained I still had guardianship and they ran out of the room after they understood.

<https://youtu.be/tOJYUyeJ-HA>

The DCS staff speaking in the video is Melissa Zeller.



Melissa Zeller, Project and Program Specialist at Child Protective Services, Arizona. [Image from Facebook.](#)

The judge, allegedly angered by the case worker's blatant lie,

dismissed McArdle's case for permanent guardianship.

“My temporary guardianship wasn't impacted and my sister still had all her legal rights,” he says. “Commissioner Garfinkel affirmed my guardianship for DCS days after this.”

This relief was short-lived for Del.

Despite clear evidence that there was no wrong doing of any kind, and that in fact the case worker had lied:

They still held my nephew for 142 days after and made contrived allegations against my nephew, sister, and me to cover their behinds before a new judge dismissed the case again.

Now subjected to the foster system, McArdle's nephew also endured an organization apparently created to deceive. He was reportedly told his uncle no longer wanted him, when in fact his uncle virtually ignored his real estate business while pouring all his resources into getting his nephew home again.

Arizona DCS kept McArdle's nephew for almost five long months.

One simple solution might have stopped McArdle's and his nephew's nightmare.

The simple requirement that a case worker needed to obtain a warrant before removing a child.

“It was never the judge’s will to have my nephew seized,” Del says. “The case workers blamed it on the judge and if they were acting with warrants they would have never been able to touch him.”

The social worker involved first badly mishandled the case by removing McArdle’s nephew from his home, then stumbled through a series of blunders, then lied to the judge and ultimately kept the boy from his home for months in an elaborate cover-up.

A warrant might have stopped it from ever occurring.

The Fight for Reform in Corrupt Arizona



Del McArdle with Jesus Rubalcava and Sara Joehnk.

Once McArdle finally brought his nephew home, he began to

fight for reform against DCS' "seize-happy" removal policy, and now dedicates half of his time to the task.

Throughout the past traumatic year, McArdle kept a poster in his office with a date: January 26, 2017. It was the date his nephew had been removed last year, and it represented his goal to have warrant reform implemented by this year.

A passionate advocate with People Demanding Action and Committee Chair for Legal Justice, the grassroots non-profit group's arm that works for DCS reform, McArdle worked to support passage of Townsend's bill.

DCS Director Greg McCay recently instituted a policy that case workers obtain warrants before removing children, but "putting it into the law gives it teeth," McArdle believes.

Given the department's many transgressions and in some cases complete disregard for both its own policies as well as the law, the new DCS policy appears to be more PR window dressing than anything substantive.

He feels that Governor Ducey and DCS worked to bury Townsend's bill, but says he thinks "there's too much outrage" to stop the bill.

GOP Lawmakers Kill Bill that would have Protected Parents from Lies of Dishonest Social Workers



Arizona Rep. Kelly Townsend. Image courtesy [Arizona Daily Independent](#).

Another lawmaker stepped into the gap after Townsend's bill was killed. SB1003, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Barto, sought to establish a legislative committee to oversee DCS by adding a pilot program on warrants. Townsend then added amendments defending parents right to due process and prohibits social workers from lying to parents. According to the Arizona Republic, her amendments included:

- A prohibition on DCS using any tools that analyze voice stress when conducting child-neglect investigations. This addresses a practice the agency appeared ready to embark upon until it drew media attention.
- A stipulation that the agency make quarterly reports on the number of court orders it obtained prior to taking a child.
- A prohibition on DCS staffers lying, withholding critical information, making up evidence or not disclosing evidence that would point to someone's guilt when dealing with their supervisors or the

Juvenile Court.

“Which one of you is going to vote that it’s OK for social workers to lie in order to remove a child?” the Republic records Townsend asking her colleagues. “This needs to be done. Our DCS needs to be held accountable.”

This week, the bill has effectively died. See:

[Arizona Lawmakers Block Bill To Protect Parents From Dishonest Child Protection Social Workers](#)

[California Civil Rights Attorney Sues Arizona in Federal Court](#)



Civil rights attorney Shawn McMillan was interviewed late last year by Tammi Stefano of the National Safe Child show. See: [California Attorney Shawn McMillan on Why He Fights CPS: “They’re Stealing Kids”](#)

In recent years, California civil rights attorney Shawn McMillan has won millions of dollars from an array of California counties for “warrantless removals,” as they are called.

He has also won federal injunctions requiring counties to get court orders for all non-emergency cases in which a child is taken away from his or her parents.

After those injunctions, many counties saw the number of children taken away from parents fall sharply. Even as removals stayed flat in California statewide, they fell 26 percent in Orange County, 25 percent in Riverside County and 22 percent in San Joaquin County in the one or two years after each began requiring court orders for non-emergency removals, according to data from California’s Department of Social Services.

McMillan is now representing an Arizona family in a federal suit filed in 2014 against Arizona over the warrantless removal of their children. The suit, *Pellerin vs. Wagner*, seeks damages and an injunction requiring DCS caseworkers to seek court orders before removing children.

Health Impact News family stories on Medical Kidnappings in Arizona:



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



[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



[Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion](#)



[Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead](#)



[Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident](#)



[Another Arizona Medical Kidnapping: 4 Children Removed from Family after Booster Seat Accident](#)

Other articles exposing the corruption in Arizona:

[Why is the Arizona “Family Advocate” Threatening People Asking About Children in State Custody?](#)

[CPS Caseworker in Arizona Turns Whistleblower – Reports on Abuse of Power](#)

[BREAKING: ARIZONA SUED BY ABUSED FOSTER CHILDREN!](#)

[Medical Kidnapping: Billion Dollar Adoption Business](#)

[15,000 Cases of Arizona Child Porn: Huge Child Sex Trafficking Ring in Arizona](#)

[A History of Medical Kidnapping at Phoenix Children’s Hospital](#)

#MelissaDiegel #CaughtRedHanded

ARIZONA REPUBLIC
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK
azcentral.com
JANUARY 22, 2017 R1

CHILD WELFARE IN ARIZONA

Every 40 minutes, an Arizona child is removed from his or her home. We're still asking,

Why?



Trump's 1st order and future of ACA

What president's directive means for 'Obamacare'

JULIE PACE AND RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's first executive order targets the sweeping "Obamacare" law by giving federal agencies broad leeway to chip away at the measure. But he still needs Congress to do away with the law for good.

Trump signed the executive order in the Oval Office Friday, hours after being sworn in as the 45th president of the United States.

The one-page directive gives agencies authority to grant waivers, exemptions and delays of provisions in the Affordable Care Act. But until it becomes clear what steps federal agencies will take as a result...

[Arizona Medical Kidnapping Exposed in Mainstream Media Report](#)

Arizona DCF Tries to Stifle Free Speech in Medical Kidnapping Case - Demands Our Stories of Coumpy Family be Taken Down



by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

At the same time that [Arizona lawmakers have rejected common sense bills to protect families from abuse of power by dishonest social workers](#), an Arizona mother is battling the Arizona Department of Children and Families (DCF) to get her children back.

Aprilli Coumpy has completed everything asked of her, but her children are still not back home.

Now, DCF is demanding that she take down the Medical Kidnap articles and the Facebook page associated with her story.

It has been more than 2 years since her children were seized after what both Aprilli and her pediatrician termed an accidental incident, in which her toddler was burned when his 6 and 7 year old siblings accidentally spilled hot noodles on him when they decided to surprise their mommy with breakfast.

Never in a million years did the single mom of 5 dream that the state could have so much power as to take all of her children away for something that could happen in any home in the world. Others connected with her case believe that the DCF case manager, Lisa Millett, simply does not like Aprilli Coumpy, thus nothing that the mother does appears to be good enough.



Arizona DCF case worker Lisa Millett does not want her actions publicized on MedicalKidnap.com. Photo from her [Facebook](#) page.

See the Coumpy family's original story:

Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident

Arizona Mom Still Fighting to Get Her 5 Children Back From the State 2 Years After Accident

DCF Case Manager Lisa Millett Demands MedicalKidnap.com Articles Be Removed

Recently, Lisa Millett has demanded that Aprilli takes down the Medical Kidnap articles from the internet.

Apparently, Ms. Millett does not understand that Freedom of the Press doesn't work like that. Such strong-arm tactics by government employees may have been used in Nazi Germany or in Communist countries that desire to hide their actions from the public, but the U.S. still has something called The Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Parents don't publish the articles on MedicalKidnap.com, and they cannot take them down.

Health Impact News interviews parents and publishes their stories under the protections of the 1st Amendment Freedom of the Press.

We will, however, publish a copy of the email that we have received. Attorneys sent the email to Aprilli with the demand:

Please take these pictures and sites down immediately.

Aprilli has complied as much as possible by taking down information and photos of her children from her personal Facebook page, the only page that she has any control over, and she sent us a copy of the email that she received.

Our position on these unconstitutional gag orders and restrictions on parents' Freedom of Speech is clear, as we have stated before. In an article published shortly after the *Medical Kidnap* division of *Health Impact News* began, editor Brian Shilhavy wrote:

Since we have been publishing the stories of parents who have had their children seized by medical authorities and social service agencies over medical disputes, twice now we have had family court judges tell us, via the parents, to take down our stories because the parents were supposedly violating their gag orders.

Well, there is just one problem with those gag orders and judges' orders to remove parents' stories from the media: they are unconstitutional according to some of the top legal authorities in the United States.

See:

[Family Court Judges' Unconstitutional Gag Orders On Parents](#)

Here is the email that was recently sent to Aprilli Coumpy:

Good afternoon everyone,

I am working on getting the CFT [Child Family Team] notes

together. As far as the pictures on social media and Facebook, there are pictures up on [Aprilli's ex's] Facebook page. I didn't see any pictures on the paternal grandmother's page. I need you to be aware that Ms. Coumpy has posted numerous posts regarding the case, my full name, where I work (which office), pictures of the children on numerous media sites. We need to make this a request for all parties regarding social media pictures and posts. Below are some of the sites that Ms. Coumpy has put the case and her children out there:

<http://medicalkidnap.com/2015/07/29/arizona-mother-loses-5-children-over-incident-family-doctor-calls-an-accident/>

<http://medicalkidnap.com/2016/07/29/arizona-mom-still-fighting-to-get-her-5-children-back-from-the-state-2-years-after-accident/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ParentsProtectingGodsChildren>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/236650155398680896/>

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Note that this is the first time that Lisa Millett's name or information has appeared in a *Medical Kidnap* article. Aprilli did not bring attention to her name when we interviewed her for the articles.

Did Lisa Millett Lie to the Court to Keep Custody of the Children?

However, it is clear that there are many issues with the way that Case Manager Lisa Millett has handled the Coumpy family case from the earliest days when the children were seized.

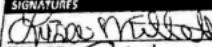

These are the very types of issues that [Rep. Kelly Townsend's legislation](#) would have addressed.

According to a report by a parent aid agency commissioned by DCF to work with parents on behavioral changes requested by the agency, Aprilli "achieved all behavioral changes related to safety to address the reasons the children were placed into custody"

This meeting was held almost 18 months ago and signed off by both the parent aide and Lisa Millett on December 3, 2015. The parent aid stated that she "highly recommended" closure of the case, stating that the mother had completed everything and has shown herself to be "responsible for the care of her children." She felt that it was "not in the children's best interest to remain in foster placement."

But the children were not returned home. Lisa Millett has allegedly reported to the court that Aprilli was NOT making

the necessary behavioral changes.

Date of Closure Meeting: 11/20/2015	
SIGNATURES	
	12/3/15
CPS Specialist	Date
Parent	Date
	12/3/15
Parent Aide	Date
Parent	Date

Parent Aide Final Report signed off on December 3, 2015, which stated that Aprilli had completed all the necessary behavioral changes.

Millett reportedly told the judge that the mother was not complying with visits, but the parent aide stated that the changes in visits were not Aprilli's fault. Visits were changed due to caregiver transportation issues or because the place where the visit was to take place was closed. Though none of this was under Aprilli's control, it was presented to the court as though she was not concerned about visiting her children – a misrepresentation of the facts.

Even Foster Parents Allegedly Noticed Problems with Lisa Millett

Some of the children's foster parents allegedly noticed the apparent hostility that Millett bore toward Aprilli and the "avoidable heartache" that accompanied that hostility. One foster parent (whose name is withheld to protect her privacy) said that Aprilli's children were gifted, well-behaved, and respectful. She recognized that the children must have learned that from their upbringing:

She raised some pretty great kids and I think someone should look at that.

The foster parent reportedly expressed serious misgivings about the way that Lisa Millet has handled the case with “no regard for these kids whatsoever.” She was disturbed that the children were separated after leaving her care, to be placed into different group homes.



The youngest Coumpy child. Source: [Parents Protecting God's Children](#) Facebook page.

Children Allegedly Drugged in Foster Care

At least two of the children are allegedly being drugged, but no one will tell their mother what medications they are on.

The 9-year-old has said that he does not like the medicine he is on, but he is made to take it. Aprilli has repeatedly asked for information about what the children are taking and why, but DCF allegedly has not provided any such information to her or her attorney.

Her children have also reportedly regressed since being removed from their home.

Has Lisa Millett Treated Other Parents Unfairly?

There is reportedly a new judge involved in the case. Aprilli is trying to maintain hope that she can get her children home, but it has been more than 2 years since her children were seized from her home. Her oldest child has aged out of the system, but the other 4 children remain in foster care. Will a new judge look at her case with fresh eyes?

With the numerous reports of case manager Lisa Millett's poor handling of the Coumpy case, the question arises – what kind of treatment have other families in Arizona experienced at Millett's hands? Has she been truthful to the courts about other cases, or does she have a history of misleading the courts regarding the parents of the children she has seized?

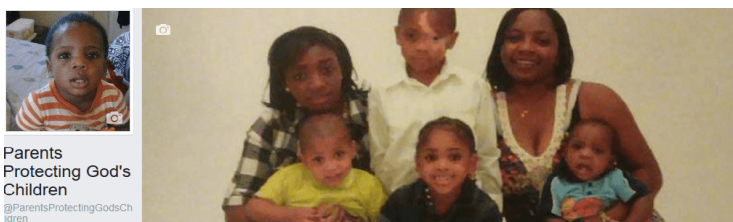
Apparently, the majority of legislators in Arizona do not have a problem with DCF workers fabricating evidence, lying, withholding material evidence, or failing to disclose exculpatory evidence. As long as bills that forbid such actions continue to be blocked by lawmakers, it is likely that harm to children will continue at the hands of the state with the most state-sponsored child kidnappings.

See:

[Arizona: Battleground for State-sponsored Child Kidnappings – Highest in the Nation](#)

[Arizona Lawmakers Block Bill To Protect Parents From Dishonest Child Protection Social Workers](#)

There is a Facebook page that has been set up by supporters called [Parents Protecting God's Children](#).



Governor Doug Ducey must be called upon to stop the needless kidnapping of thousands of children in his state such as the Coumpy children. The DCF agency and the actions of the DCF workers are ultimately his responsibility. He may be contacted at 602 542 4331 or reached [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Representative Rick Gray represents the Coumpy's district. He may be reached at 602 926 5993, or contacted [here](#).

The Senator for their district is Senator Barbara McGuire. She may be reached at 602 926 5836, or contacted [here](#).

Arizona CPS Uses Police-State Tactics to Kidnap Safe Children



Arizona CPS Caught Trying to Secretly Voice Analyze Parents

by Monica Mears
Health Impact News

Activists Hold CPS Accountable for Police-State Tactics to Kidnap Safe Children

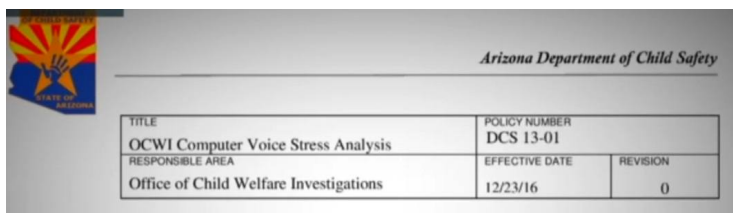
Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), under fire for its [skyrocketing rate of child removals in recent years](#), was just exposed for a new policy which allowed social workers to secretly record interviews with parents or caregivers suspected of crimes using a controversial and questionable

technology meant to detect lying.

The Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA), which a DCS spokesperson labeled a “new tool,” isn’t really new at all, and appears to have almost zero validity. One independent study found the lie detector was “no better than flipping a coin.”

The CVSA policy had only been recently implemented late last December. Gregg Woodnick, a Phoenix family law attorney whose practice defends families against DCS charges, unearthed the new policy and after confronting DCS legal counsel, notified local TV station 12 News.

Woodnick said DCS was effectively performing polygraphs on people without their consent.



TITLE		POLICY NUMBER	
OCWI Computer Voice Stress Analysis		DCS 13-01	
RESPONSIBLE AREA		EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION
Office of Child Welfare Investigations		12/23/16	0

[Image source Arizona News 12.](#)

After 12 News notified Arizona’s DCS they were doing a story on the secret recordings, an agency spokeswoman, Cynthia Weiss, said the policy was being “rescinded.”

See:

[A DCS recording policy meant to further investigate abuse has some people saying the agency has “gone too far.”](#)

CPS Using “Voodoo Science” to Kidnap Children



Attorney Gregg R. Woodnick. [Image source.](#)

Stephen Lemons of the [Phoenix New Times](#) reports:

Gregg Woodnick was preparing a continuing legal education class in DCS cases for his fellow attorneys when he ran across the document online in the department’s massive policy procedure manual.

Needless to say, his eyes bugged out when he saw it. When he shared it with other attorneys who practice in this area, their peepers did likewise.

“It’s pretty earth-shattering,” said Woodnick. “OCWI [Office

of Child Welfare Investigations] — these are not police officers, just DCS case workers. That they would consider secretly audio recording and then use voodoo science [to analyze it] — there are a million problems with it.”

One problem, according to Woodnick, would be that since OCWI works hand-in-hand with law enforcement, it naturally would share the results of this voice-stress analysis with the cops, who might decide from the jump that a parent being questioned on suspicion of wrongdoing is lying.

“Obviously that changes an entire police investigation,” Woodnick explained. “It’s very, very troubling.”

Woodnick said that though the results, like those of a polygraph test, would not be admissible in court, the information could be used to trick people into confessing to a crime that they did not commit. [1]

AZ DCS Wants to Destroy Families, Not Help Them

The *Arizona Republic* notes that in a 2007 study for the Department of Justice, CVSA was used to ask subjects in a jail about drug use, and then confirmed findings through actual drug tests. It found that CVSA caught deception only 15 percent of the time.

“It’s a sham. ... There is no scientific validity to the results,” said John J. Palmatier, a former police officer and criminal justice professor who has studied such technologies for 34 years.

Palmatier was trained in the use of CVSA by the product's maker, the Florida-based National Institute for Truth Verification. [2]

Critics point to this latest police-state tactic as part of a broader focus within the department to incriminate parents, rather than actually assist families and connect them with state services, as the department was intended to do. The director, Greg McKay, is a former Phoenix police officer who headed the Office of Child Welfare Investigations five years ago.

“It was public knowledge, it’s been on their website,” Jennifer Kupiszewski, an attorney, and former assistant attorney general told the Phoenix New Times. “As if, ‘Oh, we didn’t mean that’? Those policies take a long time to develop. So someone put a lot of thought and time and effort into working up to that covert portion.”

Local Lawyer Calls “Agenda-Driven” Investigators Part of the Problem

The covert audio story, which broke March 20, ran a week after Healthy Impact News/Medical Kidnap interviewed Woodnick to discuss the state of Arizona’s DCS.

When Woodnick spoke with Medical Kidnap, he noted that “agenda-driven investigators” can be part of the problem when it comes to DCS reform, and believes that better and more education for investigators, who are usually not forensically informed, would be a big step toward reforming the system.

Woodnick trains attorneys and doctors in CPS legal investigative procedures.

All Child Interviews by DCS Should Be Recorded

Additionally, when it comes to reforms, Woodnick says the legislative drive for warrants “may save a few peripheral cases” by slowing down the child removal process and requiring social workers to put their accusations in writing, but he noted requiring all child interviews to be recorded would be even better. When DCS removes a child, they “usually get 72 hours plus a weekend – five days – with no lawyer present.”

“Unfortunately, the limited ‘forensic interview’ training that caseworkers receive can lead to horrific results,” agrees Brad TenBrook, an associate at Woodnick’s firm and a former assistant attorney general for the state of Arizona.

A poorly conducted forensic interview of a child can impact a criminal prosecution and re-enforce a false belief.

Essentially, the child may actually think something occurred because of what was improperly suggested during the flawed forensic interview.

Notably, CPS rarely, if ever, records their interviews.

So the investigation is completed based on the notes taken by the interviewer who may have had a pre-conceived notion when he or she began the process. This is contrary to standards in forensic interviewing... [3]

DCS Can Take Kids Without Even Criminal Standard of Evidence

Woodnick also pointed out that the probable-cause standard of evidence for removing a child is very low and might be another area to push for reform.

Reforming the standard by which children are removed from their homes – essentially raising it to the level of criminal — is an area that is being advocated by other activists as well.

Currently, the standard of evidence used in CPS cases is only that of “probable cause” – the same as is used in car accidents.

Is Abolishing DCS the Only Solution?



Taking Woodnick’s concern regarding standards of evidence

a step further, Merissa Hamilton, an activist and the vice chair of the Maricopa County (Phoenix) Libertarian Party (MCLP) notes:

I see no reason for DCS to exist. If there is a criminal situation then that should be handled by law enforcement.

Since entering the fight for reform, Hamilton has advocated for and overseen the local Maricopa County Libertarian party's call to abolish DCS added into its platform. She notes that the state Libertarian platform advocates for the criminalization of child abuse investigations, but she is working within the party to have it amended to reflect her local party platform to abolish the agency altogether.

This would then require law enforcement, with its higher standards, open records and courts and due process rights, to handle any investigations.

Libertarian Activist Hosts Family Rights Summit in March

Galvanized by the outpouring of support and devastated families, Hamilton worked to raise awareness and on March 18 helped sponsor a Family Rights Summit. The Summit hosted Carlos Morales, a former CPS caseworker from Texas turned whistleblower.

To watch the main speakers from this event, visit the MCLP Facebook video [here](#).

After the summit, an interview with Hamilton did go viral. To date, it has received 56K hits on her [Facebook page](#).

Steve Isham, a long-time activist from Phoenix, also spoke at the Summit. A social worker who spent six years as the director of a state-funded nonprofit to help mentally ill children and who actually participated in drafting DCS protocol guidelines in the late 1990s, he has created a scorecard for families regarding the various groups that are involved in a DCS investigation.

Isham also actively works to assist families in finding resources and assistance when their children are wrongfully taken by DCS.

“The Entire System is Created to – by Default – Just Take the Children”

Hamilton, a former Arizona U.S. Senate candidate in 2016, campaigned in the primary specifically for Child Protective Services reform.

Initially, she says, some advised her against making CPS reform a part of her platform, telling her it was too controversial.

And she acknowledged:

I used to think CPS issues were just isolated. But when you’ve seen the pattern of dozens and dozens of families, I can’t accept that the system is broken. The entire system is created to – by default – just take the children.

Molly McGrath Tierney, the former Director of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, agrees with this position which is a national problem and not strictly related to

Arizona.

<https://youtu.be/c15hy8dXSps>

On the campaign trail, initially, people would dismiss Hamilton's claims. She describes families whose children were removed for nothing more than a nine-year-old playing outside by themselves, or a kitchen sink with dirty dishes in it. She says,

Once others are informed, they become as passionate as I am.

Hamilton says when she contacted state representatives to try to get help for a family, not one was willing to get involved.

Having worked with numerous heartbroken families in their efforts to get their children home, Hamilton describes the impact of rapid Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) laws, innocent parents put on the state child abuse registry and corrupt or apathetic court-appointed attorneys.

How DCS Actively Works to Break Parents' Bonds with Their Children

But as skewed as the laws and the system are, Hamilton alleges some caseworkers within the system are worse.

Hamilton says kids are frequently told their parents don't want them and aren't even trying to get them back.

This intentional manipulation to break parental bonds with their children is a consistent theme in many cases, she

reports.

This pattern is also reported by the *Arizona Republic* in a recent feature story.

“We still don’t know why they (their kids) were taken. The case-closed paper they gave us said we abandoned Christopher at the hospital — but that’s not true. They kept us from seeing him,” says Maribel Ontiveros, the mother of a child taken by Arizona DCS. [4]

Lawyer with Children Afraid to Take DCS Case, Retaliation a Legitimate Fear

Not only do caseworkers actively work against parents, they can also use their immense power to remove children to threaten and coerce. One family came to Hamilton, desperate for help – the lawyer they had tried to hire had turned them away because “they didn’t want to put their own family at risk by taking the case.”

Retaliation seems hard to believe, but Hamilton often tells the story of [Leanna Smith, whose story](#) has been covered by Medical Kidnap.

Arizona allegedly medically kidnapped Smith’s daughter while sick in the hospital because she wanted a second medical opinion from a hospital in another state with more experience. They refused to return her daughter and when she fought back, the state took her younger daughter Jameelah in retaliation, changed her name and she was then allegedly abused while in state custody.

Most horrifying of all, Jameelah now seems to have vanished. Heartbroken, Leanna continues to look for her. To learn more about the Smiths' story see [here](#).

Looking ahead, Hamilton says she plans to build relationships with Phoenix city government and run for the local Paradise Valley School Board on a platform of parental and children's rights. She notes that public schools are the main point of access DCS has to children, and she hopes to raise awareness with families and instigate reform with local schools.

But, Hamilton reiterates,

I will continue to work with parents, advocate on their behalf, and help them find legal resources.

This is the second article in a series covering Arizona DCS. Part 1:

[Arizona: Battleground for State-sponsored Child Kidnappings – Highest in the Nation](#)

Sources and References

[1] Lemons, Stephen. Phoenix New Times. March 20, 2017. <http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/dcs-director-greg-mckays-police-state-memo-okays-covert-interviews-and-secret-voice-stress-analysis-9177845>

[2] Ortega, Bob. Arizona Central Online. March 21, 2017. <http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-investigations/2017/03/21/arizona-department-of-child-safety-lie-detection-technology/99472634/>

[3] TenBrook, Brad. Attorney at Law Magazine. <http://www.attorneyatlawmagazine.com/phoenix/what-to-expect-when-cps-knocks-on-your-clients-door/>

[4] Ortega, Bob. "Arizona's DCS: Why are kids taken away? Too often the answer is unknown." Arizona Republic. 22, Jan. 2017. <http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-investigations/2017/01/22/arizona-department-child-safety-why-kids-taken-away-too-often-answer-unknown/96539080/>

Arizona Successfully Kidnaps Shoars Kids from Nevada After Judge Terminates Parental Rights



Parental rights terminated for Shoars children who were so happy to be returned home last year. Photo courtesy of the Shoars family.

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

Jeff and Tabitha Shoars eagerly awaited the day when they would hear the final verdict from Maricopa County Superior Court in Arizona. They firmly believed that the judge, who was presented with all the evidence in the case, would ultimately rule that their children should be returned home to their custody. Just before 8 am on Wednesday morning, May 24, they learned the horrible news: their children are not coming home and their parental rights have been

terminated.

They are devastated. The ruling was released on their son Devin's 10th birthday. Tabitha said that all he wanted for his birthday was to come home. Instead, the opposite has happened.

He is one of the 4 older Shoars children who will, at least for the time being, remain in an Arizona group home. His 2 youngest brothers are each in different foster homes.

They say that they are ready to fight back, legally, with everything within them. They plan to file an appeal as quickly as possible.

Tearful, angry, and broken, Tabitha took to Facebook on Wednesday evening. She has a message for all those involved in the legal kidnapping of their children:

Arizona, your worst nightmare is about to begin. We're coming for our kids. And, no, we're not going to do it the illegal way either, because I know for a fact that Arizona is thinking that...

'Cause we have something a lot bigger than Arizona, and that's mine and Jeff's love for our children, 'cause we will literally go to the moon and stars and the universe and back for our kids.

They pray that an appeals court will give more weight to their evidence than to what they maintain is hearsay and fabrications by Arizona social services and Assistant Attorney General Bonnie Platter.

Even though the Shoars were under a gag order by the

Arizona courts, they assume that the order is null and void now that their rights have been terminated, and they will no longer be silent.

Parents Blamed by Family Court for Daughter's Death, but No Criminal Charges Were Ever Filed

At the heart of the issue for Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCF) is the matter of their daughter Khloe's death on August 15, 2014, and who is to blame.

Tabitha and Jeff had gone on a date and left their children with a babysitter, "Rico." At the time, they trusted the young man with their children, based on numerous observed interactions between Rico and the children. The kids treated him like a "big brother."

The parents were called home later in the evening because there was an emergency. They came home to find police and emergency vehicles surrounding their home, and learned that 3 year old Khloe had been taken to the hospital in very serious condition. She passed away the next day.

See original story:

Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident

Their children were placed into foster care while Khloe's tragic death was investigated. At the hospitals, doctors first told the parents that there were no signs of abuse. The cause of death was ultimately ruled "inconclusive" in the autopsy. Some medical experts told the family that her symptoms

were consistent with a brain aneurysm and vigorous resuscitation attempts.

However, DCF argued in the most recent court hearings that “any reasonable interpretation of the evidence” shows that Khloe died from abuse. Both Tabitha and Jeff were severely criticized by DCF for what they called an “unreasonable belief” that their daughter died from natural causes and a fall outside in the yard where she hit her head. That same child was born at just 27 weeks gestation, and had a brain hemorrhage at birth.



Tabitha and Jeff held Khloe in her tragic last moments. Photo provided by the family.

However, police investigations originally did not find sufficient cause to charge anyone with a crime. According to court documents, Sergeant Kalcum was the lead investigator for “baby deaths” for the Avondale Police Department, and

has served in the department for 12 years. She investigated Khloe's death from August 2014 to September 2015. The Shoars and the babysitter were questioned. The babysitter was arrested at one time, but subsequently released.

Tabitha reports that Kalcum testified on the stand in 2016 that there was no evidence to charge either parent or the babysitter.

Even though no one is in jail for abuse or murder or anything else in Khloe's death, it was treated as a foregone conclusion by DCS in the recent 2017 hearings that she was abused and murdered, presumably by the babysitter, and the family is blamed for not knowing that the babysitter was capable of such.

How can the parents be blamed when a police investigation failed to find enough cause to bring any charges against anyone? How can the parents be blamed when no one is sitting in jail?

This seems very unjust to the Shoars, especially since DCS published a [Fatality Summary Report](#), released on April 6, 2016, stating that the investigation was complete and the allegations of abuse or neglect were "unsubstantiated."

The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the removal of the other children from the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and services are being provided to the family.

A subsequent report was received on September 8, 2015 regarding allegations of abuse or neglect that occurred prior to the other children coming into care. An investigation was completed and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

From Arizona [Fatality Summary Report](#) April 6, 2016 – Public Record

That was the same day that the Shoars children were

released to their grandparents' custody and their case was dismissed.

Yet, a primary reason for the termination of parental rights this past week is that they allowed their daughter to be killed. According to court documents, they:

have not acknowledged their responsibility for their part in the death of KHLOE and as such, the children would continue to be at risk for abuse and neglect if they remained in the care of mother and father.

Family Moved to Nevada to Start Over and Heal

Shortly after their case was dismissed in 2016, the Shoars children moved with their grandparents and parents to Nevada. They were all together except for their oldest son Ian. In a cruel (but not uncommon) move by DCS, Tabitha and Jeff were told that they had to voluntarily sign over their rights to their autistic son, in order for DCS to get out of their lives. It was such an agonizing decision that they chose not to make that detail public when *Health Impact News* first published the news of the other children being returned. See:

Children Kidnapped by State of Arizona Finally Returned to Parents After 600 Days

Tabitha has since shared that, as heartbreaking as it was, at least he was in a good home with a good family. He was thriving and happy. Not so with the rest of the children, some of whom had shared that they were being abused in

their foster placements.

When an elderly relative became ill back home in Michigan, where the Shoars were originally from, Jeff's parents returned there to care for the relative. *Health Impact News* spoke with the grandparents last year, and they reported that they were confident that the children were in good, capable hands with their own parents, and that they talked almost daily with the children via Skype. They never believed that Jeff or Tabitha had anything to do with Khloe's death, and they knew that their grandchildren loved and were loved by their parents.

Attorneys in Arizona had assured them that, once they were out of Arizona's jurisdiction, they could decide to entrust the children back to their parents' care if they so desired.



Shoars children with extended family. Photo provided by the family.

When our reporters spoke with the family, the children were happy and giggly in the background. A couple of the children wanted to talk on the phone and they told us that they were

happy to be home. Like other children traumatized by being taken from their families, the Shoars children sometimes experienced nightmares, and they were more afraid of people in authority than they had been before. But they were home, together, and healing.

Arizona DCS Travels to Nevada to Kidnap Shoars' Children

In August of 2016, Tabitha gave birth to another baby. In a bizarre twist of events, Arizona DCS contacted Nevada Child Protective Services with “new” allegations, which were in fact just the same allegations as before. Nevada social workers investigated and found no cause for concern, but that did not suit the apparent agenda of Arizona DCS.

On August 25, 2016, Arizona social workers drove to Nevada and seized all of the Shoars children except the newborn. Nevada social workers stood firm that the new baby was under their jurisdiction and there was no grounds to take her.

The children who had been so happy to be together with their parents again were horrified when the social workers told them they were taking them. Some of them had previously been abused in foster care in Arizona.

Their mother was able to record the event and their cries of terror are disturbing:

WARNING! AUDIO MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN!

Video no longer available.

See:

[Arizona Kidnaps Shoars Children from Nevada, Children Scream in Terror As They are Dragged Away \(audio\)](#)

Children's Desires to go Home Ignored

During the course of the trial, the children let their Guardian ad litem know that they wished to speak with the judge. On April 21, the 4 older children met with the court independently of their parents. According to the court record:

Each indicated that they loved their parents and that if they could not go home to their parents, they wanted to live with their grandparents.

On numerous occasions, their mother told our reporters that she was confident that, once the judge talked with them and heard them, he would see how much they were loved and wanted to go home.

Their screams of terror when being taken from their parents were ignored last August, and their pleas to go home to be with their parents were ignored by Judge Joseph C. Welty in his decision on May 23, 2017. All this was done, reportedly, "in the best interest of the children."

Tabitha recently put together montages of photos on YouTube for each of their 6 children who are now not coming home. The photos show a history of a loving family with happy, thriving children.

Bentley – age 4:

https://youtu.be/brfbG-C_w2E

Xzaviar – age 5:

<https://youtu.be/uMItvepg1nk>

Makenize – age 7:

https://youtu.be/j_ibUtOdUf4

Akira – age 9 next Thursday:

<https://youtu.be/jsY3i4APobo>

Devin – age 10 on Tuesday:

<https://youtu.be/neZusqVf6kA>

and Cionhiah – age 12:

https://youtu.be/Wl7o_hlnOaM

She wants them to know that their parents love them and will never stop praying for them and fighting for them.



6 of the Shoars children. Photo provided by the family.

Refusal to Take Controversial Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Test Used Against Parents

In the early days of the investigation into Khloe's death, Tabitha and Jeff were asked to take a Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) test. Their attorneys at the time advised them not to comply. This refusal was taken as "evidence" of their guilt. The Termination of Parental Rights document states that it:

“constitutes circumstantial evidence that corroborates the fact that they had knowledge that “Rico” was an unqualified care giver....”

As Arizona State Representative Kelly Townsend pointed out in the latest legislative session, the CVSA or “truth test” has only a 15% accuracy rate ([Source](#).) She presented an amendment to an Arizona bill, [SB1003](#), that ultimately was signed into law which states that, once the law goes into effect, CVSA results will not be admissible in court.

There were findings in the most recent court report to terminate their parental rights which had already been demonstrated to be false, and that have previously been established as being unsubstantiated and/or hearsay.

Tabitha, who represented herself pro se in the hearings, stated that all of the allegations in this hearing were the same ones that were part of the earlier proceedings, the same ones which were dismissed in 2016.

From what she could see, Assistant Attorney General Bonnie Platter most likely composed the TPR court report because everything in it was in the previous report from the prior hearings, which Platter wrote.

Attorneys who represented the Shoars in the previous case reportedly testified in court that this case is about “retaliation.”

Tabitha reports that Nevada social workers testified to the Arizona court that they found the Shoars to be good parents who were not guilty of allegations they were accused of.

Attorney General Cancels Goodbye Visit with Children

When Tabitha and Jeff received the news that their parental rights have been terminated, Arizona DCS told them that they were scheduled for one final visitation with their children next week. They were told that they were welcome to bring the baby to the visit to see her siblings one last time.

The Shoars had no intention of bringing the baby into Arizona, which they have been warned would risk her being seized by DCS. However, they anticipated seeing their other children one last time. Bonnie Platter had written that they should not mention to the children that this was their last visit.

However, on Wednesday evening, Platter informed them that, because so many people on social media were talking about the case, their final visit is now cancelled.

Jeff and Tabitha are now simply hoping that their children will be allowed to call them. Tabitha says that their home, which was once so full of laughter and joy, is too quiet. They have cried many tears since receiving the news that their children are not coming home.

According to the TPR report, DCS case manager Corey Wolters testified that the children are all either currently in “adoptive placements” or are “adoptable.”

How You Can Help

The Shoars are planning to appeal the case.

The Facebook page set up by supporters at the beginning of

their ordeal is still there, and people are welcome to encourage and support the family at [Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family](#).



Greg McKay is the Director of DCS/CPS in Arizona. His office may be reached at 1-602-255-2500.

[Governor Doug Ducey can be reached by phone or email here.](#)

See our other coverage of the Shoars family ordeal:

[Arizona Court Issues Gag Order on Family of 7, Detective Wants to Subpoena Interview on Radio](#)

[Arizona Judges Continue to Threaten Parents and Restrict Free Speech](#)

[Arizona Family Terrified – Foster Parents Taking Their Children to Mexico Against Their Will](#)

Arizona Convinces Nevada CPS to Kidnap Shoars Baby Despite No Imminent Danger



Jeff and Tabitha Shoars with baby Nytallieya

UPDATE 6/8/17

Nevada Judge Rules Against Seizure of Shoars Baby – Baby Returned Home to Parents

Arizona Convinces Nevada CPS to Kidnap Shoars Baby Despite No Imminent Danger

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

Tabitha and Jeff Shoars' youngest child, Nytallieya, was seized early Monday afternoon by Nevada Child Protective Services. The Shoars are devastated and shocked at the strong arm of Arizona DCS and their apparent ability to influence Nevada to take their only child who was still living with them.

According to the documents given to the Shoars on Monday, June 5, 2017, they are being accused of leaving Nytallieya “in the care of an unsafe caregiver when they left to visit Arizona.” The babysitter that is being called “unsafe” is a retired police officer and his wife, and the Shoars have left the baby in their care several times a month during their visits with their other children in Maricopa County, Arizona.

A social worker in Nevada had advised them to keep the baby out of Arizona as much as possible, since she was born in Nevada and thus out of Arizona's jurisdiction. Thus, they had to have a babysitter that they trusted to care for the baby during the visits. When family members were unavailable to babysit, they relied on their retired police officer friend and his wife.

It looks like Arizona DCS (Department of Child Safety) has found a way to get to the baby. Tabitha told *Health Impact News* that she believes that Arizona Assistant Attorney General Bonnie Platter has a vendetta against the couple, and that this is retaliation by her. She believes that Platter is behind the reports made to Nevada about the babysitter being unsafe.



Bonnie Platter. The photo was on her Facebook account, which has since been deactivated.

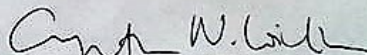
Twice before, Nevada CPS has investigated allegations of the “unsafe caregiver” and determined that it was unsubstantiated. Tabitha says that the allegations by Arizona DCS that the retired police officer and his wife are unsafe are “slanderous.”

The Department received a court order from Arizona regarding the termination of the parents' parental rights on June 1, 2017. It was reported that the parents are unable to discharge their parental duties as to the other children as they do not accept the cause of death of the other child that passed away in 2014. The parents were reportedly not willing to cooperate with the investigation of the death of the minor. The cause of death was found to be blunt force trauma to the child's torso and head after leaving the child in the care of an inappropriate caregiver. According to the report "the parents have been unable to accept any level of responsibility and accountability" for their choices which led to the death of the minor, they cannot currently parent their children safely as they are unable to demonstrate or exercise any protective capacity that would provide certainty that these kinds of events would not happen in the future.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that impending danger was identified as it appears the natural parents have demonstrated diminished caregiver protective capacities as it was reported that they have continued to leave their child in the care of individuals who are potentially unsafe and have not accepted their responsibility in the death of their other child. NYTALLIEYA is a vulnerable infant as she is dependent on others for protection. She is unable to defend herself; she is susceptible to the natural parents as it appears that the natural parents have made no behavioral changes since the death of the previous child.

IT IS ORDERED that the child, NYTALLIEYA SHOARS, be immediately placed in protective custody and that, upon doing so, Department of Family Services cause a protective custody hearing to be scheduled within 72 hours of taking custody of the child; that appropriate notices be given to the natural parents to be present at the protective custody hearing.

Dated: June 5, 2017.


**CYNTHIA GIULIANI, ABUSE/NEGLECT
DISTRICT JUDGE-JUVENILE DIVISION**

The Shoars were handed a court order on Monday with a judge's signature, but no time stamp. The document states that Arizona sent them the Termination of Parental Rights documents for the Shoars' other children on June 1, which states that the "parents are unable to discharge their parental duties as to the other children as they do not accept the cause of death of the other child that passed away in 2014."



Judge Cynthia Giuliani. [Image source.](#)

The previous babysitter is being blamed for the death of their child Khloe, ***even though police have not found sufficient evidence to charge him or anyone else in her death.*** There are many who believe that the evidence points to a brain aneurysm after she fell.



A rare photo of all the Shoars children together.

See original story:

Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident

The rights to the other children were recently terminated by Judge Joseph Welty in Maricopa County, Arizona, after a long, difficult court battle, but the decision has been appealed. On the same day that Arizona DCS sent the documents to Nevada CPS, 4 of the Shoars children, Cionhiah, age 12, Devin, age 10, Akira, age 9, and Makenize Shoars, age 7, appealed the TPR decision. They never wanted to leave their family, and they, as children, are fighting to be reunited with their family. According to the document they filed that day, the children requested:

appellate counsel to represent the children in the appeal from the order terminating the parent-child relationship with their parents.

See article posted before the children's appeal:

[Arizona Successfully Kidnaps Shoars Kids from Nevada After Judge Terminates Parental Rights](#)

The children screamed in terror when Arizona DCS sent workers to seize them from Nevada after they were finally reunited after DCS took them after their sister's death. They had just begun to heal and were excited about their new baby sister when Arizona DCS struck in August 2016. Watch the following video, where you can hear their haunting screams:

WARNING! AUDIO MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN!

Video no longer available.

Tabitha and Jeff were very hopeful after learning that their children filed to appeal. They filed an intent to appeal as well, and they were confident that, if they can get into a court that is just, their children will eventually be returned home.

They never expected the knock on the door Monday, just before noon. Four police officers and a social worker knocked on the door, and Tabitha says that she opened it, but she had a chain on the door. They demanded that she unchain the door, and she complied. An officer then stuck his foot in the door, and they came in when she had to go inside to attend to the baby. They told her that they were there to take the baby, and they waited for Jeff to come home from work, which he did in record time.



Jeff Shoars with daughter Nyttallieya. Photo taken from Jeff's Facebook Live video.

Jeff recorded the events from that point on Facebook Live. As of Wednesday afternoon, the video has been viewed by almost 70,000 people.

Jeff told the officers that Arizona took his other children illegally, and violated numerous laws:

They're doing it down there [in Arizona] illegally, and now you're going to try to do it?

They've taken my kids already. Now you take my daughter? Guess what. You took everything that's important to me.

By 1:13 pm, Nytallieya was gone.



Nytallieya Shoars was very happy in her home with her parents. Photo provided by Shoars family.

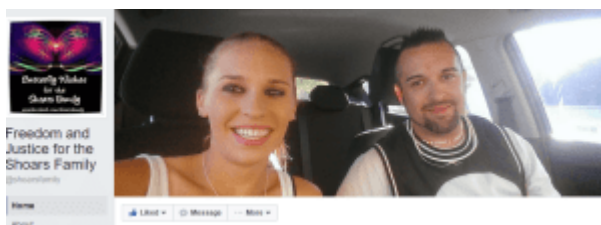
Later that afternoon, Tabitha called *Health Impact News* with the devastating news. She was crying so hard that we could barely understand her.

Those who have been following the Shoars family saga are angry and upset that the Child Protective Agencies have the power that they do. The family believed that Nytallieya was safe. She was well cared for and was thriving. There was no immediate threat and no danger to the child. Since the parental rights, and therefore visits, were terminated, there was not likely a need for the family to need a babysitter in the near future.

The family has a 72-hour hearing on Thursday (June 8) morning at 9 am. They have no attorney yet. All of their attorneys are in Arizona, and Nevada family court doesn't assign a court-appointed attorney until the first hearing. Tabitha and Jeff are hopeful that the judge in the case will dismiss the case and return their baby home.

How You Can Help – Call Before 9 a.m. Thursday Morning!

The Facebook page set up by supporters at the beginning of their ordeal is still there, and people are welcome to encourage and support the family at [Freedom and Justice for the Shoars Family](#).



Brian Sandoval is the governor of Nevada. He may be reached at (775) 684-5670 or (702) 486-2500, and contacted [here](#).

Clark County Department of Family Services may be reached at (702) 455-5444 or contacted [here](#).

Nevada Judge Rules Against Seizure of Shoars Baby - Baby Returned Home to Parents



Baby Nytallieya is HOME! Photo taken from [Facebook Live by Merissa Hamilton](#).

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

Tabitha and Jeff Shoars are celebrating that their youngest child, 10 month old Nytallieya, is back home after being

seized by Nevada Child Protective Services just after noon on Monday, June 5, 2017.

The baby was taken from their Las Vegas home after Arizona Department of Child Safety social workers sent a report to Nevada CPS alleging that the Shoars left the child with an “unsafe caregiver.”

The Shoars disputed that claim, saying that the caregiver to whom Arizona DCS refers is someone that they feel quite confident about – a retired police officer and his wife.

See story of Nytallieya’s seizure:

Arizona Convinces Nevada CPS to Kidnap Shoars Baby Despite No Imminent Danger

Arizona DCS social workers convinced social workers in Nevada that Tabitha and Jeff had “diminished caregiver protective capacities” because they alleged that the Shoars left their children in Arizona with a babysitter who DCS accuses of killing the Shoars’ daughter Khloe.

Based on this inaccurate assessment, DCS concluded that the babysitter chosen by Tabitha and Jeff Shoars in Nevada was an “unsafe caregiver.” They passed this accusation on to Nevada CPS as fact, when in truth, it was never a fact.

The babysitter in question was questioned in connection with Khloe’s death, but never charged. The official coroners report stated that the cause of death was “undetermined,” and it was determined by police in Arizona that no crime had been committed.



The Shoars family – happy together with Khloe (in pink) before tragedy struck. Photo provided by the Shoars.

Therefore, the allegations upon which the Shoars' other children were taken into DCS custody remain very much in dispute, and the Shoars AND four of their children have filed to appeal the Arizona DCS decision to terminate their parental rights.

Nonetheless, it was those allegations, which happened in Arizona, not Nevada, upon which the petition to seize baby Nytallieya in Nevada were based.

Apparently, the judge took issue with this, stating that there “was no impending danger to remove the child.” He noted that Nevada CPS has been in the Shoars' home on previous occasions, and found no cause to remove the child, who was

born in Nevada. He stated:

There is not a factual statement within the report to warrant removal of the child.

He reportedly told the social worker that any allegations to take a child in Nevada needs to be based on events occurring within Nevada. He ruled to allow the baby to go home with her parents, but has allowed CPS until June 19 to come back with any other petition.

Court reviewed the family's history noting there was a Guardianship done by the grandparents in Arizona as to their other six children but when the parents moved to Nevada the grandparents allowed the children to move to Nevada with them.

Court noted, based on the Department's Report for this hearing as well as their Report from when they requested the warrant there was no impending danger to remove the child. The Department had been in contact with the family and had been in their home at least two to three times prior to the warrant request and had not removed the child. The Department did not remove the child until the Arizona Court made their Order to terminate the parent's rights as to the other six children. There is not a factual statement within the report to warrant removal of the child,

State requested the matter be set for plea.

Following statements, Court ORDERED, the child shall be returned to the parents TODAY. State to file a petition no later than June 19, 2017 and set the matter for an Adjudicatory Plea hearing on Ju [REDACTED]

Tabitha pointed out to *Health Impact News* that Arizona social workers seem to be quite concerned about an “unsafe caregiver” who is a retired police officer, yet their department placed some of the Shoars children in foster placements where they were actually unsafe and abused. Several of the children reported abuse to their parents by foster parents after they were returned home last summer.



Shoars children last summer, shortly before Nyttallieya's birth. They were so happy to be together again. Photo provided by the Shoars.

She also said that she was going to take Nyttallieya to the doctor because she appeared sick, with a runny nose and watery eyes, when they got her back from CPS.

They waited to announce their good news until after Nyttallieya was safely back in their home.

Advocate and political activist Merissa Hamilton of Arizona accompanied the Shoars to court on Thursday morning, and she posted a Facebook Live video as Tabitha and Jeff came back into their home holding Nyttallieya. Merissa said:

We had an awesome judge. Even though he didn't let me in the courtroom, that's OK. I won't be offended. He did the right thing.

Tabitha and Jeff Shoars are thankful for the outpouring of love that has been shown to them through this whole ordeal after so much heartache their family has suffered. Even the Shoars' family dog seemed excited to have baby Nyttallieya back home where she belongs.

Arizona Places 2 Year Old Child in Foster Pornographic Pedophile Ring - Foster Mom Burns 80% of Her Body



David Frodsham ([image source](#)) and Samantha Osteraas ([image source](#)) have been charged in horrific crimes as Arizona Foster Parents.

UPDATE – Our interview with the mother and her side of the story:

[Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned](#)

Comments by Brian Shilhavy
Health Impact News Editor

WARNING! Content in this article not suitable for younger audiences!

This is perhaps one of the most horrific examples of child abuse of a child who was taken into state custody by a “Child Protection” social service agency, and put into the foster care system, that we have ever reported.

That is not to state that these kinds of horrible stories are rare, but rather seldom do we have the legal rights to publish such stories.

This one is the result of a lawsuit in the State of Arizona, and therefore the 1st Amendment gives us, and anyone else in the media, the right to expose this, since charges have been filed against the alleged criminals in the foster care system.

As we have previously reported on our MedicalKidnap.com website, statistics clearly show that children taken away from their families, even “troubled” families where there are problems, do far worse overall in foster care after they are separated from their families, since the incidences of abuse while in foster care are *far greater*.

See:

[Foster Care Children are Worse Off than Children in Troubled Homes - The Child Trafficking Business](#)

[The U.S. Foster Care System: Modern Day Slavery and Child Trafficking](#)

Child Sex Trafficking through Child “Protection” Services Exposed – Kidnapping Children for Sex

Whistleblowers and other studies also show us that the vast majority of children removed from their families are not for child abuse, but other reasons such as “medical neglect” (which is often simply disagreeing with a doctor and asking for a second opinion). True cases of abuse by parents is actually rare, reported to be anywhere from 5% to only 25% of all children seized by Child Protective Services and put into state foster care.

See:

85% of Reports to Indiana Child Protective Services Unsubstantiated – Families Destroyed Needlessly

75% of Children Taken by Texas CPS are Based on Unfounded Accusations

As this case in Arizona clearly shows, the problem of child abuse in America today is not primarily about child abuse within family homes. No, the problems with child abuse today are primarily about child abuse within state care, where children are entered into drug trials against their will (see: [Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials](#)), entered into [pedophile rings](#), and bring in huge amounts of federal funds to the state to pay for a billion dollar, legal, [child trafficking business](#) which nation-wide employs hundreds of thousands of government workers.

Arizona Foster-Care Census Rises

The number of children in Arizona's foster-care system rose 80% between 2003 and 2012, while foster care nationally declined 22% during that same period.

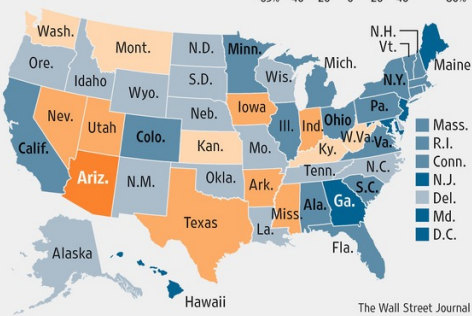
Percentage change since FY 2003



Note: Fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services

Percentage change, FY 2003-12



Isn't it time to stop this? Turn off the federal funding and kill it, NOW! There is no other solution.

Listen to an interview below with Beth Breen, the driver contracted with CPS to transport Devani between the Frodshams' home and visits with her parents.

<https://youtu.be/AN2BML9mbcg>

Horrible Child Abuse Blamed on Arizona Agencies

by [ALLIE WEINTRAUB](#)
[Courthouse News Service](#)

TUCSON (CN) — After Arizona's Department of Child Safety placed a toddler with a man who ran a "pornographic pedophile ring" out of his home, it moved her to a home where the foster mother burned her with scalding water over 80 percent of her body, the little girl's guardian claims [in court](#).

Fleming and Curti PLC, court-appointed guardian of Jane Doe, sued Arizona, its Department of Child Safety, other state agencies, the Christian Family Care Agency and a host of other institutions and people, in Pima County Court.

The Department of Child Safety, formerly Child Protective Services, removed Jane Doe from her biological mother's home in 2013, when she was 2, and placed her with David and Barbara Frodsham, a state-licensed foster home, according to the June 16 lawsuit.

The state allowed Jane to stay with the Frodshams for 18 months, despite her biological mother's complaints of "Jane Doe's repeated documented urinary tract infections," the complaint states.

"Instead of investigating Jane Doe's biological mother's concerns of abuse, [DCS] and the defendant caseworkers accused her of making false and exaggerated reports to DCS," according to the complaint.

The state did not act until David Frodsham, driving drunk, left 3-year-old Jane and another child in his parked car while he was collecting his foster parent check in a state office, while "visibly drunk and acting belligerent." Police were called and found Frodsham had a .28 blood alcohol concentration. They removed Jane from his care but did not investigate his home, the complaint states.

It continues:

"Later, David Frodsham was arrested and accused of sexual misconduct with a minor, procuring minors for sex, and

possessing and/or manufacturing child pornography. Law enforcement's investigation revealed a video made by David Frodsham of a 3- or 4-year-old girl being penetrated by an adult male and screaming for her mommy. David Frodsham pled guilty rather than face a trial and has been sentenced to 17 years in the Arizona Department of Corrections. David Frodsham was part of a pornography ring involving numerous children in his pornography and the procurement of sex for the ring." (Citation to sentencing document omitted.)

Four more state and federal cases involving a child placed in Frodsham's home are pending against him, and more are expected to be filed, according to the complaint.

Unfortunately, things did not improve much when the state moved Jane into the care of Justin and Samantha Oстераas, her guardian says. According to the complaint, "Defendant Samantha Oстераas submerged and held down Jane Doe, a 5-year-old, in a bath of scalding hot water. Jane Doe suffered severe burns over 80 percent of her body. When police arrived, there was blood on the floor and pieces of Jane Doe's skin were falling off her body. There were bruises to her neck and arms along with other signs of trauma."

Jane had to be placed in a medically induced coma, suffering from organ failure. She lost her toes to amputation "and will undergo lifelong operations to replace 80 percent of the skin on her body and will need incredible amounts of care for the duration of her life as a result of the abuse she suffered in the Oстераas' home."

Samantha Oстераas, 28, was arrested in January this year and charged with child abuse. The state then removed her three

biological children from her home, according to the Arizona Daily Star. She is awaiting trial.

Jane's guardian seeks punitive damages for negligence, respondeat superior, breach of duty, intentional infliction of emotional distress, assault and battery, and constitutional violations.

Here are the defendants: State of Arizona; Arizona Department of Child Safety; Arizona Department of Economic Security; Child Protective Services; Division of Children, Youth and Families; Christian Family Care; Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona Inc.; St. Nicholas of Myra; Mark Brnovich; Gregory McKay; Charles Flanagan; Clarence Carter; Jeannette Sheldon; Eva Pena; Katherine Mayer; Cassie Dixon; Monica Reyes; Norel Alviti; Rosette Codner; Jack Roddy; David Frodsham; Barbara Frodsham; Samantha Osteraas; and Justin Osteraas.

Jane is represented by the Cadigan Law Firm and Carillo Law Firms of Tucson, and by Manly, Stewart & Finaldi in Irvine, Calif.

A DCS spokesperson said the agency does not comment on pending litigation.

Read the full article at [Courthouse News Service](#).

Other articles exposing the corruption in Arizona:

[Arizona: Battleground for State-sponsored Child Kidnappings – Highest in the Nation](#)

Arizona CPS Uses Police-State Tactics to Kidnap Safe Children

Why is the Arizona “Family Advocate” Threatening People Asking About Children in State Custody?

CPS Caseworker in Arizona Turns Whistleblower – Reports on Abuse of Power

BREAKING: ARIZONA SUED BY ABUSED FOSTER CHILDREN!

Medical Kidnapping: Billion Dollar Adoption Business

15,000 Cases of Arizona Child Porn: Huge Child Sex Trafficking Ring in Arizona

A History of Medical Kidnapping at Phoenix Children’s Hospital

Health Impact News family stories on Medical Kidnappings in Arizona:



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



[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



[Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion](#)



[Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead](#)



[Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident](#)



[Another Arizona Medical Kidnapping: 4 Children Removed from Family after Booster Seat Accident](#)

Is Arizona a Hub of Child Sex Trafficking? Why does Arizona Take the Highest Percentage of Children from their Homes?

Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped - then 80% of Body Burned



Devani, before she was scalded over 80% of her body while in the care of a couple that DCS placed her with. Photo source: AZ Childrens Lives Matter [Facebook page](#).

UPDATE 1/10/18

Arizona Girl Raped and Burned in Foster Care Still Represented by Same Attorney – Kept Away from Family

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

Earlier this year (June 2017) we reported on one of the most horrific examples of child abuse of a child who was taken into state custody by a “Child Protection” social service agency, and put into the foster care system, that we have ever reported.

We reported how one Arizona child was repeatedly raped as part of a pornographic pedophile ring in foster care, and then placed into a different foster home where 80% of her body was burned with scalding water.

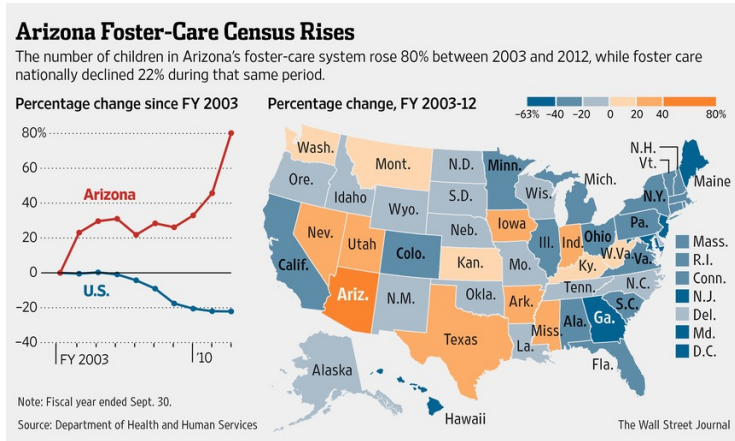
We were only able to report on this because a court-appointed guardian of the child sued the Arizona Department of Child Safety, making the alleged crimes public knowledge. See:

(WARNING! Content in the article linked below not suitable for younger audiences!)

Arizona Places 2 Year Old Child in Foster Pornographic Pedophile Ring – Foster Mom Burns 80% of Her Body

However, what was not published by the general media who reported on this story was the birth mother’s perspective, and why the child was taken away from her family in the first place.

Health Impact News has interviewed the mother and investigated her story, and we now bring it to the public. It is yet another example of just how corrupt child “protective” services have become, especially in Arizona.



How Arizona Removed an Innocent Child from Her Family and Destroyed her Life

A little girl from Tucson, Arizona, was taken away from her family by Child Protective Services and placed into state custody. One of the foster parents is now in prison for running a pornographic pedophile ring, and another faces criminal charges for holding her down in scalding water, causing burns over 80% of her body.

Young Devani was seized from her family just days before her second birthday. The social worker had no warrant or court order when she made the decision that would change the child’s life forever.

The question arises: What horrors did the real parents do that could justify CPS putting a child into such heinous

situations?

Our investigation reveals the shocking truth: nothing.

The beautiful blond-haired, blue-eyed toddler was allegedly taken from her home under false pretenses. The allegations were shown to be wrong from the very beginning, yet CPS (now renamed DCS – Department of Child Services) continued to pursue their case, placing the child into one nightmare situation after another, which almost cost her life. Some people claim she would have been far better off if she had been killed, rather than face the horrors no child should ever have to face.

Her maternal grandmother was already approved by the State of Arizona when she adopted another child, yet DCS has consistently refused to consider placing Devani with her. Her paternal grandmother, likewise, was never considered as an option.

Though she had never been abused in her own home, Devani was placed into foster care with strangers, and her abuse began almost immediately. According to her mother:

They took that precious angel and destroyed her life. If I could take her place, I would.

More than anything, Michelle wants her little girl home with her, so that she can protect her.

In our previous report of the case, we referred to the child as “Jane Doe,” because that is what she is called in the lawsuit that was filed against the abusers and many within the State of Arizona responsible for placing her in harm’s way. (See

lawsuit.)

Other media outlets have identified her in their coverage as Devani, with no last name given. Her name has since been legally changed by the people who adopted her, but she was born as Devani, and that is what we will call her.

Allegations Dismissed BEFORE Child Taken

Devani was born on April 29, 2011. She lived with her parents, Michelle Tremor-Calderon and Jonathan Hileman, in Tucson, Arizona. She was described as a happy, loving little girl who was very much loved by her family.

In early April 2013, Michelle and Jonathan got into an argument – a shouting match during which allegedly there was no physical contact and no violence. A neighbor called the police, and domestic violence charges were filed against Michelle. The charges were quickly determined to be without merit, and they were dismissed immediately.

At the time of the incident, Devani was at her paternal grandmother's home. She did not witness the argument.

Nonetheless, DCS became involved. On April 17, the day after the charges were dismissed, social worker Norel Alviti showed up at the grandmother's home without a court order or warrant to take Devani into state custody. Michelle and Jonathan were at work at the time.

Michelle expected that this was all a misunderstanding which would be cleared up as soon as she took the social worker documentation that the charges had been dropped. It should have been over then.

However, when Michelle showed up at the DCS office with the paperwork, the social worker Alviti then demanded that Michelle take a drug test.

This was apparently based on an anonymous report, possibly from a disgruntled neighbor, that the parents had been doing drugs. Michelle flatly denied the allegation and complied immediately.

The 10 panel drug test came back completely negative. She was clean. Again, this should have ended right then.

It did not.

Without a shred of evidence, social workers allegedly were “concerned” about the possibility that the parents might, in the future, do something that would cause harm to their child, so DCS kept Devani in their custody, placing her in very real, and unimaginably horrific, foster care situations.

Michelle and Jonathan were assigned one hoop after another to jump through in order to try to get their child back.

DCS Double Standard: Parents Investigated, but Foster Caregivers Not

As the case wore on, DCS dug further and further into the parents’ history, while apparently neglecting to dig into the history of the foster and adoptive families that they place children in.

Devani’s parents acknowledge making some bad choices in their past, but by the time Devani came along, they had cleaned up their act. They loved their daughter and wanted the best for her.



Michelle Tremor-Calderon – mother of Devani. Photo credit: [David Wallace/The Republic](#).

Michelle's first child was born with a congenital heart defect. When he passed away at the age of 3, Michelle fell apart. In her pain, she turned to drugs. In 2001, she gave birth to another child, who was adopted by Michelle's mother. It was a very difficult season in her life. But after much therapy and counseling, she was able to get her life back on track.

The DCS social worker learned about Michelle's drug history, a season that was over by the time Devani was born. Michelle was clean, and proved it on the day that Devani was taken. During the entire time that DCS was involved with her family, Michelle has allegedly remained free of drugs.

Yet, her prior history continues to be used against her, both in the courtroom and in the media. Social workers are quick to point out her drug usage from 13 years prior, but

reportedly neglect to tell the court that she has been free of drugs during Devani's life.

Since Devani was taken, most of the focus has been on Michelle. Jonathan, Devani's real father, saw the writing on the wall early on. He recognized that his daughter's best chance to come home would be for him to be out of the picture. Though the original allegations used to take his daughter away were not centered on him, he knew that his history would be used against him.

Jonathan has a record. He made some very poor decisions when he was young. He was involved in a robbery and a sexual assault of an adult, for which he served a 10 year prison sentence. After he got out, he reportedly changed his ways and cleaned up his act.

When he and Michelle met, he treated her with respect and kindness. They worked hard to build a new life and leave their past behind.

There was never any child abuse, or even allegations of such, with Devani's real parents. Sources have reported that both Michelle and Jonathan were devoted, loving parents who obviously thought the world of Devani.

However, DCS told the couple that the only hope that Michelle had of getting Devani back was for Jonathon to get out of the picture. So, he did.

Health Impact News spoke with Beth Breen, who transported Devani back and forth to visits with her parents for more than a year. In that capacity, she was able to observe the interactions between Michelle and Jonathan and their daughter:

The love between the parents and Devani – you just know it's there.

Breen made a chilling statement about Devani's experiences in DCS custody:

What they [DCS] were trying to protect her FROM is the exact thing that they did to her.

Abused in Foster Care from the Beginning

Right away, Michelle recognized that her baby girl was not faring well in foster care. As a loving mother who was very bonded with her child, she saw signs from the very beginning that something was desperately wrong. Her concerns were not only dismissed, but were actually used against her.

Michelle was accused of coaching her daughter and of sabotaging placements – placements which, it turned out, never should have been options for any child.

Advocates point out that DCS was quick to say they wanted to protect Devani from potential harm that could possibly come to her in the future, but hadn't yet, based on her parents' past history.

At the same time, they repeatedly placed the child into situations with numerous warning signs, and they ignored actual abuse that was occurring right under their noses.

According to the lawsuit:

10 happened), Defendants placed Jane Doe in successive dangerous environments, far more
11 dangerous and abusive than her home with her mother. Defendants took Jane Doe from
12 her home where she had not been abused and placed her in homes where criminals ran
13 pornographic rings, sexually abused children entrusted in their care, including Jane Doe.
14
15 The Defendants then placed Jane Doe in a home where she was almost burned to death.

Mandatory Reporters Failed to Report Signs of Real Abuse, Blamed Mother

As mandatory reporters, the social workers were required to report the abuse, and their failure to do so was in violation of Arizona law. Yet, no one within the system has faced any charges.

In contrast, a school vice-principal and a counselor were arrested in Tucson on felony charges for failure to report an incident that is not nearly as horrific as the abuse that Devani was subjected to. (See [story](#).)

At the very first visit with her daughter after she was taken, Michelle noted scratches and bruises on Devani. A week later, there were more scratches and bruises, as well as bite marks. Michelle took pictures and reported the abuse to case workers and supervisors.

When nothing was done by those who were charged with protecting her child, Michelle took action and called the police herself. The foster woman became angry and dropped Devani off at the DCS office.

The second foster care placement proved disastrous. Social workers placed Devani in the care of David and Barbara Frodsham, who had been approved and licensed by the State of Arizona as foster parents since 2002.



David Frodsham, mug shot from Sierra Vista Police.

Mr. Frodsham is currently in prison, serving a 17 year sentence for state and federal crimes. According to the lawsuit:

17 | attached as Exhibit E.) David Frodsham was part of a pornography ring involving
18 | numerous children in his pornography and the procurement of sex for the ring. Four cases,
19 | in State and federal court, involving a child from the Frodshams' home are pending
20 | against David Frodsham. According to the federal and State prosecutors, more cases are
21 | expected to be filed involving this pedophile ring operated by David Frodsham, Jane
22 | Doe's foster parent.
23 |
24 |

Almost immediately after her daughter was placed with the Frodshams, Michelle saw signs that Devani was being sexually abused. According to reports:

There were thumb marks on her daughter's hips and arms, scratches, bruises.

She developed a painful, smelly urinary tract infection that Michelle reported to case worker Jeannette Sheldon and her supervisors, but her concern was dismissed.

Instead, Mr. Frodsham's wife blamed Michelle, saying that the UTI was from Devani's real mother giving her too much juice during visitations. Devani was taken to a doctor who worked with DCS, who backed up Mrs. Frodsham's story and blamed the juice, ignoring the signs of sexual abuse.

The social workers, who are supposed to be trained in recognizing signs of abuse, didn't question the illogical proposition that, somehow, Devani consumed so much juice in her 2 hour visit per week with her mother, under supervision, that she developed a UTI and kept it for 8 months. Nor did they question the fosters' neglect in taking Devani to a doctor for medical treatment for an infection which caused her to hold her private area and cry in pain.

A transporter noticed the smell of the infection as well. Beth Breen worked for a transport company formerly called IMA Trans, LLC, which was contracted by DCS to transport children to and from visits with their biological parents.

Beth Breen told *Health Impact News* that she was the primary transporter for Devani for about a year, because Devani was terrified of male transporters. She has submitted an affidavit

to the Pima County Court about what she witnessed while transporting Devani.

In the very beginning, both parents were at all the visits. Beth Breen said that the love within the family was obvious.

Later, DCS stopped allowing Devani's father to attend the visits, due to his past history. While DCS purportedly protected her from imagined harm, the little girl was being subjected to very real harm in the house where social workers placed her.



Devani was always very excited to see her mom. Photo provided by family.

Breen describes Devani's excitement when she would pick her up at the Frodshams' house and drive her for the 90 minute trip to see her parents, and later just her mother:

She was always so happy to see them, singing and happy.

She would wave at her parents, blow kisses to them, and once unbuckled she would jump into her mother's arms with a huge smile and a sigh.

The drive home was a different matter altogether. Devani would scream, kick, and cry as she reached out for her mother when she had to leave. She would often cry inconsolably for an hour or more on her way to the Frodshams, crying herself to sleep. When they arrived, she would look around and start crying again.

Beth Breen said that throughout the time that she transported Devani, she was always happy and excited about seeing her mother. The screams and cries on the way back to the Frodshams' house, however, eventually "became more of a whimper." She had apparently figured out that crying out was hopeless.

Devani had never demonstrated a fear of men before being at the Frodshams' house, but after she arrived, she was absolutely terrified of men she didn't know. DCS blamed this on Devani's mother, even testifying in court that Michelle had "coached" her daughter.

In reality, the child had every reason to be terrified of men. During the investigation of David Frodsham and a soldier in the Army, [Spec. Randall Bischak](#), law enforcement found a video made by Frodsham of explicit sexual abuse of a little girl about 3 or 4 years old.

While Michelle's maternal instincts told her that her baby was being harmed, all of her concerns were ignored and

dismissed.

In fact, her concerns were actually turned against her. Social workers accused Michelle of “disrupting the foster care placements” and “coaching” her daughter.

Later, investigations by ICE, Homeland Security, and the FBI proved all of Michelle’s fears for her daughter’s safety to be justified, and more charges are still expected to be filed against David Frodsham for his role in the pedophile pornography ring.

Even so, that has not mattered to DCS or the Pima County Court, as *they continue to blame the mother instead of the real abusers.*

Child Betrayed by Those Entrusted to her Care

Throughout the case, as per Arizona law, Devani has had an attorney appointed to represent her interests. Thea Gilbert has been with the case since the beginning. She reportedly told Devani’s family and the court that she was happy and “bonding with” the Frodshams. She said that it would be “detrimental” and “not in her best interests” for her to be removed from that placement.



Thea Gilbert – court-appointed attorney for Devani. Photo [source](#).

The numerous signs of abuse while she was with the Frodshams didn't outweigh the state's apparent interest in keeping Devani in their care. Gilbert and DCS even advocated for Devani to be adopted by the Frodshams.

It wasn't until Mr. Frodsham showed up drunk at the DCS office that Devani was removed from his house.

While at the next foster placement, Devani showed up at a visit with a goose-egg sized bump on her forehead from allegedly being slammed into a wall.

Meanwhile, Michelle was allegedly in full compliance with everything that DCS asked of her, working toward reunification. She was on time for every visit, tested clean for every drug screen, and completed every class. She has a

stack of certificates to show, but wonders what it was all for.

Near the end of the reunification process, DCS brought in the [Easterseals Blake Foundation](#), an organization contracted with DCS to do parent/child therapy. One advocate told *Health Impact News* that the pattern of Arizona DCS has been to assign the Blake Foundation to work with families at the end of the case, which often leads to reunification failure.



Alexis Kirkendall. [Photo from Facebook](#).

A Blake Foundation employee, Alexis Kirkendall, LMSW, was assigned to evaluate the interaction between Michelle and her traumatized daughter. Kirkendall reportedly backed up the DCS accusation that Michelle's concerns about Devani's

placements indicated that she, not the foster placements, were unfit, and that Michelle jeopardized the foster care placements by calling the police when she suspected abuse.

Kirkendall and DCS caseworker Jeanette Sheldon reportedly testified that Devani wasn't bonded well with her mother because "she exhibited prolonged temper tantrums, self-urination, and crying." The symptoms which were actually signs of the abuse that Devani was experiencing in foster care were instead used as justification for stopping Michelle's visits with her daughter.

Their last visit was on July 14, 2015. At the end of their visit, Michelle told Devani not to be sad because they would see each other the next week and have fun together. Kirkendall reportedly used that incident to accuse Michelle of not knowing how to support her daughter's emotional needs, and she stopped visitations.

That was the last time that Michelle saw Devani. Her parental rights were terminated in October 2015 by Judge K.C. Stanford at the Tucson Juvenile Court.

Judge Stanford has since retired from the bench. An advocate for the family says that he retired "as the press started to heat up regarding this case."

Michelle tried to file an appeal, but the appeal was thrown out.

According to Beth Breen, DCS portrayed Michelle as overreacting, but she says:

That doesn't make her crazy; that makes her a concerned parent!

Grandmother Passed Over, Again

Michelle's mother moved back to Arizona in early 2015 and contacted DCS social worker Jeanette Sheldon about getting custody of Devani. Sheldon had her move into a larger home, and she said she would do a home study, but it never happened.

After that, Sheldon reportedly stopped answering calls. All of her attempts to work with the department to get her granddaughter into a safer place allegedly fell on deaf ears.

Adoptive Family Warning Signs Ignored – Child Burned in Hot Water

After Michelle's parental rights were terminated, Devani became available for adoption. The social workers and Devani's attorney Thea Gilbert had been advocating for the Frodshams to adopt her, but Frodsham's arrest put him out of the running.

After all that the child had been through, it would seem that those tasked with looking out for Devani's best interest might have learned to be more careful in choosing a placement for her.

Unfortunately, agents of the state of Arizona once again placed the child in harm's way.



The “Christian Family Care” provides foster care and adoption services, and are one of the defendants in the lawsuit by Devani’s attorneys.

Justin and Samantha Osteraas applied to adopt her through the now-closed St. Nicholas of Myra adoption agency, which worked with [Christian Family Care](#). According to the lawsuit and advocates, the adoption licensing agency and DCS missed numerous signs that the Osteraas family could be harmful to children.

According to court records, DCS was warned that Samantha abused drugs and had a tendency toward violence. Justin’s brother told Pima County detectives that he had warned the adoption agency that Samantha was dangerous and should not be licensed to adopt. (See [source](#).)

Nonetheless, Devani was placed with the couple, who have three other children.

On December 29, 2016, Samantha reportedly held Devani down in a bathtub of scalding water, then left her suffering for six hours before calling 911. According to the lawsuit:

“Defendant Samantha Osteraas submerged and held down Jane Doe, a 5-year-old, in a bath of scalding hot water. Jane Doe suffered severe burns over 80 percent of her body. When police arrived, there was blood on the floor and pieces of Jane Doe’s skin were falling off her body. There were bruises to her neck and arms along with other signs of trauma.”

Devani was placed into a medically-induced coma. She was in danger of organ failure. All ten toes had to be amputated. She has endured multiple surgeries and skin grafts since the abuse.

Police investigators sent a plumber to the house, who discovered that the water heater had been turned to the maximum setting of up to 140 degrees.

Samantha Osteraas was arrested on January 5, and bail was set at \$25,000. She is currently out on bail and awaiting trial.



Samantha Oстераas – mug shot from Pima County jail

When Devani's mother learned what had happened to her daughter, she petitioned the court to allow her to visit her in the hospital, to let her know that her mommy loves her and that she is not alone.

Not only was her petition denied, but the minor's counsel Thea Gilbert reportedly told Michelle that the only way that she would see her daughter was if she was dying.

A gag order has been placed on Michelle Tremor-Calderon and other members of Devani's family regarding the

Osteraas case, so they were not permitted to discuss that case.

Mother Prays for a Miracle – What Other Hope Does She Have?

Devani is now in yet another foster home, and she has had numerous reconstructive surgeries since she was scalded.

No one in her family knows where she is.

Michelle's mother filed papers last week asking the court to re-open her case and allow the child's grandmother to have custody. Michelle told us that she wants the case back into superior court.

Thea Gilbert, the attorney appointed in the beginning of the case to look out for Devani's best interest, is still, shockingly, on the case, even though every action taken by DCS has caused further harm to Devani.

None of the child's placements have been in the child's best interest.

Advocates for the family ask that Thea Gilbert be removed as minor's counsel, and replaced with someone who will make better decisions for her.

This little girl has suffered tremendously in the protective custody of the state, beginning with the trauma of her being taken away from her mother, with whom she was strongly bonded.

There was no warrant, court order, or any valid reason whatsoever to remove the child from her mother.

How much more should little Devani have to suffer before someone intervenes to bring justice, and place her back into the safety and protection of her own family?

Her mother wants Devani to know that she loves her very much, and that she is fighting for her and praying every day for a miracle: for her to be returned home safely.

Greg McKay is the Director of DCS/CPS in Arizona. His office may be reached at 602-255-2500.

Governor Doug Ducey can be reached at 602-542-4331 or contacted [here](#).

Listen to an interview below with Beth Breen, the driver contracted with CPS to transport Devani between the Frodshams' home and visits with her parents.

<https://youtu.be/AN2BML9mbcg>

Other articles exposing the corruption in Arizona:

[Arizona: Battleground for State-sponsored Child Kidnappings – Highest in the Nation](#)

[Arizona CPS Uses Police-State Tactics to Kidnap Safe Children](#)

[Why is the Arizona “Family Advocate” Threatening People Asking About Children in State Custody?](#)

**CPS Caseworker in Arizona Turns Whistleblower
- Reports on Abuse of Power**

**BREAKING: ARIZONA SUED BY ABUSED
FOSTER CHILDREN!**

**Medical Kidnapping: Billion Dollar Adoption
Business**

**15,000 Cases of Arizona Child Porn: Huge Child
Sex Trafficking Ring in Arizona**

**A History of Medical Kidnapping at Phoenix
Children's Hospital**

Health Impact News family stories on Medical Kidnappings
in Arizona:



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



[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



[Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion](#)



[Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead](#)

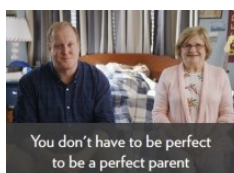


[Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident](#)



[Another Arizona Medical Kidnapping: 4 Children Removed from Family after Booster Seat Accident](#)

Arizona Judge: Child Removed from Home Illegally - Only Reason Was Child Was "Adoptable"



29,040 children photolisted on AdoptUSKids now live with permanent families.

[Learn more](#)

Featured children



Ke'Andre is a friendly, kind teen with a gentle soul who loves learning about birds and cars and playing basketball.

[View profile](#)



Ajallai, Amari, and Tay-Tay are friendly children who get along well with others and enjoy learning and being active.

[View profile](#)

Adopting children is big business. Websites like adoptuskids.org advertise available children, and give advice on how to adopt. With a huge need to find foster parents so states can collect federal funds for foster children, this website states “You don’t have to be a perfect parent” to try and entice people to become foster parents. Ironically, many children are taken out of their loving homes simply because their biological parents are not “perfect.”

Commentary by:

Terri LaPoint, Assistant Editor MedicalKidnap.com

Brian Shilhavy, Editor

Health Impact News

One of the dirty little secrets of Child Protective Services is

that children are sometimes taken from their homes, and their parents' rights ended, simply because the children are "adoptable."

Now, in a stunning reversal of a termination of parental rights decision, a Court of Appeals has concluded that the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) took children from their mother primarily because her children were considered adoptable.

This admission is now part of the court record.

This confirms what many parents and social worker insiders have told *Health Impact News* – that one of the reasons that children are taken even from good, loving homes is because of their adoptability, not just in Arizona, but in every state.

There is a great deal of federal funding in adopting out children to strangers; thus, children have literally become a commodity to be seized and sold.



Devani was taken from her mother by Arizona DCS for false allegations, then placed into a foster home that was a pornographic pedophile ring. With her blond hair and blue eyes, she was very adoptable. [Story Here.](#)

In any other context, this would be considered [human trafficking](#). In the context of Child Protective Services, it is considered “in the best interest of the child.”

[AZ Central](#) reported the story of the Maricopa County family on November 20, stating:

Writing for the three-judge panel, Acting Presiding Judge Peter B. Swann concluded there appeared to be only one motive to separate the mother from her kids: that the children were adoptable.

Judge: Adoptability Not a Justification for Overriding Parents' "Fundamental, Constitutional Rights" to Parent

In the 15 page ruling, the judges addressed the DCS argument to sever parental rights based on adoptability:

[Point 34] In evaluating the children's best interests, the court found that both children were adoptable, that their respective placements are meeting their needs, and that they would gain permanency and stability through severance. The Department argues this is sufficient to establish best interests. We disagree.

Earlier in the ruling, Judge Peter B. Swann upheld the fundamental Constitutional right to parent:

As the United States Supreme Court held in Santosky v. Kramer:

The fundamental liberty interest of natural parents in the care, custody, and management of their child does not evaporate simply because they have not been model parents or have lost temporary custody of their child to the State.

Even when blood relationships are strained, parents retain a vital interest in preventing the irretrievable destruction of their family life.

If anything, persons faced with forced dissolution of their parental rights have a more critical need for procedural protections than do those resisting state intervention into

ongoing family affairs.

The ruling also affirms that the mother in this case:

has a fundamental constitutional right to the “companionship, care, custody, and management of” and “associat[ion] with” her children

The purpose of DCS involvement is not to override parents’ constitutional rights, according to the Arizona Court of Appeals:

The purpose of the state’s initial involvement is not to sever parents’ constitutionally protected rights to the care, custody, and association with their children, but to ensure that children are healthy and safe and to rectify the circumstances that led to the need for intervention.

Based on these fundamental constitutional rights, Judge Swann elaborated on the concept of adoptability:

Adoptability... is not on its own sufficient to overcome a parent’s constitutional rights. ...

The Department must show that there is a substantial likelihood that the parent will not be capable of parenting effectively in the near future, not that someone with better parenting skills may be able to care for the child. See Roberto F., 232 Ariz. at 53, ¶ 38 n.11.

Otherwise, “it is irrelevant whether a child has a stronger attachment to their foster parents, whether foster parents are more ‘nurturing,’ or whether foster parents might be more capable or better parents than a natural parent.”

Read the [full ruling here](#).

Adoptability Has Long Been a Factor in State-sponsored Kidnapping of Children

Merissa Hamilton, Libertarian candidate for governor of Arizona, has made protection of families from DCS overreach a primary focus of her campaign. She reached out to *Health Impact News* with this commentary on the Appeals Court decision:

Finally, a court has documented that Arizona’s DCS is only severing rights because children are adoptable and not because any abuse or neglect exists.

It has long been known that Arizona DCS, in collusion with judges, have been severing parental rights based on adoptability. In fact, one of the requirements from the federal government in order to receive the Title IV-E funding is to prove the adoptability of the children.



Merissa Hamilton and Terri LaPoint in Washington, D.C., advocating for families. Photo source: Merissa Hamilton.

Just last year, in one of the first cases I worked on, the judge wrote in her statement on terminating the mother's rights, that although the State had not proven the accusations against her, since her children were highly adoptable, she was ruling for rights to be severed to create permanency for the children — permanency with total strangers. This woman lost her appeal and has not seen her young children in over a year.

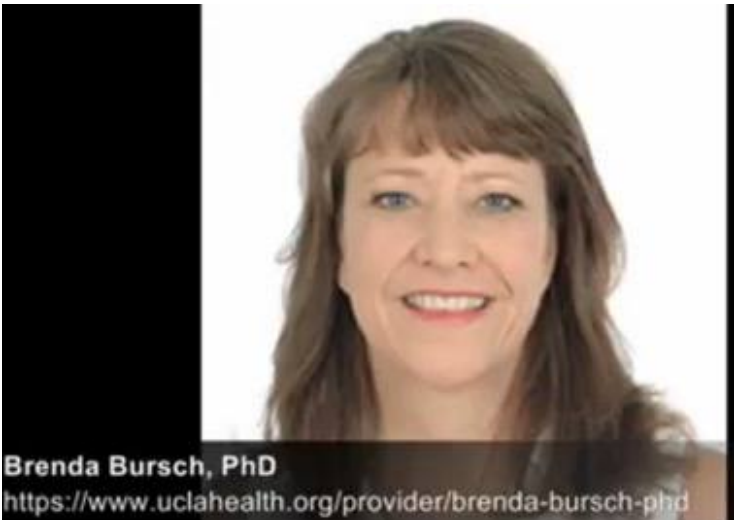
Separating children from their parents and loved ones, who

provide healthy homes, to be placed with strangers is indeed child abuse!

Arizona DCS must be abolished and replaced with a system that actually protects the welfare of children, rather than the financial interests of the State. We need a system that rehabilitates families when possible, doesn't traumatize children like what the Shoars' children have experienced [see their story [here](#)], doesn't sell children into pedophile rings like what happened to baby Devani [see her story [here](#)], and most certainly doesn't steal children from healthy homes!

I am thankful that we now have case law established to protect children from an over-aggressive State agency who has proven time and again as a failure to our children and families.

How to Kidnap a Child Without Evidence: Hire a Psychologist as an “Expert Witness”



Dr. Brenda Bursch from UCLA has frequently been called upon in Arizona as an “expert witness” against parents in favor of severing parental rights.

In addition to the flawed evidence presented by Arizona DCS social workers to terminate the parental rights in this case, the judge’s opinion also implicated the “evidence” submitted by the states expert witness, a psychologist:

Only two pieces of evidence could support the juvenile court’s findings: the testimony of the Department’s case manager and the psychologist’s testimony and evaluation of Mother.

Both are too fundamentally flawed to support severance.

While judges and courts often rely heavily upon expert testimony given by doctors, we have discovered here at *Health Impact News* that when the State does not have enough evidence to support the removal of parental rights, it is all too easy to find a psychologist willing to testify against parents in support of removing children from their families, especially in Arizona.

In this current Arizona case, Judge Peter B. Swann notes that the psychologist testified against the mother with no supporting evidence:

The evaluator also stated that “records” indicated Mother has bipolar disorder. But there is no reference to any such records anywhere else in the evaluation (or the record on appeal). And the only records the evaluator claims he consulted were the progress reports provided by the

Department. There is no other indication in the record that Mother is bipolar.

In addition, the psychologist apparently presented the mother to the court as a drug addict, even though the mother had repeatedly tested negative for any drugs:

The psychologist recommended Mother receive one year of doctoral-level therapy, family therapy, and group therapy; and further recommended specialized substance-abuse treatment, parenting classes, parent-aide services, and domestic-violence classes.

If these conclusions were supported by evidence, they would indeed be significant, but the evidence tells a different story.

Conspicuously absent from the information the Department gave the psychologist is any reference to the 14 months of services Mother had successfully completed or was currently receiving.

Mother had — without exception — tested negative for drug use; successfully closed out of her drug-testing service because of the lack of any positive test; closed out of drug rehabilitation because the service provider determined that no drug treatment was necessary; participated in domestic-violence counseling and group meetings; and successfully completed at least eight months of parent-aide services and supervised visitation, where she always came prepared and showed proper parenting skills.

In Judge Peter B. Swann's opinion, he was especially critical of the psychologist's unwillingness to examine the evidence,

or conduct his own evaluation of the mother:

At trial, the expert testified that he never received any information about these services. Nevertheless, he testified that Mother had benefitted “very little” from them and that the lack of a positive drug test did not detract from his conclusions on her drug dependence and need for treatment.

He explained, “I was not looking . . . [at] her training and as to being a parent, I was looking for a diagnosis.”

Because he neither considered the available information nor attempted to evaluate Mother’s parenting skills, his conclusion that she is unable to successfully parent for the foreseeable future is not reasonable evidence of Mother’s parenting ability.

Indeed, the foundation for his opinion is so lacking that we question (though we do not here decide) its admissibility.



Arizona mother Leanna Smith had her children taken away by the State of Arizona based largely upon the expert witness testimony of psychologists. [Story here.](#)

Using psychologists' testimony as "expert witnesses" to testify against parents even when there is no evidence implicating the parent of abuse or neglect, is unfortunately a common practice we have found in many of our stories.

When parents disagree with doctors or try to seek a second opinion regarding medical care of their child, they are often labeled by a psychologist as having a disorder called "[Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy.](#)"

Leanna Smith filed a federal lawsuit against the State of Arizona for the removal of her daughters. The lawsuit implicated Arizona DCS of using false testimony from psychologists employed by the department:

The key to this complaint is the act of Dr. Brenda Bursch (“Bursch”) and Marina Greco (“Greco”), a licensed therapist who intentionally and knowingly practiced medicine without a license. They did so pursuant to a conspiracy to manipulate a child in CPS care and custody and were aided and abetted by Bonnie Brown, CPS Supervisor , Tammy MacAlpine, CPS Case worker, Katrina Buwalda, a licensed psychologist in Arizona. ([Story here.](#))



Arizona mother Melissa Diegel lost custody of her two daughters after she questioned doctors and wanted to seek a second opinion. [Story here.](#)

Arizona mother Melissa Diegel has gone public with her daughters’ medical kidnapping by the State of Arizona, and has implicated psychologists’ expert testimony as a primary reason she lost her daughters:

Brenda Bursch, PHD – “Professional Testifier”

So how are the courts successfully keeping these children?

In some cases, they hire professional testifiers like Brenda Bursch, who gets paid \$200 an hour to testify on the stand. She is contracted by different states, (in her case 5 different states.) She has been practicing for over 20 years, and has been working with CPS since the early 1990s. She now gets paid to professionally and falsely testify against the parents.

Brenda Burch has a PHD in psychology. She testifies against the medical records she has reviewed, but she is NOT a licensed medical doctor. Also, in most cases, she has NEVER MET the children or the accused parent IN PERSON until the day of the trial, yet testifies as to their supposed diagnosis on the stand.

Her specialty is MBP. She boldly claims that a parent should never be able see their child again because the parent has made the child ill. In seemingly all her cases, she claims the parents suffer from “Munchhausen by Proxy/ Factitious Disorder,” yet she has never spoken to the parent or child in almost all her cases.

It is the most unprofessional thing I have ever seen. Brenda Bursch has been involved in at least 9 MBP Arizona cases and was brought up on charges of practicing medicine in Arizona without a license. She has also been involved in multiple clinical research trials. ([Story here.](#))



Los Angeles mother Jewels Stein had her daughter medically kidnapped because a psychologist labeled her with Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy/Fictitious Disease. [Interview here.](#)

Los Angeles mother Jewels Stein, a paramedic and film producer, also lost custody of her child primarily due to testimony of doctors:

I hate Munchausen by proxy. I have been doing a lot of research on this, there is a specialist named Helen Hayward Brown, from Australia, who is the biggest advocate against Fictitious Disease and Munchausen by proxy. [Helen Hayward Brown](#) she is a doctor out of Australia, she is an expert witness against these cases.

There is a person at UCLA and I've since heard that UCLA has made a habit of looking at these cases predominantly because they have a doctor there named Doctor Brenda Bursch, who is also the doctor who testified in Justina Pellitier's case, who has written books on Fictitious Disorder and has made a habit of going after parents.

She is the expert witness against the parents when it comes to Munchausen or Fictitious Disorder.

One of the things that Dr. Hayward Brown brought up, it is disheartening to me, it paints the characteristics of the mother that has Munchausen or Fictitious Disorder and it says here that the mother makes complaints about medical negligence, that the parent asks too many questions about the child's medical care and the parent seeks a second opinion.

So, yes, I did ask a lot of questions about my daughter's medical care, and I did seek a second opinion. It is disheartening to me because it presents a pretty scary situation and it even talks to that the parents are too assertive and they become involved in their child's care.

In this day and age, I came from being a paramedic in a man's world, I had to be assertive, it's my nature, it's my character, it's who I am... It's presenting a bad situation where parents are going to be afraid to go forth and afraid to ask questions and afraid to take their children to the doctors.

Once you are branded with this Munchausen by proxy or Fictitious Disorder, which is what they say in the juvenile court system, you are guilty until proven innocent. I told my public defender, how do you prove innocence from something that is fictitious? It is fictitious in every way, it's not just fictitious disorder, it is made up and it's basically a witch hunt against parents who give doctors problems.

The thing I found out when I was at UCLA, when Dr. Grace Deukmedjian started yelling at me and started to be inappropriate, I asked for a medical liaison, every hospital has one. A medical liaison is someone that comes and deals

between the doctor and the parent.

What I didn't know until I left, is that Brenda Bursch is that hospital liaison. So when you call and you're in trouble and you're worried sick about your kid and you are arguing with the doctor. You want to have some say here comes Brenda Bursch and she is your friend, but she is not. I was very fortunate she was testifying against another parent across country. ([Story and interview here.](#))

“Best Interest of the Child” Now Means “Child Trafficking”

In reporting on these Medical Kidnapping stories for 3 years now, we have observed that the concept of “best interest of the child” has come to mean what the government determines is the “best interest” for the child, and who they determine is best suited to be the parents of that child.

This is simply legal “child trafficking,” and if you think we are over-exaggerating this horrible situation, we encourage you to read our investigative reports on legal child trafficking happening every day throughout the United States:

[The U.S. Foster Care System: Modern Day Slavery and Child Trafficking](#)

[Child Kidnapping and Trafficking: A Lucrative U.S. Business Funded by Taxpayers Called “Foster Care”](#)

There are multiple reasons why this is happening in the

United States today, and current laws protect the child traffickers. For more information on why this is happening, see:

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

[Child Sex Trafficking through Child “Protection” Services Exposed – Kidnapping Children for Sex](#)

[From Child Protection to State-sponsored Child Kidnapping: How Did we Get Here?](#)

[Judge Peter B. Swann’s opinion](#) in this current case seems like a breath of fresh air to us, as he establishes the fact that being an imperfect parent is not grounds for abusing one’s constitutional right to parent:

Adoptability is a commonly proven benefit of severance, but it is not on its own sufficient to overcome a parent’s constitutional rights. Lawrence R. v. Ariz. Dep’t of Econ. Sec., 217 Ariz. 585, 588, ¶ 11 (App. 2008) (holding that adoptability does not equate to best interests)

The Department must show that there is a substantial likelihood that the parent will not be capable of parenting effectively in the near future, not that someone with better parenting skills may be able to care for the child. See Roberto F., 232 Ariz. at 53, ¶ 38 n.11.

If a parent’s ability to parent the children has been established by parent-aide services, there is a bond between the children and parent, and the parent has attained a safe and stable living situation, then the children’s adoptability,

household stability, and the ability of their current placements to meet their needs are subordinate to the fundamental rights of the parent in determining best interests, unless severance removes a detriment caused by the parental relationship.

A parent's rights should be preserved "when the parent grasps the opportunity [to reunify with a child] quickly, diligently, and persistently" and without failure. In re Pima Cty. Juvenile Severance Action No. S-114487, 179 Ariz. 86, 101 (1994).

Problems in Arizona: All Foster Children Now Part of Class Action Lawsuit Against the State



Image by [Children's Rights](#), an non-profit group that is one of the groups representing the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Arizona by Foster Children.

As we have reported many times here at *Health Impact News*, statistics clearly show that children put into the foster care

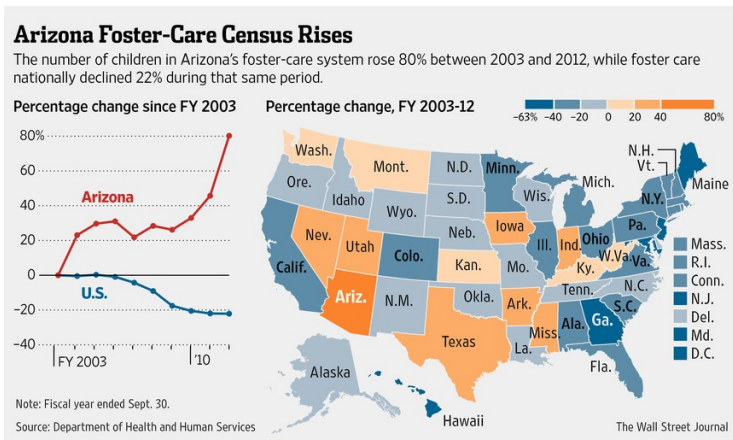
system suffer from abuse and harm far more often than they do if left in “troubled” homes. See:

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

In 2015 a federal class-action lawsuit was filed against the directors of the Arizona Department of Children’s Services and the Department of Health Services by ten foster children in Arizona.

The children in the lawsuit are represented by the groups Children’s Rights, the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest, and Phoenix law firm Coppersmith Brockelman PLC.

In October of 2017, U. S. District Court Judge Roslyn Silver granted class-action status in the litigation against the state, and expanded the class from 10 foster children to all 17,000 children currently in foster care in Arizona.



Arizona has the highest rate of children taken out of their

homes and put into foster care of any other state in the U.S. Are we to conclude from these statistics that Arizona has the worst parents in the United States warranting such a high rate of removal?

Ultimate Solution is to Repeal Laws – End Federal Funding for Foster Care and Adoption



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

While this ruling in Arizona is a step in the right direction, we must note that the Arizona appellate court was bound by current laws that give Child Protection social services, such

as Arizona Department of Child Safety, authority to operate.

And as this ruling and opinion show, even within the limits of their own laws, children are being illegally kidnapped from their families because of widespread corruption.

The greater constitutional issues of the very existence of these social services that abuse parental rights, often with complicit law enforcement, is addressed here:

Does the State Ever Have a “Right” to Remove Children from a Home?

We agree with the late Georgia Senator Nancy Schaefer, who fought hard to expose the corruption in Child Protection Services, and who declared that the system was too corrupt to fix, and needed to be abolished.

Senator Nancy Schaefer: Did her Fight Against CPS Child Kidnapping Cause her Murder?

Former Director for the Baltimore City Department of Social Services Molly McGrath Tierney has expressed similar sentiments:

Baltimore Child Welfare Director: Foster Care is a Bad Idea – Kids Belong in Families

Medical Kidnapping Stories from Arizona



[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



[Arizona Mom Still Fighting to Get Her 5 Children Back From the State 2 Years After Accident](#)



[Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion](#)



[Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead](#)



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

Nevada Rules Against Arizona CPS on Shoar Family Baby - Remaining Children Still Held as Prisoners in Arizona Foster Care



Father Jeff Shoars with baby Ny'tallieya

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

Jeff and Tabitha Shoars are rejoicing today over a Nevada court's ruling. The Child Protective Services' claims against them that originated in Arizona, not Nevada, have been found to be unsubstantiated, and the case is closed as of 10 a.m. on November 30, 2017.

Despite repeated attempts by social workers from the State of Arizona to have their baby Ny'tallieya removed from her parents' custody, a Nevada court has found that there are no reasons to keep the baby from her home.

Tabitha Shoars says that they are very excited, and that it feels "like a weight's been lifted off of [their] shoulders."

This is the 4th time that Arizona has presented false allegations against them to the state of Nevada, and it is the 4th time that the allegations were found to be unsubstantiated.

The Shoars are hopeful that this will signal to Arizona social workers that they cannot manipulate social workers and courts in other states. She says that one of the Nevada social workers they have worked with clearly sees that the Arizona CPS attacks against them are "harassment."

The fight continues, however, to get the rest of their children back from the state of Arizona, where they remain held captive in foster care.

Their nightmare involvement with Child Protective Services began on the night of August 14, 2014, when the couple returned home after a date night to find that their daughter Khloe had been taken to the hospital. She had fallen earlier

in the evening under the care of a babysitter, and was unresponsive.

Khloe passed away the next day. It was a horrific tragedy, and it was made all the more traumatizing for the entire family when Arizona Department of Child Services (DCS) seized custody of all of the couple's remaining 7 children.

See original story:

Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident

The cause of death was inconclusive, and the family suspects some type of brain aneurysm. No arrests were ever made because there was not enough evidence to support foul play.

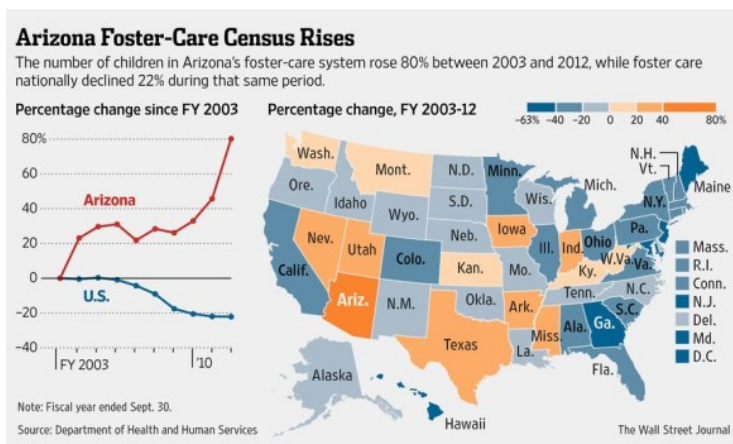
Nonetheless, social workers pointed their fingers at the parents, who were not even home at the time. They continued to make allegations against the Shoars, even though they have no basis in facts.

When their case was closed on April 16, 2017, and guardianship of the children assigned to the grandparents, the family left the state with no intention of ever going back. Their children had been gone for almost 2 years, and had suffered abuse and trauma while in state custody.

See:

Children Kidnapped by State of Arizona Finally Returned to Parents After 600 Days

Arizona is considered one of the worst states for taking children from their families, with double the largest increase in child removals of any other state.



It is little wonder the family wanted to leave and get a fresh start. They all moved to Nevada.

Finally, they were able to grieve the loss of Khloe together and were beginning to heal.

After Ny'tallieya was born, social workers from Arizona made their presence known and started calling Nevada Child Protective Services. When Nevada saw no reason for their involvement, Arizona social workers drove up to Nevada on August 25, 2016, and seized the terrified, screaming children.

See:

Arizona Kidnaps Shoars Children from Nevada, Children Scream in Terror As They are Dragged Away (audio)

Arizona social workers tried to take baby Ny'tallieya at the same time, but Nevada officials forbade them. Ny'tallieya was born in Nevada, and there was no way for even the most creative of Arizona social workers to fabricate jurisdiction over her, though they reportedly tried.

Since that time, Nevada has opened up 4 different cases on the Shoars for Ny'tallieya, but all were based upon allegations that came from social workers in Arizona, not anything that had happened in Nevada.

In June, Ny'tallieya was seized for 3 days, but she was returned to her parents quickly. None of the allegations held any merit, then or now.

The latest allegations include accusations that the Shoars choose unsafe caregivers, an allegation which Tabitha vehemently denies. It is very rare that they leave their baby with anyone, but they were forced to in order to visit their other children in Arizona.

The caregivers who were accused of being unsafe are a retired Nevada police officer and his girlfriend. They have since been cleared by background checks. Tabitha reports that the retired officer has filed a lawsuit against Arizona DCS for slander against his character.

Since there was a new case opened against them, Jeff and Tabitha had to, once again, jump through all of the CPS hoops – parenting classes, home inspections, and evaluations. Just as they had in Arizona, the parents

participated in everything that was demanded of them.

Tabitha reports that no one in the Nevada court had any concerns about their ability to parent Ny'tallieya. She said that the judge gave the final say to the baby's attorney, and the attorney had no concerns. He told the court that he has not had any concerns for her safety since Day 1, when he came to their home.

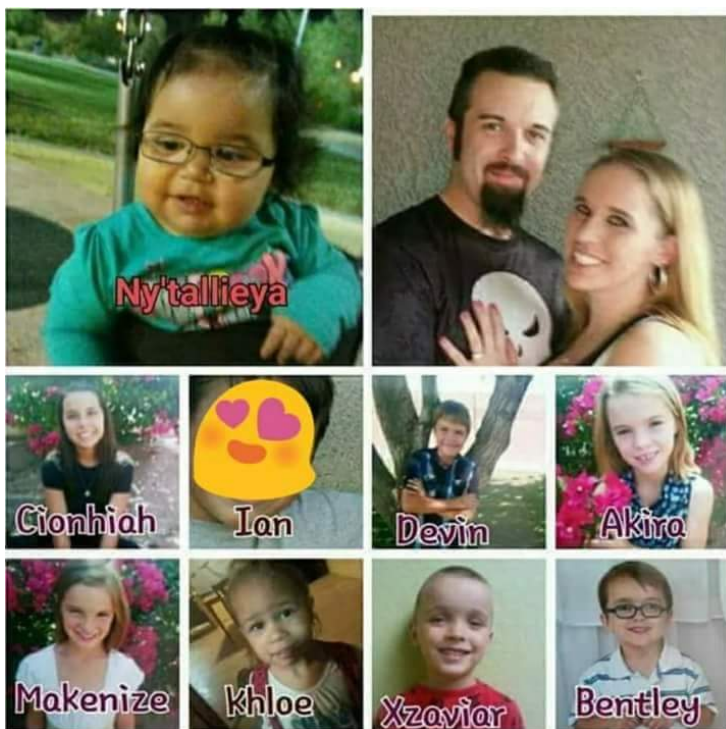
The parents' attorneys have reportedly told them that Nevada cannot ever again use the old Arizona allegations against them again to open up a case. It has now been 4 times that Nevada social workers have investigated allegations by Arizona, and each time they have found no basis to take Ny'tallieya.

Tabitha commented on Facebook how it doesn't make sense that they cannot have their other children back who are verbal and able to communicate their needs, while they are considered safe for their vulnerable, and non-verbal baby.

Nevada is CLOSED!!! Nevada has now closed out our case unsubstantiated for the 4th time because of arizona false allegations!! Nevada does not see anything wrong with us having our youngest daughter living with us or any of our children back in 2016 when they close out our case in Nevada unsubstantiated and same on Jan 13,2017 and June 5th 2017!!

All Arizona's doing is harassing us !!! This proves it 100% and like everybody says how can we be parents to a toddler but an infant at that time and not be able to have our other six kids who are able to talk and that are expressing their desire to come home

Jeff and Tabitha Shoars have not seen their other children since their son Devin's birthday, May 23, 2017 – the day that the parental rights were terminated to 6 of their children. The Shoars have 9 children – besides the 6 who were taken in Arizona, they have Ny'tallieya the baby, Khloe who passed away, and Ian, their autistic son whom they were forced to relinquish for adoption in order to get the other children back the first time.



Photos supplied by Shoars family.

They have appealed their case in Arizona. Not only did the parents file an appeal, their children requested an appeal as well. They have made it clear that they want to be home with their parents. If they cannot go home, they have told the courts that they at least want to be with their grandparents.

The appeal for guardianship for their grandparents was heard on November 15, and they are awaiting the decision from a panel of 3 judges in Arizona.

On December 19 – Khloe’s birthday – another panel of 3 different judges in Arizona will hear the Shoars’ appeal of

the termination of their parental rights.

Tabitha and Jeff Shoars remain hopeful that justice will be served at that appeals hearing. They have presented a great deal of evidence of their innocence, as well as evidence of wrong-doing by the state.

According to Arizona law, since the case is in appeal, the visitation was supposed to continue, because the appeal, in effect, put the case on “pause” status.

However, all visits and phone calls have ceased.

Baby Traumatized, Deprived of Relationship with Siblings

Meanwhile, they are attempting to heal from the trauma caused by DCS. Tabitha says that, despite her young age, Ny'tallieya has been very traumatized.

She had only been home from the hospital after birth for 2 days when Arizona social workers drove up and kidnapped her siblings. Yet, she knows them and she grieves for them. She points to and babbles to their pictures.

Before the TPR, her brothers and sisters would often call home. Tabitha says that Ny'tallieya would “bounce up” when they called.

She would get so excited.

Even now, she often gets her mother's phone, looking for their pictures. Tabitha says she wants to see her brothers

and sisters.

Since she herself was taken last summer by CPS, even though it was “only” 3 days, Ny’tallieya has been traumatized.

The typical approach by the child welfare system is a philosophy of “better safe than sorry,” whereby they take children, “just in case.”

It seems they are oblivious to the abundance of research into how separation of baby and parents has a profound detrimental effect on babies.

The trauma that seizing the children has seems to be completely unimportant to those who present themselves to the public and to lawmakers as the “protectors” of children, all the while they are the ones causing very real, measurable abuse to those very children.

The effect on Ny’tallieya is palpable. She is afraid of loud noises, such as doors slamming, and people with badges scare her. A simple knock on the door terrifies her.

In court Thursday, she clung to her mother “with a death grip.”

Tabitha says that even her pediatrician and her counselor have diagnosed the baby as having Post Traumatic Stress because of CPS. The professionals have also allegedly stated that they are not concerned at all that she is at risk of being abused in her home.

Prayers for Justice

The Shoars are one family who has suffered an unimaginable tragedy in the death of little Khloe. Their nightmare and grief continues unabated till this day, due to the actions of the very agency charged with protecting children from harm.

Seven children have been ripped away from their parents and from each other. One child remains at home, but even she is traumatized. All have been stripped of their Constitutional right to familial association.

Thursday was a step in the right direction, with the Nevada case against Jeff and Tabitha Shoars being closed out. Ny'tallieya is safe for now.

The family is praying for good news from Arizona next. They know that, if the system worked like it should, if justice prevails, then they will get their other children back. Unfortunately, they know that, all too often, justice and truth are NOT the rule of the day in Arizona family courts.

We will keep you posted and let you know what happens with the appeals. The Shoars ask for prayers, and they want to encourage every parent to keep fighting and never give up on getting justice for their children.

See other cases from Arizona:

[Arizona Judge: Child Removed from Home Illegally – Only Reason Was Child Was “Adoptable”](#)

Shocking Revelations of Corruption in Leanna Smith Medical Kidnapping Case in Arizona

10 and 12 Year Old Sisters Seized from Family by Hospital in Phoenix

Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion

Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned

Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident

Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead

Another Arizona Medical Kidnapping: 4 Children Removed from Family after Booster Seat Accident

15,000 Cases of Arizona Child Porn: Huge Child Sex Trafficking Ring in Arizona Ahead of Superbowl

BREAKING: ARIZONA SUED BY ABUSED FOSTER CHILDREN!

**Record Number of Children Seized by Arizona
CPS Sleeping in Offices**

**Arizona CPS Uses Police-State Tactics to Kidnap
Safe Children**

**Arizona: Battleground for State-sponsored Child
Kidnappings – Highest in the Nation**

**Arizona Continues Record Pace of Taking
Children out of Homes into State Custody – Now
1 of every 100 Children in Foster Care**

Arizona Disbands Federally Mandated Citizen Review Panels for CPS Cases Leaving Families Fewer Options to Fight Corrupt System



Commentary by:

**Terri LaPoint, Assistant Editor MedicalKidnap.com
Health Impact News**

Is it a case of the foxes guarding the henhouse?

All states are federally-mandated to have some type of citizen review panel for Child Protective Services cases, but a

recent decision by Arizona's Department of Child Safety Director Greg McKay will move that citizen review panel in Arizona in-house, within the Department of Child Safety, by the end of the year.

Presumably, a citizen review panel is designed to provide some level of accountability to the Child Welfare/Foster Care system, allowing for an objective third party to evaluate cases and ensure that parents' rights are not being violated and that children are truly being protected.

Critics and parents fear that Arizona's move to in-house review panels will only serve to further insulate corrupt officials and lead to less, not more, oversight and accountability of the Department.

The concern is that these new review panels will become merely an illusion of accountability, far-removed from any substantive oversight. Some might consider the dog and pony show to be a colossal waste of tax-payer dollars.

Recently, an Arizona Court of Appeals published a finding that many parents have experienced as a harsh reality – that a child was removed illegally from the home primarily because they were “adoptable.”

See:

[Arizona Judge: Child Removed from Home Illegally – Only Reason Was Child Was “Adoptable”](#)

Federal Requirements for State Citizen Review Panels

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was sponsored in Congress by Senator Walter Mondale (D-MN) and Representative John Brademas (D-IN), and it was signed into law by President Richard Nixon (R) on January 31, 1974.

This is the federal legislation that got the ball rolling for Child Protective Services agencies to be formed all across the United States.

Later, in 1997, President Bill Clinton signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) into law, opening the floodgates for financial incentives to states to take children from parents and adopt them out to strangers, whether or not the parents were actually abusive to their children.

Both CAPTA and ASFA remain in effect today, and there are federal mandates to states in order to keep the cash flowing. CAPTA has been amended several times, the most recent occurrence in 2010.

A 1996 amendment to CAPTA, [Public Law 104-235](#), called for the Citizen Review Panels.

Each state that receives federal money for Child Protective Services (in other words, all 50 states) is required by the law to establish “not less than 3 citizen review panels.” The amendment states:

‘(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each panel established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be composed of volunteer members who are broadly representative of the community in which such

panel is established, including members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

(3) MEETINGS.—Each panel established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall meet not less than once every 3 months.

(4) FUNCTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each panel established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall, by examining the policies and procedures of State and local agencies and where appropriate, specific cases, evaluate the extent to which the agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities in accordance with—

(i) the State plan under subsection (b);

*(ii) the child protection standards set forth in subsection (b);
and*

(iii) any other criteria that the panel considers important to ensure the protection of children, including—

(I) a review of the extent to which the State child protective services system is coordinated with the foster care and adoption programs established under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act; and

(II) a review of child fatalities and near fatalities (as defined in subsection (b)(4)).

Do Parents Know about the Citizen Review Panels?

Only one family who has told their story to *Health Impact News* has mentioned anything about their case going before a citizen review panel. In that case, the parents were able to present evidence in their case that had been ignored and swept under the rug in court.

The evidence led to the children eventually being returned home.

Hundreds of parents have told us that, if only their evidence could be heard, they are certain that they would be exonerated.

Overwhelmingly, the families who contact us have abundant evidence of their innocence, as well as evidence of wrongdoing by social workers, supervisors, doctors, Guardian ad Litem, attorneys, and even judges.

Yet, that evidence is frequently not permitted to be presented in court, leading to much frustration in parents who are fighting for their children.

Contact Us if You Have Experience with Citizen Review Panels

If the citizen review boards are run by the very people who took the children, who sometimes hide and falsify evidence, where does that leave parents who are looking for those in the system to be held accountable?

We want to hear from you. Is there indeed a citizen review

panel in your state, as is federally-mandated?

If so, who runs it? Is it run by citizens who are truly objective, or is it run by the very people who benefit from the system?

Do parents have access to such a panel, or is it held in such secrecy as to be irrelevant?

If you do not know of such a board in your state, call your state legislators and Child Protective Services and ask about it. Let us know what you find out in the comments.

Arizona DCS disbands citizen-review panels, brings oversight in-house

by [Mary Jo Pitzl](#), The Republic | azcentral.com

Excerpts:

The state's child-welfare agency is disbanding citizen panels intended to bring an outside view on its work and is moving the effort in-house.

Critics, surprised by the Nov. 21 notification from Department of Child Safety Director Greg McKay, say they fear the move will further insulate DCS from outside oversight on its operations.



Greg McKay – Arizona’s DCS director. Photo [source](#).

The agency casts the change as a streamlining move, and national experts say it’s not unusual to have the federally mandated citizen review panels be run by the child-welfare agency they were created to advise.

The important thing is to maintain independence, said Blake Jones, a University of Kentucky social-work professor who has taken on the informal role of tracking the work of these panels nationwide.

“At their core, these panels need to have some level of autonomy from the agency,” said Jones.

He coordinated the state of Kentucky’s panel for 15 years as an outside adviser.

Last month, McKay thanked the panels and ASU for their work, but gave them notice the contract would end this month, when each panel submits its annual report.

DCS will manage the panels in-house. A newly created position, expected to be filled in January, will coordinate the three panels, as well as the agency's various advisory committees, McKay wrote.

Becky Ruffner, who heads the northern Arizona review panel, is skeptical that the shift will result in an independent eye on DCS' work.

“If you're picking the people, and you're providing them the only information they will see, that does not speak well for transparency,” she said.

Read the rest of the article [here](#).

Arizona Girl Raped and Burned in Foster Care Still Represented by Same Attorney - Kept Away from Family

Justice for Devani?



A picture of how beautiful Devani used to look before she was kidnapped by the State of Arizona and removed from her family, and put into the care of foster parents who were child abusers.

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

An Arizona court decided this week that a woman accused of scalding a little girl alive and burning over 80% of her body will go to trial in October 2018. Meanwhile, Samantha Osteraas is out on bail, and the little girl's biological mother is still trying to get justice for her daughter, whose life was destroyed by Child Protective Services and the adults the

agency placed her with.

While Samantha Osteraas is free to walk the streets as she awaits trial, little Devani's real family has no idea where she is or who the agency has placed her with this time.

The court-appointed attorney chosen to represent little Devani and allowed her to remain in foster homes where she was allegedly raped, sexually trafficked, and burned, is the same attorney still representing her today.

The foster parents who committed such atrocities are now answering for their criminal acts in the legal system, but the government agencies that placed her there and kept her there *until today*, are apparently not being held responsible for their parts in these heinous crimes.

Where is the justice?

How Can Something Like this Happen in America?



What happened to Devani is one of the most horrific cases that we have ever covered at *Health Impact News*.

We have seen hundreds of cases where children are removed from loving parents by the state for the simplest of infractions – too many dishes in the sink, a child that is “too short,” or a disagreement with a doctor over a diagnosis or a treatment. In many cases, the allegations used against the parents are not even true, as apparently it is in this case.

The child is allegedly being “protected” by the state, funded by federal Title IV-E social security funds and other funding streams paid for by taxpayers. Yet, under this multi-billion “protective” industry, the child is frequently placed into situations where they are at least 6 times MORE likely to be abused, raped, molested, or killed than if they had been left in their own home, even if it is a troubled home.

Sometimes they are literally placed by the state into situations of human sex-trafficking.

The allegations under which Devani was taken from her real parents were allegedly based on false allegations and lies. Our investigation found that there were no valid reasons for this child to have been taken from her family.

See:

[Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned](#)



Michelle Tremor-Calderon – mother of Devani. In her mother's care, Devani was never abused or neglected.. Photo credit: [David Wallace/The Republic](#).

One Dangerous Placement After Another

For little Devani, an adorable blond-haired, blue-eyed child, the supposed “protection” by the state came at a tremendous cost.

Under the supervision of Thea Gilbert, her Guardian ad Litem, Devani was placed into one abusive placement after another, after being seized from her home where she had a family that loves her very much and never once abused her.



Guardian ad Litem, Thea Gilbert. [Source](#).

Even though Devani’s family has asked many times for another GAL to be appointed, *Health Impact News* has learned that Gilbert remains, to this day, the Guardian ad litem for Devani. She is responsible for advocating for the best interests of the child, yet it seems quite apparent that not a single placement decision that the state has made for Devani

has been remotely in her best interests.

When, if ever, will the state of Arizona insist that Thea Gilbert be replaced as Devani's representative?

Devani spent time in a house of horrors where she was allegedly raped repeatedly. The foster "father" David Frodsham is in prison for child pornography, sexual activity with children, and the procurement of children for his pedophile ring. All the while, he was a state-licensed foster parent.

During the time that the abuse was going on, GAL Thea Gilbert advocated for him to adopt Devani.



David Frodsham, former state-approved foster parent, now sits in prison serving a 17 year sentence for his role in a pornography and pedophilia ring. (See article at Mugshots.com)

All the while, Devani's mother, Michelle Tremor-Calderon, told Gilbert, social workers, and the police that her daughter showed obvious signs of being molested. She was ignored and criticized for advocating for her child, accused of jeopardizing the placement.

After David Frodsham was arrested for his crimes of pedophilia, Devani was placed with Samantha and Justin Osteraas for adoption.

Burned Alive by Adopters

On December 29, 2016, the little girl who had already suffered so much was abused yet again by adults who were supposed to care for her.

According to reports, Samantha Osteraas held Devani down in scalding hot bathwater. Medical reports said that it was 6 hours before 911 was called. When the police arrived, they found blood on the floor and pieces of her skin falling off of her body. She had bruises on her neck and arms from being held down.

Devani had to be placed in a medically-induced coma. Her organs were in failure, and her toes had to be amputated. She has undergone numerous surgeries since then, including painful skin grafts.

Samantha Osteraas was arrested on January 5, 2017. She faces 2 counts of child abuse, but, to date, no charges of

attempted murder have been filed.



Mugshot of Samantha Osteraas, arrested on 2 counts of child abuse. [Photo source](#).

She was beaten up in jail by other inmates, and now she is out on bail.

Arizona Allows Visitation with Husband of Abuser, but Not Real Family

Samantha Osteraas' husband Justin petitioned the court for, and got, visitation privileges with Devani.

Devani's real parents and grandparents still have no visitation rights. They don't even know where she is.

After all that she has been through, Devani has no access to her mommy. Her mother cannot rock her or comfort her or help her cope with the pain she is experiencing.

Her maternal grandmother has petitioned the court for custody of Devani, but she has been denied, even though the state has already approved her to care for another one of her grandchildren.

All that Michelle Tremor-Calderon can do is love her daughter from a distance, and pray, hoping that Devani, whose name has been changed, remembers the love of her family and knows that they are still out there praying for her.

Michelle cannot talk to *Health Impact News* or any other media about the case. She and the rest of the family have been gagged – their 1st Amendment rights stolen, just as their baby was stolen.

Criminal Trial Set for October, Almost 2 Years After Abuse

Tuscon.com reports:

Samantha Osteraas' trial is to begin Oct. 9 and last for eight days, according to a court spokeswoman. The trial will be presided over by Pima County Superior Court Judge James Marner.

According to the article:

When Osteraas called 911, she told dispatchers she didn't realize she was bathing her daughter in hot water.

A jury will get to decide if they buy that excuse this fall.



Devani – before abuse by the people who adopted her and left her with burns over 80% of her body. Photo provided by family.

Statement from Citizens Arizona DCS Oversight Committee

A group of parents and activists in Arizona have formed the [Arizona DCS Oversight Committee](#) “to ensure that DCS adheres to their policy and procedures, as well as the law.”

The group sent the following statement to *Health Impact News* regarding Devani’s case:

The most important issue in this case is that there was a history of severe abuse of this child from the first week of her seizure without warrant or exigency. She was safe and without a mark on her body with her parents. All charges of Domestic Violence against the mother were dropped the next day by a judge.

The investigative/seizing DCS Caseworker said, “OK, but I think you are doing drugs.” The mother provided an immediate sample, a 10 panel drug test. It was clean. Then the manipulative investigative case worker pushed her into a parenting plan...and that sealed the child’s fate.

Within the first week there were scratches and bruises on her daughter. The case worker had no concerns. The second week during visitation the parents noticed scratches, bruises AND bite marks. Still no concerns from the case worker, her superiors or any other court actors. Then Mom called police. Mom got in trouble for doing that. We believe that was a crime committed by the case workers and court actors not to investigate the harm done to the child. There is documented evidence of the bite marks, scratches and bruises on the child.

Her daughter was transferred to a Pedophile Ring in Sierra

Vista for 18 months. Mom called the police when her daughter developed an 8 month long urinary tract infection and an inexplicable terror of unfamiliar men. The mom got in trouble again for calling the police.

The Department retaliated and conspired to halt mother's visits for interfering with her daughter's placements. They blamed the mother, they accused her of "coaching" her child to fear men. They blamed her for her daughter's complete melt downs at the end of their monitored visits. Case Workers, superiors, therapists, court appointees and a judge chastized the mother, condemned her, smeared her, threatened her and destroyed her for being protective of her daughter. That in and of itself is a crime. It is felony failure to report battery and sexual abuse of a child.

DCS employees, appointees and contractors said the mother was not properly bonded with her child. They lied, conspired and cut out all family members who stepped up to the plate to save the life of their little girl. Her grandmother came from Oklahoma to take custody of her granddaughter and the department ignored her attempts to take over raising her.

The family knew their little girl was being sexually abused and the child safety workers treated them with rank disdain and had the mother and her family banned from this little girl's life. TERMINATION! No fair trial, suppressed all evidence that could have saved this child.

When the foster care provider went to prison for 17 years...not one person involved in this child's case came clean to exonerate the mother and the family and tell anyone in authority that the mom and the family were right. Not one state official came forward to apologize to the family or the mother.

What DCS, the court and appointees did was to carry on

trafficking the little girl. They were warned against adopting her out to Samantha Oстераas by the the Oстераas family...so was the adoption agency. But, the department, the child's lawyer, the so called bonding evaluator colluded to rip this child away from her mom and place her with a woman who nearly killed her and left her on the floor with third degree burns in organ and respiratory failure for 6 hours without seeking any medical help for her.

There are laws on the books in this state that we want to have implemented.

The case workers, the appointees and the contractors were informed. They were shown evidence and the mother and the family were the only ones to report battery and sexual abuse of their child. Samatha Oстераas will face charges for what she did to this beautiful child of Tucson. We want all those who flouted the law to be brought up on charges of "felony failure to report battery and abuse of a child."

Had DCS, their employees, contractors and court appointees followed the law and reported to law enforcement the harm that was being done to this child and her family in real time, this child's life would not have been destroyed.

Return her to her family! They protected her, DCS did not. AZDCS Oversight Committee – azdcso at gmail.com

How You Can Help

Devani remains with strangers. Her biological family has no idea where she is. Even though parental rights have been terminated, the state could overturn that decision and return her to her family. This child and her family deserve justice.

Governor Doug Ducey can be reached at 602-542-4331 or contacted [here](#).

Greg McKay is the Director of DCS/CPS in Arizona. His office may be reached at 602-255-2500.

Listen to an interview below with Beth Breen, the driver contracted with CPS to transport Devani between the Frodshams' home and visits with her parents.

<https://youtu.be/AN2BML9mbcg>

Arizona Court Refuses to Return Children Kidnapped from Nevada by Arizona Social Workers Back to Their Parents



The Shoars children kept by Arizona DCS. Photo provided by family.

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

Parents living in Nevada want their children back home. The children who were taken out of Nevada by Arizona social workers claim they have been abused in Arizona foster care, and want to go back to their parents. They even filed their own lawsuit, the first ever in Arizona, but an Arizona court has ruled against them.

An Arizona appeals court has denied the parental rights of Nevada residents Jeff and Tabitha Shoars. Almost 17 months ago, Child Protective Services from Arizona crossed state lines and seized 6 of their children from Las Vegas, Nevada.

All along, they have hoped and prayed for the justice which they felt would surely occur if only judges looked at the actual evidence instead of the hearsay and lies from social workers from Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS).

Instead, like so many other parents who have fought Arizona DCS, they were devastated to hear yet another court deny them their parental rights to the children they brought into the world.

Tabitha Shoars' heart breaks for her children:

No kid deserves this! What Arizona and every other CPS is doing to families – they don't deserve this!

My poor babies!

This is the latest chapter in the Shoars family's heartbreaking saga.

On August 15, 2014, their 3 year old daughter Khloe died after

the children were left in the care of a babysitter for the evening.

See original story:

Arizona CPS Takes 7 Children Away from Parents after Accident

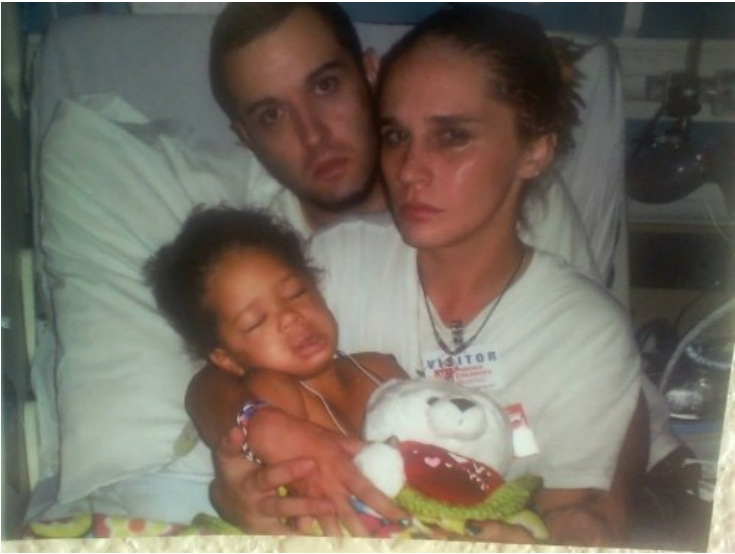
Parents Blamed by Arizona DCS, but Not by Police

To date, no one really knows what happened to little Khloe that night.

Many in the family as well as friends in the medical field suspect a brain aneurysm.

The medical examiner said that the cause of death could not be determined.

Police did not call it murder. No one was arrested, and the Shoars were cleared by the police department of any wrongdoing in Khloe's death.



Jeff and Tabitha with Khloe just before her tragic death.
Photo provided by family.

Yet, Child Protective Services accuses the babysitter of murder, and they blame the parents for allowing him to babysit without doing a background check on him first. It is on that basis that they took the children and re-took them after their case was closed and they moved to Nevada.

See:

[Arizona Kidnaps Shoars Children from Nevada, Children Scream in Terror As They are Dragged Away \(audio\)](#)

Children's Petition and Nevada's Findings Ignored

The Shoars have exonerating evidence and evidence of lies by DCS, which they have presented to Arizona courts and to Nevada courts, as well as to *Health Impact News*.

All of that has been ignored by both the lower court and now by an appellate court in Arizona. Tabitha Shoars says:

We had all this evidence PROVING everything they did illegally. But they swept it under the rug.

My attorney flat-out said, "Why are you punishing the parents when the state doesn't even know what happened?"

The Shoars children were the first ever in the state of Arizona to exercise their right to petition the judge to come home. This decision shuts down their petition.



The Shoars family at one of their last visits together. Photo provided by family.

Due to reports about the Shoars to Nevada Child Protective Services by Arizona CPS, Tabitha and Jeff Shoars were investigated by Nevada, but they found no reason to take the children.

Their youngest child Ny'Tallieya was born in Nevada shortly before Arizona social workers drove to Las Vegas and seized the older children. They tried to take Ny'Tallieya as well, but Nevada social workers told them that the baby was born in their state, thus Arizona had no jurisdiction.

The parents were forced to fight for their children in both states.

The Nevada system found that the parents were not the danger to their children, even the most vulnerable – an

infant, that Arizona said they were. They found that the Shoars' home was clean and that they are good parents. Their case was closed, and Ny'Tallieya stayed where she belongs – with her parents.

The decisions by Arizona have ignored the children's pleas as well as the findings by Nevada CPS.

As we reported before, one of the social workers in Nevada:

pointed out that Nevada has enough tourist and gaming money in the state that they didn't need federal money to balance their budget like Arizona does. Health Impact News has documented how [Arizona](#), as well as [other states](#), have used federal funds for foster care and adoption to help balance their state budgets. (See [article](#).)

Lies in Family Court

Arizona did not have jurisdiction to go into Nevada and take the children. They had no court order or warrant. They just did it.

Tabitha told *Health Impact News* that Arizona DCS has denied crossing state lines to take the children. They have reportedly told legislators and others investigating the story that they did not go to Nevada to take the Shoars' children into their custody.

The horrifying audio of the children screaming as they were being seized took place in Las Vegas and was witnessed by friends of the family as well as by Nevada social workers. It was recorded (**AUDIO MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUNG**

CHILDREN!):

Video no longer available.

This is just one of the many lies allegedly told by DCS, and it is one that is easily proven false.

DCS has told the courts that the children were born and raised in Arizona. They were not. Their birth certificates show that they were born in Minnesota. They only moved to Arizona in March of 2014, a decision that Tabitha and Jeff forever regret.



The Shoars family – happy together before a tragedy ripped their family apart. Photo supplied by family.

If DCS has lied about such things so easily proven false, how

much more have they lied about?

The families whose stories we have covered almost universally present us with evidence of the social workers' reports being filled with lies, false and exaggerated statements, and hearsay. Yet, like the Shoars, too many families lose their children based on false information, while exonerating evidence is ignored by the courts.

So much for “innocent until proven guilty.” Such a highly cherished American value appears to be absent from many juvenile and family courts.

Tabitha says:

I'm so sick and tired of their bullshit lies, and I'm sorry for swearing, but it's all lies.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year in the “Right to Lie” case, *Preslie Hardwick v. County of Orange*, that social workers do NOT have the right to lie in order to take children from their parents, but that has not yet changed the everyday practice by social workers.

See:

[Judges Reject Claim That Social Workers Didn't Know Lying In Court to Remove Children Was Wrong](#)

What Is Next for the Shoars?

The next step is the Arizona Supreme Court. Arizona is a

state that requires that both parents have different attorneys, and the Shoars cannot afford that. They are trying to raise money for attorneys.

They are looking at the possibility of going *pro se*, and representing themselves, but Tabitha says that no one has ever won a case with the Arizona Supreme Court going *pro se*.

Even representing themselves costs money for printing, ink, paper, sending certified mail, filing costs, transportation to Arizona from Nevada, time off of work, babysitters, and so on. They have well over 30,000 pages of documents.

It is not an easy or affordable thing for parents to fight the state for their children. Many parents lose everything fighting for their children, and in Arizona, few ever get their children back once the state has made a decision to pursue termination of parental rights.

Jeff and Tabitha Shoars are facing a huge giant, but they have vowed never to stop fighting until their children are home where they belong.

Message for the Shoars Children from their Parents

Tabitha and Jeff want their children to know that they love them and they are not giving up. If the children are able to access this article, their parents want to send them a message:

We are not giving up on you, no matter what. We are always going to fight for you. We are going to fight as long as there is breath within us.

Mommy and Daddy love you so much, more than anything in the world. We will go to the moon and back, to the ends of the universe, to get you back.

Don't ever give up on hope or faith. Keep believing.

9th Circuit Court Upholds Parents' Constitutional Rights: Rules Against Arizona Social Workers Removing Children without a Warrant

Arizona Foster-Care Census Rises

The number of children in Arizona's foster-care system rose 80% between 2003 and 2012, while foster care nationally declined 22% during that same period.

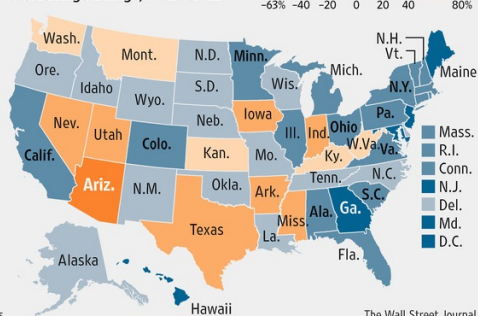
Percentage change since FY 2003



Note: Fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services

Percentage change, FY 2003-12



The Wall Street Journal

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

In what is seen as a victory for parental rights, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of Arizona parents who had their 3 children removed from their home simply because they had taken photos of them after a bath when they were laying on a towel naked. They went to develop the photos at a Walmart, and an employee reported them to the police who were called in to investigate.

The police investigation was extensive, including medical

and forensic exams of the children looking for sexual abuse, as well as obtaining a warrant to search the family's home, where police "seized all the evidence that might be relevant to a child pornography investigation: computers, printers, photographs, cell phones, undeveloped film, floppy discs, DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes, and cameras."

Police found no evidence of wrongdoing, so no charges were filed against the parents, and the children were returned home.

Police detective John Krause wrote in his report:

"[a]pparently after the forensic interviews and medical exams were completed, [Child Protective Services] declined to remove the children from the parent's custody, and had directed [his partner] to return the girls to Lisa and A.J."

According to [court records](#):

None of the photographs portrayed children engaged in sexual activity. None portrayed the children's genitalia frontally.

The parents stated they simply wanted the photos to look back at years later to see how "cute" the children were.

The matter should have ended after the investigation, but it did not.

Child Protective Services ("CPS") investigating officer Laura Pederson discussed the case with Detective Krause,

according to court records, and decided to drive over to the house and take the children into custody.

After reviewing the evidence Krause showed her, Pederson decided to take the children into emergency temporary custody, without obtaining a court order or a warrant.

She later said, “I was relying on the fact that . . . at the time there was a pending criminal investigation with both parents named as suspects. I was relying on information that Krause obtained during the investigation . . . his opinion of the criminal acts that were committed, my viewing of the pictures and the fact that the—all of this suggested these children were at risk of further exploitation.” She discussed her recommendation with her supervisor, Amy Van Ness, who agreed.

Two of the three children were put into a foster home, and the third one into a different one. Two days later, they were transferred to their grandparents’ home, where they stayed for about one month, before being returned to their parents.

Violation of Constitutional Right to “Live Together Without Governmental Interference”



Image from [YouTube](#).

The ruling of the court was made by a 3-judge panel at the 9th Circuit. Judge Marsha S. Berzon was the leading concurring judge.

The court stated:

As this court has stated repeatedly, families have a “well-elaborated constitutional right to live together without governmental interference.”

Wallis v. Spencer, 202 F.3d 1126, 1136 (9th Cir. 2000); accord *Kirkpatrick v. Cty. of Washoe*, 843 F.3d 784, 789 (9th Cir. 2016) (en banc); *Burke v. Cty. of Alameda*, 586 F.3d 725, 731 (9th Cir. 2009); *Rogers v. Cty. of San Joaquin*, 487 F.3d 1288, 1294 (9th Cir. 2007); *Mabe v. San Bernardino Cty.*, 237 F.3d 1101, 1107 (9th Cir. 2001); *Ram v. Rubin*, 118 F.3d 1306, 1310 (9th Cir. 1997).

Judge Marsha S. Berzon in her concurring opinion addressed the issue of traumatizing children by removing them from their home:

I concur in the per curiam opinion in full. I write separately to emphasize why it is essential that the courts scrupulously guard a child's constitutional right to remain at home absent a court order or true exigency.

Taking a child from his or her home, family, and community constitutes a separate trauma, in and of itself. Our cases so recognize, and so ordinarily permit that trauma to occur only after a court determination that the alternative is worse.

The fact that the Demaree family's constitutional rights under the 4th Amendment were violated by removing their children from their home without a warrant is apparently not in dispute in this appeal.

The parents had already successfully sued the police officer, John Krause, who settled out of court.

The courts have consistently ruled against law enforcement who remove children from homes without a warrant issued by a judge. The law and court cases defining the exceptions where a warrant is not needed, where the children's lives are in imminent danger and there would be no time to get a warrant, are clear, and were quoted in this decision also.

However, most states have "qualified immunity" laws for social workers, apparently under the justification that when a child is in danger, it is better to err on the side of caution.

Veil of “Qualified Immunity” for Social Workers Pierced Through by 9th Circuit Court

In this current 9th Circuit ruling, however, the court ruled that social workers are not above the law and do not have the right to violate the Constitution. The Demarees claimed that CPS social workers violated their constitutional rights:

The Demarees, on behalf of themselves and their children, claim Pederson and Van Ness violated their clearly established constitutional rights when Pederson removed the children from the home without a court order and absent an emergency.

The 9th Circuit Court agreed:

Viewing the facts in the light most favorable to the Demarees, the social workers did not have reasonable cause to believe the children were at risk of serious bodily harm or molestation.

Pederson and Van Ness did not represent that the Demaree children might “again be beaten or molested,” Rogers, 487 F.3d at 1294, if left in their home—the children were never beaten or molested in the first place.

The 9th circuit was very thorough in their opinion regarding the 4th and 14th Amendments and how social workers cannot violate the Constitution even if state laws offer “qualified immunity.” They quoted many other cases as

precedent:

In 2007, the year before the events in this case took place, Rogers held that a social worker violated a family's clearly established federal rights by removing children with no warrant because of reports that a three-year-old and five-year old "were not toilet-trained, were locked in their rooms at night and in a room at their parents' business during the day, were not receiving medical or dental care, that [one] had lost his teeth due to bottle rot, that [the other] was still being fed with a bottle, that their home was dirty and maggot-infested, and that there were unsecured guns in the home." Rogers, 487 F.3d at 1291.

The social worker in that case "could have obtained a warrant within hours," and "[t]here [was] no indication in the record that so short a delay could have resulted in a significant worsening of the children's physical conditions or an increase in the prospects of long-term harm."

Id. at 1295. One child's "'pain' was not so serious that he ceased to be 'playful' and 'alert,'" the physical risk the children faced from being locked in a room for the time it would take to obtain a warrant was "very low," and "the mess in the Rogers living quarters . . . was a chronic, ongoing problem."

Even in the face of this significant accumulation of neglect and bodily harm, which all parties agreed had resulted in bodily injury to the small children, we held that there was no reasonable cause to believe an exigency supported the children's warrantless removal. Id. at 1296. We concluded that their removal therefore violated their clearly established rights. Id.

The judges applied this to the Demaree case:

Here, there had been no actual or threatened physical harm to or physical sexual abuse of the Demarees' children before they were taken from their home. So the likelihood that they would suffer such abuse in the days it would take to get a warrant was necessarily less than the likelihood of future physical injury to the Rogers' children in the hours it would take to get a warrant.

The judges then brought up another case ruling against social workers violating parental rights:

Similarly, in Mabe v. San Bernardino Cty., 237 F.3d 1101, 1109 (9th Cir. 2001), viewing the facts in the light most favorable to the plaintiff family, we held that a jury could have found that a defendant social worker violated a mother's clearly established constitutional rights by removing her teenage daughter from her home without a warrant.

We were unpersuaded that the sexual abuse allegations were exigent as a matter of law, even though the teenager's stepfather sexually abused her by "touch[ing] her breasts and crotch area through her clothing at night in her bedroom . . . every other night for . . . two or three months." Id. at 1104-05.

We reasoned that, "[a]lthough the conduct by the stepfather was clearly inappropriate, it did not involve violence or penetration and the only time it had taken place was at night when MD was in her bedroom.

Assuming that [the worker] could obtain a warrant the same

day . . . , it is difficult to understand how the further delay of a few hours necessary to obtain the warrant would have put MD in imminent danger of serious physical injury.” *Id.* at 1108 (internal footnote omitted).

That conclusion was further underscored by the fact that the social worker “opted to leave MD in the residence after interviewing MD and Mabe about the alleged molestation.”¹¹ *Id.*

Despite quite serious allegations of physical sexual assault and bodily injury in Mabe, we were unwilling to hold as a matter of law that there was reasonable cause to believe there would be “imminent danger of future harm” within the time it would take to get a warrant. *Id.*

We held, instead, that “a reasonable jury could conclude that [the mother’s] constitutional rights were violated,” *id.* at 1109.

We do the same here.

The judges then cited one other previous case from the 10th circuit that was similar to the Demaree case where “immunity” did not apply to the unconstitutional actions of social workers:

We note that at least one other federal court of appeal has dealt with facts similar to those before us. In Malik v. Arapahoe Cty. Dep’t of Soc. Servs., 191 F.3d 1306, 1309 (10th Cir. 1999), the Tenth Circuit held that, viewing the facts in the light most favorable to the Maliks, a police officer and social worker could have violated Ms. Malik’s and her four-year-old daughter’s clearly established constitutional rights.

The defendants had removed the daughter on the authority of a court order obtained through misrepresentation several weeks after they had discovered a set of ten photographs portraying the daughter partially clothed, “some with full frontal genital exposure.” Id.13

The daughter’s uncle, an artist, had taken the photos five months earlier, and the mother had sent the photos to be processed; as here, the photo processing center called the police. Id.

The Tenth Circuit held that the defendants were not entitled to qualified immunity. Id. at 1315. That “conclusion hinge[d] upon the district court’s finding that ‘[d]efendants acknowledged [the daughter] was in no imminent danger at the time they sought the order and the facts suggest[ed] [the warrant] was secured only through distortion, misrepresentation and omission.’” Id. at 1315 n.5.

In the absence of imminent danger that the daughter would be the subject of more photographs—even if the sexual exploitation inherent in the existing ones would have justified removal—the government could not remove the daughter without a legitimate judicial order.

Clearly established law, said the Tenth Circuit, compelled that conclusion.

So this 9th Circuit ruling makes it very clear that social workers are not above the law, and cannot hide behind State “immunity” laws. Unless the child is in immediate danger of suffering severe “bodily harm” during the time it takes to obtain a warrant from a judge, they must go through the proper legal channels and obtain a warrant first, before

removing the child.

When evaluating qualified immunity claims, “[w]e do not require a case directly on point, but existing precedent must have placed the statutory or constitutional question beyond debate.” Ashcroft v. al-Kidd, 563 U.S. 731, 741 (2011).

It is “beyond debate,” id., that existing Ninth Circuit precedent establishes that children can only be taken from home without a warrant to protect them from imminent physical injury or molestation in the period before a warrant could be obtained. See Mabe, 237 F.3d at 1108–09.

The clearly established case law requires articulable, imminent, and serious physical injury or physical abuse to children to justify removing them from their parents’ home without a judicial order.

There was no such injury identified here.

If social workers across the U.S. followed the law and the proper legal channels, we would have far fewer medical kidnapping cases to report on here at *Health Impact News*.

Arizona is perhaps the largest abuser of parents’ constitutional rights, taking a higher percentage of children away from their families than any other state in the U.S.

As for the Demaree family from Arizona, their 9.5 year legal battle is not over yet. They must now attempt to sue the social workers for damages in a Phoenix court, and it is possible that the State of Arizona could appeal this decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Arizona Foster Care System Revealed as Pedophile Ring: Former Foster Child Tortured for Years Sues for \$15 Million



David Frodsham / Photo: Sierra Vista PD

David Frodsham, an Arizona foster parent for over 12 years, was arrested and convicted for operating a pornographic pedophile ring based out of his state-approved foster home.

WARNING! Graphic content – not suitable for younger readers!

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

The state of Arizona, which has the infamous reputation of removing the highest percentage of children in the U.S. from their homes and families through Child Protective Services, has now also been exposed as having a very corrupt foster care network that includes pedophile rings where young children are imprisoned in state-approved foster homes and trafficked to pedophiles.

In a developing story based out of the military town of Sierra Vista, Arizona, the home of Fort Huachuca, David Frodsham, a former commander with the Department of Defense in Afghanistan who was discharged from duty due to “sexual harassment” behavior and an assessment by the military that he had an unalterable personality disorder, has been arrested and convicted of operating a pornographic pedophile ring based out of his state-approved foster home.



Health Impact News first reported on the charges brought against David Frodsham and his wife who were state-approved foster parents last year (2017) with the story of the [young child Devani](#), who was seized from her family just days before her second birthday and placed into the Frodshams' state-approved foster home where she was allegedly raped repeatedly and trafficked as part of an organized pornographic pedophile ring. After David Frodsham was arrested due to a federal investigation, Devani was placed into another state-approved foster home where 80% of her body was burned by scalding water, forcing the amputation of her toes. See:

Arizona Places 2 Year Old Child in Foster Pornographic Pedophile Ring – Foster Mom Burns 80% of Her Body

Local news in Arizona covered this story, but *Health Impact News* reached out to the biological mother of Devani and told her side of the story, revealing that Devani never should have been taken out of her home in the first place, where she was loved by her mother, who repeatedly tried to report the abuse she was seeing in her daughter, with no results. See:

Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned

Now, another foster child who was adopted by the Frodshams and put into their pornographic pedophile ring has turned 18 and come forward to reveal details of years of horrible torture and sexual trafficking while suing the state of Arizona for damages of \$15 million.

Arizona Sued for Approving Foster Home Operating a Pornographic Pedophile Ring

Referred to as “John Doe” to protect his identity, the former foster child imprisoned and tortured in the Frodshams’ foster home has filed a “[Notice of Claim](#)” for damages of \$15 million and served it to the following parties:

- Mark Brnovich – Attorney General – State of Arizona
- Gregory McKay – Director Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS)
- Michael Traylor – Director Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)
- Deb Nishikida – Director, Sierra Vista Office Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)
- Noemi Ochoa – Licensing Worker Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)
- James Robinson – Manager Arizona Department of Economic Security
- [among others](#)

The lawsuit specifies the basis for the claim against the state of Arizona:

John Doe is a victim of the State of Arizona’s failed child protection practices and policies.

John Doe, who is now 18 years old, suffered over 12 years of shocking physical and sexual abuse because of the State’s refusal to protect him.

John Doe was born in September of 1999 and before his fourth birthday was placed in foster care. The Frodshams were approved by the State to have John Doe in their home in 2004 and John Doe was subsequently adopted by David and Barbara Frodsham in 2012.

The Frodshams were licensed foster parents with the State of Arizona from 2002 to January 2015. The Frodsham license was not suspended until David Frodsham was arrested at the DES office for felony drunk driving with toddlers in the vehicle.

The State and its employees ignored actual notice of the abuse of John Doe and numerous warning signs that the Frodsham home was dangerous.

The State did not remove John Doe until ICE, a federal agency within the Department of Homeland Security, arrested David Frodsham for operating a pornographic pedophile ring based in the home. ICE identified John Doe as a victim of Frodsham's pedophilia.

John Doe suffered sexual, physical and emotional abuse for over 12 years in this home, despite numerous red flags of abuse and neglect. This abuse was no secret to CPS/DCS and well documented yet no investigations were undertaken. (Emphasis added.)

Some of the abuses suffered by this young boy as claimed in the lawsuit are shocking, as the U.S. public today is largely unaware of such abuses in the foster care system, and that these activities are actually funded by American taxpayers:

David Frodsham utilized the State of Arizona and the foster

care system to funnel innocent, vulnerable children into his home, so he could run a pedophile ring.

John Doe was sexually and physically abused by David Frodsham countless times both inside and outside the home while Frodsham's wife, Barbara witnessed this abuse, and physically abused John Doe herself.

Mr. Frodsham also acted as John Doe's pimp, prostituting John Doe to other men, for their sexual enjoyment, and for money for himself.

Frodsham often participated in these sexual meetups. Frodsham helped enable a network of pedophiles in the Sierra Vista area and these men participated in further sexual abuse against John Doe.

State of Arizona Responsible for Torture, Sexual Abuse and Trafficking by Licensing Pedophiles to Become Foster and Adoptive Parents

According to the lawsuit, David Frodsham never should have been approved as a foster parent, as his deviant sexual behavior was well documented, and caused him to be released from duty in Afghanistan, where he served as a deputy commander with the Department of Defense.

From the lawsuit:

There was additional information about David Frodsham that indicated he was an unsuitable foster parent, much less an adoptive parent.

David Frodsham was assigned as a deputy commander with the Department of Defense in Afghanistan. He only served for a brief period, as he was kicked out and released from duty, and told he could not return because of his “sexual harassment” behavior and an assessment by the military that he had an unalterable personality disorder.

For a deputy commander to be removed from duty in Afghanistan and told never to return for service is glaring evidence that David had negative personality qualities which could easily make him an unfit parent.

The military investigated his behavior and upheld the inappropriate sexual behavior findings. The investigator stated,

“I recommend the unit keep Mr. Frodsham resigned out of BSG permanently. Bringing him back to the unit will only cause further tensions. The ability of Mr. Frodsham to be rehabilitated is completely up to him. I believe this inappropriate conduct has been part of Mr. Frodsham’s personality for some time.”

“The Army has articulated its zero-tolerance policy. I am convinced that Mr. Frodsham is aware of what constitutes sexual harassment, because he previously held a position in Equal Opportunity, as he stated in his interview. Still he chose to violate said policy.”

“I recommend making this misconduct an official matter of record and take disciplinary action under Chapter 75 of Title 5/AFI 36-704 Discipline and Adverse Actions. I recommend the command administratively punish Mr. Frodsham with reprimand and refer member to home unit.”

A review of these records by a psychologist who does assessments of sex offenders in the military believes that the coded language of the discharge indicates the underlying reason for his removal was sexual abuse of boys in Afghanistan.

As we have reported so often here at *Health Impact News*, parents today can lose their children to the state for a variety of reasons under the blanket term of “neglect” and not abuse, such as disagreeing with doctors, refusing vaccines, not feeding their children according to USDA dietary guidelines, having a dirty house, allowing children to go outside without shoes, etc.

But foster parents who are bringing in federal funds to the state get away with REAL abuse, and this poor foster child highlights this same injustice in the system in the lawsuit:

If the Frodshams were the biological parents of John Doe, he would have been removed based on these complaints and allegations, and placed in a group home. Instead, the State left John Doe in the foster/adoptive home, and the Frodshams received a monthly stipend from the State to abuse him.

**Is the Federal Investigation into the
Frodsham Arizona Pornographic Pedophile
Ring Part of a Federal Investigation of
Pedophiles in the Military?**



Fort Huachuca Army base in Arizona.

A recent *New York Times* article reported about the problem of pedophiles and the American military in Afghanistan:

[Afghan Pedophiles Get Free Pass From U.S. Military, Report Says](#)

The *Times* article references a just-released report from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, which was commissioned under the Obama administration, and was considered so explosive that it was originally marked “Secret/No Foreign,” with the recommendation that it remain classified until June 9, 2042.

A [heavily redacted version](#) was released to the public in January (2018).

Someone is apparently putting pressure on the military to

expose the widespread practice of bacha bazi, or “boy play,” in which some Afghan commanders keep underage boys as sex slaves.

From the [New York Times article](#):

Sigar said it had opened an investigation into bacha bazi at the request of Congress and in response to a 2015 New York Times article that described the practice as “rampant.” The article said that American soldiers who complained had their careers ruined by their superiors, who had encouraged them to ignore the practice.

A former Special Forces officer, Capt. Dan Quinn, who beat up an Afghan commander for keeping a boy chained to his bed as a sex slave, said at the time that he had been relieved of his command as a result. “We were putting people into power who would do things that were worse than the Taliban did,” said Captain Quinn, who has left the military.

Sgt. First Class Charles Martland, a highly decorated Green Beret, was [forced out](#) of the military after beating up an Afghan local police commander in Kunduz who was a child rapist. Sergeant Martland became incensed after the Afghan commander abducted the boy, raped him, then beat up the boy’s mother when she tried to rescue him. Congressional inquiries apparently led to [Sergeant Martland’s reinstatement](#).

Read the [full article at the New York Times](#).

Arizona DCS Knew About Abuses and Torture but Did Nothing

Even apart from Frodsham's military past in Afghanistan, the state of Arizona apparently had plenty of evidence that Frodsham was not suitable as a foster parent but continued to license him and his wife anyway, allowing them to foster and adopt children who were tortured and trafficked.

The [lawsuit](#) documents many of the abuses and provides evidence that Arizona DCS knew about some of these atrocities:

Barbara Frodsham neglected John Doe terribly, and physically and emotionally abused him as well. Barbara knew the sexual abuse was occurring, at times walking in the room as it was happening, yet took no steps to stop it. Mrs. Frodsham routinely beat John Doe and blamed him for the abuse heaped on him.

Barbara did not buy John Doe clothes or feed him, and screamed at him every time he tried to complain or protect himself, often beating him viciously. It was obvious to all, including the State DCS employees that Barbara Frodsham hated John Doe.

The Frodshams forced John Doe to live outside much of the time. While they went to work they locked John Doe out of their home and left him with a bike to travel to a convenience store to use the restroom.

This neglect and abuse was documented by the State and its employees. The foster and other children, including John Doe, were forced to eat hot sauce as punishment, handcuffed to

the bed all night, locked outside the home, and locked in closets.

John Doe and the other boys were beaten with fists, brooms, belts and other objects to the extent that medical care was frequently required.

CPS/DCS did not investigate this physical abuse. CPS/DCS just turned a blind eye, and the abuse continued unabated.

The State had access to over thirty-eight police reports from the Frodsham household, from 2002 to early 2016, (all prior to the arrest of David Frodsham for sex abuse). The State should have reviewed these as part of their licensing process of the foster/adoptive parent program.

John Doe complained to CPS/DPS over sixteen times and nothing was done. Even more shocking, there were at least 10 abuse and neglect complaints documented by CPS/DCS between 2002 to 2015.

Arizona Child Sex Trafficking: How Can this be Allowed to Continue to Happen in the U.S.?

MedicalKidnap.com is a website started by *Health Impact News* in 2014, due to the sheer volume of parents who were contacting us explaining how their children were medically kidnapped, often for simply disagreeing with a doctor, or wanting to seek a second opinion.

Most of the early stories we covered were all coming out of Arizona, and it was clear to us early on that something was not right in Arizona. Former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer

recognized that the problems within CPS were too large to ignore, and early in 2014 she abolished the entire department and replaced it with a new *Division of Child Safety and Family Services*.

But one would be hard pressed to find anyone today who believes that the new division is any better than the old department of CPS.

As editor of *Health Impact News*, I began assigning investigative reporters to find out why so many children nationwide were being ripped away from their families. We uncovered many reasons why this is happening today, from enrolling children into drug trials that could not happen under the custody of their parents (see: [Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials](#)), to the rise of a new pediatric sub-specialty of “Child Abuse Specialist” that created a new profession where finding abuse was required to justify one’s job (see: [Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?](#))

We exposed the problems in the modern foster care system where states need to meet quotas of children put into foster care to receive federal funding. See:

[**Child Kidnapping and Trafficking: A Lucrative U.S. Business Funded by Taxpayers**](#)

[**The U.S. Foster Care System: Modern Day Slavery and Child Trafficking**](#)

However, one of the worst reasons we were hearing about as to why so many children were being taken away from loving families and put into foster care was because the U.S.

pedophile child sex trafficking business is so lucrative, that it allegedly [makes more money than the illegal drug trade, and illegal arms trade, combined.](#)

But we quickly learned that this topic was off limits to the media, as no one was willing to come forward and expose it, due to fear of reprisal, as the whole child sex trafficking allegedly extends to the very wealthy and powerful forces in the U.S. politics.

Hence, most of these heinous crimes being committed against children are largely done in secret, without public knowledge.

This case in Arizona is one of the first ones where federal investigators have actually stepped in and done something about child sex trafficking through the U.S. foster care system.

Why?

Some have told me privately that [President Trump's executive order implemented on December 21, 2017](#) was put in place to go after these pedophile networks that extend around the world.

Is this true? We certainly hope so!

But only time will tell if this horrendous network will finally be exposed, or if this incident in Arizona is simply a token scapegoat to try and address the problem while the main network continues on with “business as usual.”

Everything documented in this case is a direct violation of basic human rights, especially as was spelled out in the

Nuremberg trials after World War II and the atrocities committed in then Nazi Germany.

How can this be happening today in the United States? How can we be talking about “making America great again” when this kind of child sex trafficking is happening right here in our own borders?

Please do not think that what is happening in Arizona is an exception or isolated problem. This huge evil injustice being committed against American children exists in probably every state in the U.S.

America has lost its way. This is no longer the land of “liberty and justice for all.” Spiritually and morally we have lost our way.

Listen to an interview below with Beth Breen, the driver contracted with CPS to transport Devani between the Frodshams’ home and visits with her parents.

<https://youtu.be/AN2BML9mbcg>

Mom Who Lost 2.5 Years of Her Children's Lives While They Were in Foster Care Seeks Attorney to Fight Corruption in Arizona



The Coumpy family, before Arizona DCS tore their family apart. Aprilli declined to provide more recent photos because she wants to keep their pictures off of social media to protect them. Photo provided by Aprilli Coumpy.

by **Health Impact News/Medical Kidnap Staff**

The Coumpy children are finally back home.

Their mother, Aprilli Coumpy, has lost over 2 years of her children's lives, time that can never be replaced. And like most children who are taken away from their families, the Coumpy children are still suffering today, even though they are back home.

They were seized by Arizona's Child Protective Services back in 2015, after an accidental injury when the children woke up early and decided to cook breakfast for their still-sleeping mother. It was something that could have happened in any home.

After a hard-fought battle against the State of Arizona, where the state even tried to get *Health Impact News* to remove their stories on this case published on MedicalKidnap.com, the children were finally returned home shortly after the latest *Health Impact News* article on their family was published, which exposed wrong-doing by the Department and by social worker Lisa Millett.

Like many families, the Coumpys decided to lay low and stay out of the media spotlight as they began their journey of healing.

It has been 8 months since their case was closed on August 15, 2017, and the family is still suffering trauma from the overreach of Child Protective Services into their lives.

The mother, who refused to give up fighting for her children when they were in state custody, is now determined to fight for justice, not only for her children, but for all children who are victims of social workers who abuse their power.

Aprilli Coumpy seeks an attorney who will help her to file a lawsuit on behalf of her children, all the while she is working

to help her family heal from the damage inflicted on them when they were taken.

Many advocates and attorneys who recognize the catastrophic impact of the Child Protective Services industry on families have said that one of the most effective ways to fight the system is to strike back legally through lawsuits and other court measures that will send a message that their unlawful practices are unacceptable and will no longer be tolerated – practices such as social workers lying in order to take children or seizing children without a court order, warrant, or exigent circumstances.

Despite this, Aprilli reports that she has not been able to find an attorney willing to take on Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) and help her to file a lawsuit. She is hopeful that this article will inspire a good lawyer to help her in holding DCS accountable for the damage done to innocent children.

Corrupt Social Worker Responsible for Attempting to Destroy Family

The children were taken from their home in March of 2015. Our original article on their story was published on July 29, 2015. See:

Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident

By December of that year, it was documented that Aprilli had completed everything that DCS required of her to get her children back. Both a parent aide, through a third party agency commissioned by DCS, and the social worker, Lisa Millet, signed off on a report stating such.

The children were not returned.

The following May, Aprilli Coumpy filed a grievance against DCS and against her social worker Lisa Millett. Aprilli reported that Millett “constantly lies in court,” that she and her aides “disrespect me in front of my children,” and that they have threatened her.

She alleged that the social worker tried to get her fired from her job, and that she did not follow through with court orders or reunification efforts. Also:

Lisa and case aides have verbally told me in front of my kids, “You are no longer their mother.”



Arizona DCF case worker Lisa Millett. Photo from her [Facebook](#) page.

In what Aprilli saw as retaliation, her children were moved into different foster homes and separated from each other.

On July 29, 2016, *Health Impact News* published an update to their story:

Arizona Mom Still Fighting to Get Her 5 Children Back From the State 2 Years After Accident

Aprilli Coumpy was advised to file a motion for “Rule 59” which she did pro se (on her own, without an attorney) on January 17, 2017.

Arizona Rules of Civil Procedures Rule 59 appears to correspond to Rule 59 of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The federal rule, according to Cornell Law School, is the rule for a new trial, or for altering or amending a judgement. ([Source](#).)

In Arizona, Rule 59 allows for a verdict, decision, or judgement to be vacated and a new trial granted for a number of reasons “which materially affect that party’s rights,” including:

- *Error in the admission or rejection of evidence, error in the charge to the jury, or in refusing instructions requested, or other errors of law occurring at the trial or during the progress of the action.*
- *That the verdict, decision, findings of fact, or judgment is not justified by the evidence or is contrary to law. ([Source](#))*

Judge John Dittsworth was removed from the case, and the Coumpys were assigned a new judge, Judge Alison Bachus.

Still, her children remained in state custody.

It was after this that social worker Lisa Millet wrote to Aprilli Coumpy demanding that she stop posting information about her case on social media and take down the *Medical Kidnap* stories.

The next article we published was on April 25, 2017:

Arizona DCF Tries to Stifle Free Speech in Medical Kidnapping Case – Demands Our Stories of Coumpy Family be Taken Down

Things moved quickly after that. Lisa Millet was finally removed from the Coumpy case.

The next court hearing was on May 17, 2017. Judge Bachus ordered that the children return to the physical custody of their mother, effective a week later when the children finished the school year.

On May 25, one month to the day after the latest *Health Impact News* article, the Coumpy children returned home to their mother.

The long, drawn-out reunification process that Child Protective Services typically insists upon didn't happen, proving that returns can, in fact, be accomplished quickly. (The usual argument is that the children need time to adjust, that they were attached or bonded to the fosters, or other such nonsense. The social workers who argue for such have no problem abandoning such lofty ideals when it comes to snatching children suddenly from their REAL parents.)

Their case was dismissed on August 15, 2017.

Happy to Be Home, But Trauma of State-sponsored Kidnapping Continues

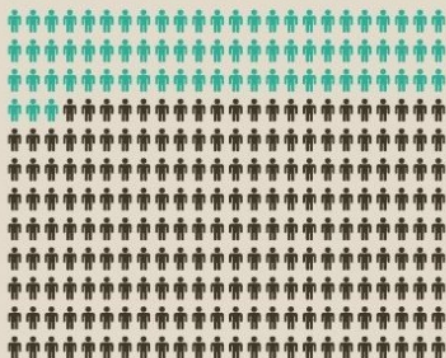
The return home of children seized by Child Protective Services is bittersweet. The sweetest thing in the world for a family separated is to be reunited. It is the stuff of Hallmark movies – this thing that parents fight for, pray for, and cry out for, with every fiber of their being, while their children cry themselves to sleep longing for their real family.

But it is also bitter, because the children who were taken away from their families are never the same as they were before they were kidnapped.

When Child Protective Services takes children from their homes, they often leave destruction in their wake. The majority of children who are seized by CPS should never have been taken from their families. Even when they are returned home, more often than not, the children are traumatized. Even a short separation can do untold damage.

Foster care statistics reflect this trauma in data that shows that foster children who grow up are far more likely than the general population to commit suicide, be homeless, have a teen pregnancy, battle addiction, become entrapped in the sex trafficking trade, or be incarcerated.

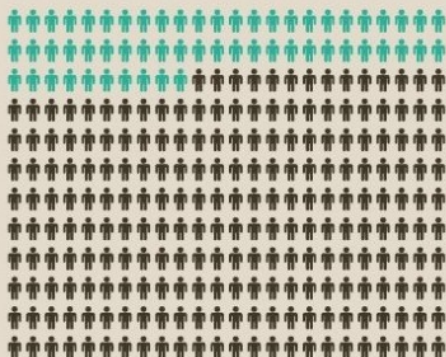
74% of Incarcerated Inmates Have Been In the Foster Care System.



● Incarcerated Inmates Not Formally In Foster Care

● Incarcerated Inmates Formally In Foster Care

80% of Inmates Formally in the Foster Care System on Death Row.

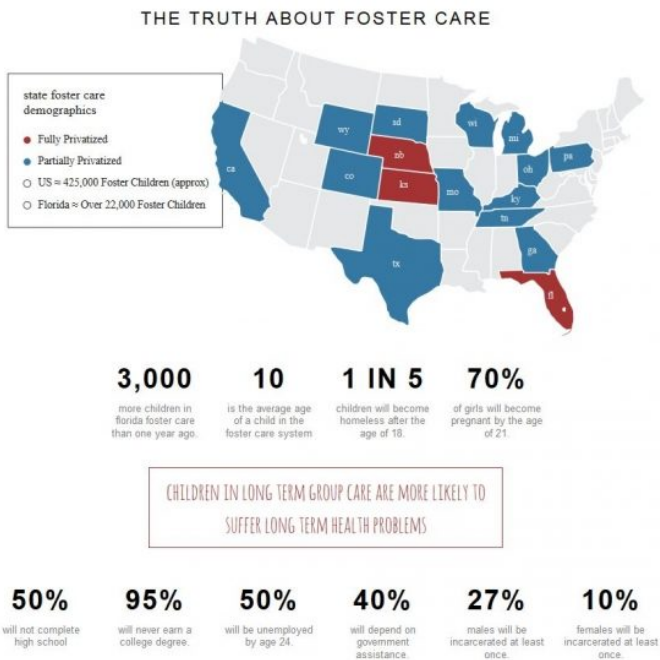


● Inmates on Death Row Not Formally In Foster System

● Inmates On Death Row Formally In Foster System

Statistics provided by the US Administration of Children and Families, the US Department of Justice, the Casey Foundation, and the National Foster Care Coalition.

Image – Foster Care Prison stats infographic by Adrian Moore. [Source](#).



The Truth About Foster Care. [Source](#).

See:

[The U.S. Foster Care System: Modern Day Slavery and Child Trafficking](#)

What the data does not reflect, however, is the aftermath of the trauma suffered by the children who are returned to their parents, who are often innocent of any wrong-doing. These children, too, have needlessly suffered great anguish, and their lives are never the same.

The Coumpy children are no different. In fact, when Aprilli's children were about to come home, an advocate told her:

Your kids are coming home totally different. Are you ready?

This was the very thing the broken-hearted mother had been fighting for more than 2 years for. Of course she was ready:

Those are my kids! I want them HOME.

They were different. They came home on May 25, 2017. They were so excited and told their mother:

It's REAL! We're really home!

To this day, they still have nightmares from their time away from home.

They have behaviors that they never had before. Relatives and friends of the family have noticed. Aprilli says that more than one of them have told her:

Wow, your kids have never acted like this before. DCS really did a number on them.

They were never afraid of the police before. The children had believed before that police officers were the good guys who helped people and went after the bad guys. Now, they are

afraid of police. They are afraid they will take them away again.

This is something we commonly hear from children who were taken by Child Protective Services with the assistance of law enforcement. These officers frequently act upon accusations made by social workers without looking into the evidence that is required to obtain and to take before a judge to get a court order, and all too often they rush quickly to seize the children and remove them from the home, which is illegal without a warrant signed by a judge.

Many families, including the Coumpy family, have also reported that the children struggle with respecting their parents' authority.

When DCS/CPS came into their lives, they undermined parental authority. Children saw that their parents were not able to protect them from the strong arm of the state.

Other adults – social workers and foster parents – came into their lives and showed them that their parents' standards and rules no longer applied.

Many of the children suffer abuse at the hands of foster parents, and we have [published reports of Arizona foster care homes being used to sexually abuse and traffick children.](#)

Kids have to adapt to a whole new way of life just to survive. If they are shuffled between different foster homes and facilities, each transfer means learning a whole new set of rules.



The Coumpy children before DCS rocked their world. Photo source: Coumpy family.

When they return home, it is difficult to bring them back into the protective shelter of the once-familiar routines. Rules set up for their own safety that were once seen as immutable are now questioned, and comfortable boundaries are now viewed as capricious, arbitrary, and able to be challenged like never before.

Social workers and visit supervisors maintain that illusion during visits when they criticize, undermine, and outright defy the things that parents tell their children.

Aprilli's oldest daughter Zanaeja aged out of the system before her siblings were returned. She told her mother that social worker Lisa Millet had told her that she did not have to listen to her mother or follow directions given to her by her mother since she was almost 18 years old.

The other Coumpy children were also allegedly told that they didn't have to listen to their mother.

Children within the foster care system become greatly

confused, and many lose their inner compass along the way, because of ill-thought-out comments such as these.

Aprilli reports that she told social worker Lisa Millet:

You guys taught my kids to think of me as “a visit.”

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Worse for Foster Children than Military Vets Returning from War? The Drugging of Foster Children

Aprilli herself has been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and high blood pressure. Again, these are things that we commonly see in parents whose children are taken. Many parents and grandparents who never had blood pressure issues before Child Protective Services entered their lives have reported being diagnosed with high blood pressure and PTSD after CPS comes on the scene.

The effects of PTSD are, of course, even more severe in the children who are kidnapped out of their homes and put with strangers, many of whom then abuse them.

The constant “fight or flight” instinct is something that Aprilli and her children now struggle with, post-CPS. That is a classic symptom of PTSD.

Her children were apparently diagnosed with some sort of emotional trauma issues and were prescribed medication during their time in foster care. This too is common in foster care, where studies have shown that children in foster care receive far more psychiatric drugs than children outside of

foster care, and possibly at a rate equal to or greater than soldiers returning from combat. (See: [Foster Care Abuse: Drugging Children Against Their Will.](#))

DCS would not tell Aprilli what medications they were being given, or what their diagnoses were. She is still trying to get the medical records for her children, but she was aware at the time that her children were being drugged.

Even while they were still in foster care, Aprilli tried to address the issue with social worker Lisa Millett. In an email sent to Millet in December 2016, Aprilli wrote:

Why are my children not receiving any type of counseling from being snatched away from their family for 2 years now?

... Considering what DCS has done to my children and family, medications are not the correct response when they are showing normal behavior under the circumstances of what DCS has done.

For almost a year she has been trying to get the children's medical records. She still doesn't have them. What she does have is a list from DCS of "all the doctors and dentists the kids saw over the last two years."

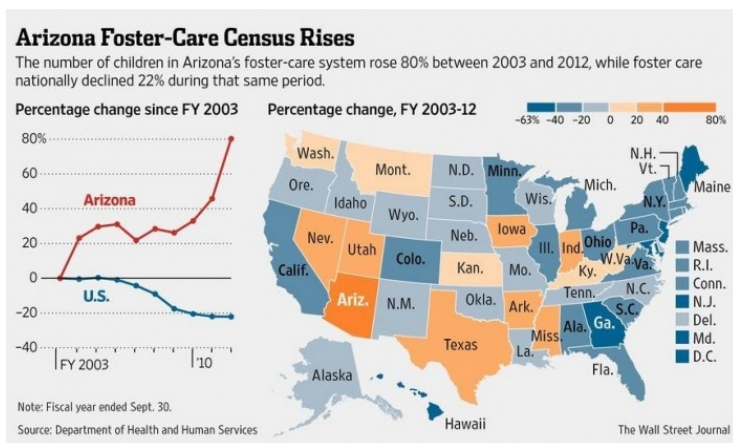
There are 32 doctors and dentists on that list.

Aprilli has been attempting to get records from the practitioners for the time that her 5 children were in state custody. DCS has told her that "parents can request any records for their children when they are back in their care," but Aprilli has been largely unsuccessful in obtaining them. Some of them stonewall her. Other offices tell her that the

doctor in question no longer works there or is retired, and she still cannot get the records. There are others that she cannot find at all.

Attorney Needed to Sue Arizona for Crimes Against Families

Aprilli Coumpy is searching for an attorney who will help her to hold DCS in Arizona accountable, and to protect her children and other children from the overreach of DCS.



Arizona DCS takes more children from their parents than any other state in the country. The Coumpy case is closed. It never should have been opened.

She recently learned that Arizona has a 1 year statute of limitations to file a lawsuit, and a federal lawsuit has a 2 year statute of limitations. The clock is ticking. She does not want to lose this opportunity.

She says:

I have so much evidence; I just need the representation.

She asks how many other families there are whose cases have been mishandled by social worker Lisa Millett.

If you are an attorney willing to look into this case, or if you know of one, please contact *Health Impact News* or the Facebook page set up to support the family called [Parents Protecting God's Children](#).



Governor Doug Ducey needs be called upon to put a stop to the abuse of families under DCS. The DCS agency and the actions of the DCS workers are ultimately his responsibility. He may be contacted at 602 542 4331 or reached [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Representative Kevin Payne represents the Coumpy's district. He may be reached at 602 926 4854, or contacted [here](#).

The Senator for their district is Senator Frank Pratt. He may be reached at 602 926 5761, or contacted [here](#).

Aprilli is very thankful that her children are home. She says:

I don't think we'll ever be the same again, but I know it can

be better.

Prayer for Children Traumatized by Child Protective Services

When we spoke with Aprilli for this article, our reporter prayed with her for her children, and for all of the children whose lives have been turned upside down by CPS. Aprilli requested that we include that prayer in her story, and so we are honoring her request, as this is HER story, not ours:

Come Holy Spirit, and minister to the Coumpy children, and to all the other children affected by CPS. Jesus, You are the great Healer, and these children have suffered great trauma. They need You to come and heal their hearts.

They have suffered things that no child should ever have to suffer, and the hurt is profound. But You are greater. You can do what no man can do.

We ask you to go deep into the depths of their hearts, to the root of all the emotional trauma and anguish, and bring healing to their hearts. Protect their hearts. Give them the grace to overcome.

What the enemy meant for their destruction, Lord, we know that You can turn it and even use it for GOOD, for the saving of many lives, like you did with Joseph in Genesis 50:20.

God, heal their hearts, and the heart of their mama, because she has suffered too. Lord, help them to process all the pain, and to be able to rise up victorious, that they would not see themselves as victims but as victors, knowing, God, that You

love them so much, and that you promise to bring good out of even this.

Hold them close and protect them. Speak truth to their spirits that they may know that they are loved and cherished by You, in the mighty name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Children Taken by Arizona CPS for 2.5 Years Return Home with Horrible Accounts of Abuse in Foster Care



The Coumpy family before they were torn apart by DCS. Photo source: [Parents Protecting God's Children](#) Facebook page.

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

A young Arizona boy wrote a heartbreaking letter to his teacher describing the horrors that he saw while he was in a group foster home.

Had the things that he talked about happened in his own family home, the teacher would have been mandated to contact Child Protective Services, and a social worker likely would have taken him from his home before the day was out.

However, the incidents happened under state custody, and it was almost a month later that the teacher told the boy's mother about the letter.

As hundreds of parents have reported to *Health Impact News*, the real abuse and dangers in foster care were swept under the rug by social workers, while minor incidents or accidents that happen in loving family homes are turned into major catastrophes that Child Protective Services must rush in and address.

The children of Arizona mom, Aprilli Coumpy ,were taken from her by the Department of Child Safety (DCS) in March of 2015 over an accidental injury involving spilled Ramen noodles.

See original story:

[Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident](#)

The children spent almost 2 1/2 years in various foster and group homes before they were finally returned home. Their case was closed on August 15, 2017.

The separation traumatized the children and their mother, and they are in counseling as they try to heal and move forward from the harm caused by those charged with protecting families.

Aprilli still doesn't know everything that happened to her children, but she does know that they are not the same. While certainly they are happy to be together again, shadows and scars remain.

Every now and again, something triggers painful memories. Something comes out of her children's mouths that she knows did not come from anything that happened at home, or they exhibit a behavior that shows that they were exposed to things children should never be exposed to.



One of the Coumpy children after they were returned home.
Photo source: [Parents Protecting God's Children](#) Facebook page.

Disturbing Letter Written to Teacher

As the end of the school year approached, Aprilli got a phone

call from her now 11-year-old son's teacher who wanted to prepare her for something that she would see in the packet of papers that was sent home with her son that day.

It was a letter that the child had written and given to his teacher, and it described disturbing things that he had been through at a group foster home.

Aprilli called *Health Impact News* in tears when she read the letter. She knew that her children had suffered in foster care, but the letter brought that reality into sharp focus.

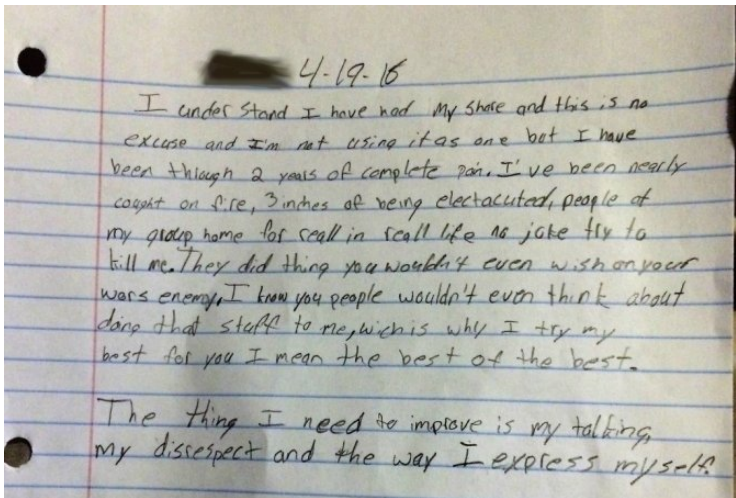
She later learned that her son voluntarily wrote the letter to his teacher disclosing what happened to him at a group home where DCS placed him. Aprilli asked that we correct his spelling in transcribing the letter:

... I have been through 2 years of complete pain.

I've been nearly caught on fire, 3 inches of being electrocuted, people of my group home for real in real life no joke try to kill me.

They did things you wouldn't even wish on your worst enemy.

I know you people [at his school] wouldn't even think about doing that stuff to me, which is why I try my best for you. I mean the best of the best. ...



This is the letter that one of Aprilli Coumpy's children wrote to his teacher. His name has been blotted out to protect his privacy. He and his family want people to see what he went through at the hands of the state.

We were able to talk with the child to learn more about what he experienced. He told us that the first group home was fine, but:

All the bad stuff happened in the second group home.

He said that older boys in the home would try to catch him on fire by throwing lit matches on him while he was in bed.

An older teen, around 16-years-old, liked to take things apart and make things with the electronic components. He said that the teen made some kind of device to shock people and that he tried to electrocute him when he was sitting on the couch. He was fortunately not harmed, but the device

caught the couch on fire:

The couch was literally on fire.

He said that most of the staff paid no attention to what was going on in the group home and did nothing to stop the destructive behavior that happened.

One of the staff members reportedly allowed the older boys to buy condoms and cigarettes. The Coumpy child said that the boys were using the condoms as water balloons to throw on people.

We asked if his mother would have allowed these kinds of behaviors. His response was swift:

Definitely not!

He made it very clear that he feels much safer in his mother's care than in Child Protective Services custody.

He told us that he tried to leave and walk away from the group home several times because it was so bad, but he would return because he didn't know where he was or how to get to his family. No one looked for him, he said. Other children ran away as well, he continued, but most of the staff would not even look for the children.

A few of the staff, he said, would tell the boys to stop dangerous behaviors and would search for children when they ran off, including Dustin, Laurie, and Alexis. Another staff member, whose name he cannot remember, also

seemed to care, but he was fired when those who run the home found out that he was allowing some of the children to call their parents.

Neither the child nor his mother know the name of the group home nor where it is located. The only information that we were able to track down was that the child was enrolled in Stevenson Elementary school in Mesa, Arizona, at the time. The group home is located somewhere in that school district. At the time the Coumpy child was there, it housed approximately 10 children.

Parents whose children are taken from them frequently have no clue where their child or children are being held. They are not privy to any information about the conditions their child is living in or the kind of people who their children live with. They find themselves in the frustrating position of being completely powerless to protect their children.

Most of the visits, Aprilli told us, happened in a small room that DCS used for visitation. She had 4 hour visits at a time with 4 of her children in the little room.

Other Abuse and Danger in Foster Care

For part of the time that the Coumpy children were in foster care, they were all together in the same foster home. At other times, they were separated. When the boy who wrote the letter was in the group home, his other siblings were not with him.

They were together in the beginning of their time in the system. Even then, Aprilli reported that the children would show up at visits with signs of being hit and abused.

In one of the first foster homes where they were together, the children told of the older children at the home throwing their then-1-year-old baby brother into the deep end of the swimming pool, “as a joke,” without any floaties or other safety device. The older siblings would have to jump into the pool and rescue their brother while the people at the house laughed at them.



The youngest Coumpy child was only a year old when he was taken from his family. Photo source: [Parents Protecting God's Children](#) Facebook page.

The baby is now 4. He verified that they threw him into the pool. He said that they scared him and did bad things.

His siblings told our reporter that sometimes the foster parents were home when it happened, but sometimes they weren't there, leaving older children in charge.

Ironically, "lack of supervision" was cited by DCS as a reason for them taking the children away from their mother.

As we have reported many times before, the standards for foster parents often seem to fall far below the criteria for real parents keeping their own children. The federal government even advertises that foster and adoptive parents don't have to be perfect in the [Ad Council](#)'s AdoptUSKids campaign.



The government recruits foster parents and adoptive parents who "don't have to be perfect" but routinely takes children away from biological parents if they are less than perfect.

During our recent interviews with the Coumpy family, it is

apparent that the children love each other and their mother. There was the sound of happy children playing in the background – children just being children.

As we stated in our original coverage of the Coumpy family story, the reason that DCS got involved with their family was over an accidental injury – something that could happen to any normal family. There was no abuse involved, nor was there anything that any reasonable person would conclude was neglect.

Aprilli's 6 and 7-year-old children woke up before she did on a Sunday morning and decided to fix breakfast. In the course of trying to help their mom out, they accidentally spilled hot Ramen noodles on their 2-year-old brother's leg.

Aprilli promptly called the doctor's office. She herself is trained as a medical assistant and phlebotomist. She followed the nurse's instructions to treat her son's injury. She reports that she treated the burn with neosporin and aloe vera covered with a gauze dressing, as well as applied ice packs, per the nurse's instructions. The nurse reportedly did not seem worried and told Aprilli to watch for signs of infection. They scheduled a follow-up doctor's appointment.

It was the day care center that called Child Protective Services.

The family's doctor wrote a letter to DCS stating that it was an accidental injury and that the mother acted appropriately, but to no avail. DCS was involved, and it took years of court battles for the Coumpy children to be returned to their mother.

Will DCS Continue to Get Away with This?

Aprilli is working hard to help her children heal from the trauma they endured in foster care. She is still searching for a civil rights attorney to help her file a lawsuit against DCS.

It is not about money, she says. She wants those who hurt her children, those who continue to hurt other children, to be held accountable for their actions.

The social worker who took her children, Lisa Millett, is reportedly still working for DCS. Neither she nor any of the other DCS workers who put the Coumpy through needless suffering have been held responsible. They continue to work at taxpayer expense with impunity.

The foster homes and group home that caused the “2 years of complete pain” to the boy who wrote the letter have not been held accountable for the pain they caused him and his siblings.

The name of the group home remains a mystery to the family, but it is not a mystery to DCS. The Department of Child Safety and social worker, Lisa Millet, surely have a record of the home.

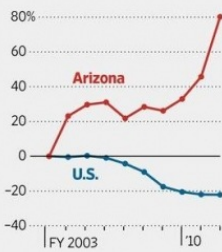
We were unable to determine how many group foster homes there are in the Mesa, Arizona area, but we found that there are 26 different foster care licensing agencies in Maricopa County alone. (See [link](#).) Mesa is a suburb of Phoenix. Both are located in Maricopa County.

Foster care is big business in Arizona, the state which takes more children than any other state in the United States.

Arizona Foster-Care Census Rises

The number of children in Arizona's foster-care system rose 80% between 2003 and 2012, while foster care nationally declined 22% during that same period.

Percentage change since FY 2003



Percentage change, FY 2003-12



Note: Fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services

The Wall Street Journal

There is virtually no accountability for those who take children from families or for those who profit from having the children in their custody. When will this untenable reality become egregious enough for the masses to call upon our leaders to put a stop to it?

How many other children will be separated from normal, loving parents all over the country, before those responsible are held accountable?

Will the people responsible for this little boy's pain continue to get away with their actions, or will the people of the United States demand that they be held accountable?

How You Can Help

If you are an attorney willing to look into this case, or if you know of one, please contact *Health Impact News* or the Facebook page set up to support the family called [Parents Protecting God's Children](#).



Parents Protecting
God's Children
@ParentsProtectingGods
Children



Governor Doug Ducey needs be called upon to put a stop to the separation of children from innocent families by DCS. He appointed Greg McKay as the director of DCS. The DCS agency and the actions of the DCS workers are ultimately the responsibility of Governor Ducey. He may be contacted at 602 542 4331 or reached [here](#). He is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Representative Kevin Payne represents the Coumpy's district. He may be reached at 602 926 4854, or contacted [here](#).

The Senator for their district is Senator Frank Pratt. He may be reached at 602 926 5761, or contacted [here](#).

The number to the White House comment line is 202 456 1111. President Donald Trump may be reached on Twitter [here](#).

See our continuing coverage of this family's story:

[Arizona Mom Still Fighting to Get Her 5 Children Back From the State 2 Years After Accident](#)

[Arizona DCF Tries to Stifle Free Speech in Medical Kidnapping Case – Demands Our Stories of Coumpy Family be Taken Down](#)

[Mom Who Lost 2.5 Years of Her Children’s Lives While They Were in Foster Care Seeks Attorney to Fight Corruption in Arizona](#)

Trial Begins for Little Arizona Girl Placed with Pedophiles in Foster Care and Burned by Adoptive Mom



Samantha Osteraas stands trial for scalding a child she adopted, causing severe burns over most of her body. Photo [source](#).

Commentary by **Terri LaPoint**
Health Impact News

A woman who was approved by the State of Arizona to adopt a child out of the foster care system is on trial for child

abuse. Samantha Osteraas faces 2 counts of child abuse for scalding a little girl entrusted to her care, causing 3rd degree burns to almost 80% of her body, causing all 10 of her toes to be amputated, and nearly costing the child's life.

During the trial, which is expected to end this week, 7-year-old Devani took the stand and told a jury that Osteraas held her down in the bathtub with a pink towel, according to the [Arizona Daily Star](#).

She is only 7 years old, but the beautiful child known to family advocates as “the little girl in the blue dress” has been through more abuse than most of us can imagine.



This photo of Devani was taken before her horrific abuse in state custody. Photo from the [AZ Childrens Lives Matter](#) Facebook page.

Devani was taken at the age of 2 from her parents by Arizona's Child "Protective" Services – the Department of Child Services (DCS), but she was never abused in her parents' home.

Her horrors began after she was in the custody of the State of Arizona. Before she was adopted by Samantha and Justin Osteraas, she was placed by DCS into a foster home with a man who is now serving prison time for running a pornographic and pedophile ring out of his home.

See:

Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned

Trial begins for Tucson woman accused of scalding 5-year-old daughter in tub

Caitlin Schmidt of the Arizona Daily Star writes of the first day of the trial:

Deputy Pima County Attorney Alan Goodwin told the jury of 11 women and three men – 12 jurors and two alternates – that the evidence likely won't explain why Osteraas intentionally burned her daughter, but that it will prove she committed the act and failed to call 911 for several hours afterward.

The girl, who was 5 at the time of the incident, spent four months in a hospital after the scalding, undergoing "surgery after surgery after surgery" for skin removal and grafts. She also had to have all 10 toes amputated as a result of her

injuries, Goodwin told the jury.

Detective Jeremy Butcher, the first responder to the scene, took the stand, testifying that he arrived at the house within minutes of getting the call because he lived in the neighborhood.

During opening statements, Goodwin called what Butcher saw when he entered the home “an image ... an experience that’s absolutely seared in his mind and seared in his memory forever.”

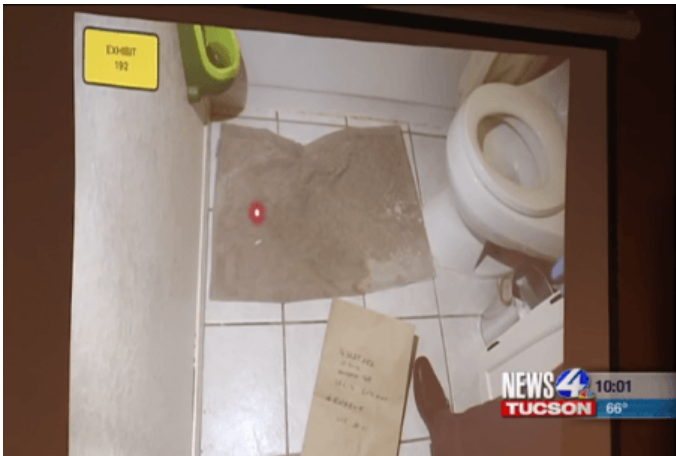
Deputy Pima County Attorney Dawn Aspacher had Butcher tell the jury what he saw and heard at the home, starting with a bloody smear on the front door.

Butcher said Osteraas was distraught as he walked to the master bedroom, where he found the child on the floor, her body a “dark-reddish and almost purplish hue.”

The child’s lower half was covered with a towel and a red stain was visible on the floor underneath her. The child wasn’t speaking or crying, but was “basically just staring straight up,” Butcher told the jury.

One juror wiped his eyes while Butcher recounted how he stayed with the girl until paramedics arrived. While her breathing was labored, he said, at one point she reached up towards the star-shaped badge pinned to his uniform shirt.

After the girl was taken to the hospital, Butcher and other deputies searched the home, finding what later turned out to be chunks of skin in several locations throughout the house, including the bathroom in which the child was bathed.



*Photo of the floor of the bathroom where Devani was burned.
Photo [source](#).*

During Butcher's testimony, Aspacher projected photos of the girl before she was taken to the hospital on one of the courtroom walls, the girl's beet-red skin eliciting gasps from the gallery.

Butcher's testimony ended with a photo of a large chunk of skin next to the bathtub's drain. Several jurors stared up at the screen even after the courtroom lights had been turned on and the image was no longer visible.

[KOLD News 13](#) reports:

According to court records, Osteraas said she didn't realize the bath water was that hot.

Investigators said the water was almost 130 degrees and determined the burns were not the result of an accident.

In anticipation of the possibility of Devani being able to testify in court, [News 4 Tucson](#) reported last week that:

The Pima County Attorney's Office has asked the court to allow a so-called facility dog, a specially trained K-9, to help ease the girl's stress while she testifies against the woman that she had once called her mom.

On Friday, October 12, Devani took the stand to tell the jury what happened to her.

Child burn victim tells Tucson jurors her mother held her down in a tub of hot water

[Caitlin Schmidt of the Arizona Daily Star](#) writes:

A 7-year-old girl who Pima County prosecutors say was intentionally scalded by her mother told jurors Friday that her mother held her down in a tub of hot water and prevented her from getting out.

Prior to the child's testimony, her attorneys filed a motion with Pima County Superior Court Judge James Marner to clear the courtroom of the more than 30 spectators packed into the gallery.

While Marner denied the motion, citing concerns for Ostersaas' right to a fair trial and potential for a mistrial if the public's access was limited, he ordered that the girl's biological parents and grandmother — whose rights had previously been severed — would not be allowed in the courtroom during her testimony, after the child's therapist

and a clinical psychiatrist submitted letters detailing the potential damage to the girl.

Wearing a pink-and-beige striped dress and a pink bow in her hair, the child took the witness stand, clutching a stuffed animal throughout the 20-minute questioning.

The girl told Goodwin she'd been burned "in a hot bath" and that her mom "put her in there" and said she had to stay, before holding her in the tub with a pink towel.

Goodwin asked the child about the brown shirt she wore under her dress, a medical garment designed to help the scars go away. The girl said she had scars on her back, tummy and legs.

When Goodwin asked the girl her mommy's name, she quickly answered, "Samantha Osteraas," ending the state's questioning.

According to several news sources, the defense has taken the position that the scalding was unintentional and that Samantha Osteraas did not knowingly hurt the child.

Note: the defense that parents did not intentionally cause harm, even when demonstrably true, is generally not accepted in cases involving biological parents.

Child Protective Services routinely takes children and condemns biological parents even when they had no way of knowing about or preventing harm that came to their children.

See the stories of [Matthew Marble](#) in Tennessee and [Kaya](#)

Thomas in South Carolina, who lost their children over something someone else did. Other parents are often held responsible for broken bones when the child has a medical condition they had no idea existed. See stories.

The trial for Samantha Oстераas is expected to end sometime this week.

Abuse Began in Foster Care, Not at Home

Devani was originally taken from her home after an argument between her parents which was falsely reported by a vindictive neighbor to involve domestic violence. The 2-year-old wasn't even home at the time, but at her grandmother's house.

Nonetheless, Arizona social worker Norel Alviti seized the toddler from her family.

After Michelle Tremor-Calderon provided proof that the charges were dropped, the social worker insisted that she take a drug test based on rumors from the neighbor.

Michelle passed easily. She had a history of drugs from 13 years prior, but that had long since been in the past.

Health Impact News investigated Devani's story and learned that the original allegations against the parents were quickly proven to be baseless. Though they were dismissed, DCS kept the child in their custody. As we reported last year:

Without a shred of evidence, social workers allegedly were "concerned" about the possibility that the parents might, in the future, do something that would cause harm to their child, so DCS kept Devani in their custody, placing her in

very real, and unimaginably horrific, foster care situations.

See:

Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned

It often seems that social workers are willing to dig deeper into biological family history than the history of the people that they place children entrusted to their care with.

In Devani's first foster home, there were scratches and bruises almost immediately. After Michelle complained, the foster person dropped the child off at DCS and washed her hands of the situation.

The second situation was far worse. Devani was placed in a house with foster parents, one of whom is currently serving a 17-year prison sentence for his prominent role in running a pornographic pedophile ring out of his house with the foster children that DCS placed with him. Law enforcement discovered a graphic video in David Frodsham's house with a little girl crying out for her mother as she was being sexually assaulted.

See:

Arizona Places 2 Year Old Child in Foster Pornographic Pedophile Ring – Foster Mom Burns 80% of Her Body

Devani's mother had long been reporting signs that her daughter was being molested in foster care, but social workers and the attorney appointed by the court to represent

Devani, Thea Gilbert, told the court that the mother was simply “interfering with placement.”

Instead of recognizing that the woman who gave birth to the child had that “mama’s gut feeling” that something was horribly wrong, state employees accused Michelle of sabotaging the department’s efforts.



David Frodsham / Photo: Sierra Vista PD

DCS looked the other way when Devani and other foster children in the Frodsham house of horrors showed clear signs of being victims of sexual abuse. It took the federal ICE agency to bring a stop to David Frodsham pimping out foster children in his house as part of his pedophile ring.

See:

**Arizona Foster Care System Revealed as
Pedophile Ring: Former Foster Child Tortured for
Years Sues for \$15 Million**

The department refused to return Devani to her parents. DCS terminated parental rights, refusing all along to allow the child to live with any family members.

Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire



Guardian ad Litem, Thea Gilbert, was Devani's attorney through the years all the terrible abuse happened to her. [Source.](#)

DCS then placed Devani with the Osteraas family. Attorney Thea Gilbert had previously argued that David Frodsham should adopt Devani. Gilbert has remained Devani's

Guardian ad Litem throughout the child's DCS history, and she approved the new placement. Samantha and Justin adopted Devani out of foster care and changed her name.

It was after this that Devani's life almost ended after being allegedly held down in a scalding hot bathtub. Mercifully, Devani is still alive and was able to testify in the Osteraas trial on Friday about what happened.

We will follow the story and update readers after the jury renders a decision.



Many times at *Health Impact News*, we have cited data that shows that children are at least 6 times more likely to be raped, molested, abused, or killed in foster care than if they had been left in their own homes, even if that home is less than perfect.

Devani's story is a chilling indication of this reality.

Another reporter with the *Arizona Daily Star*, Tim Steller, also challenges the knee-jerk reaction to remove children from their home "just in case." [He wrote this](#) while Devani was

still in the hospital after being abused in her adoptive home:

We're used to seeing how risky it can be for a child to stay with no-good parents.

That's because time and again over the last decade, we've learned of local kids whose families were under the scrutiny of the state child-welfare agencies but ended up dead at the hands of their parents anyway.

They conditioned the public, legislators and child-protective workers to react conservatively to avoid death and scandal. Taking kids out of questionable homes seems the safe alternative.

*But the story of a 5-year-old girl, still clinging to life at Banner-University Medical Center and [reported in the Star](#) last Sunday by Patty Machelor, shows there's another side to those decisions: **The risk that life outside a child's borderline home may be worse than it is inside.** [Emphasis added by HIN.] ([Source.](#))*

Listen to an interview below with Beth Breen, the driver contracted with CPS to transport Devani between the Frodshams' home and visits with her parents.

<https://youtu.be/AN2BML9mbcg>

Arizona Parents Falsely Accused of Child Abuse Lose Infant Son - Have 2-Day-Old Newborn Also Medically Kidnapped



Jordan Meissinger holds his newborn son. His joy was short-lived. When Baby Paxton was only 48 hours old, Arizona social workers took him away from his family. Photo provided by family.

UPDATE 11/1/2018

[Arizona Attorney General Demands Health Impact News Take Down Story on Medical Kidnapping in Violation of 1st Amendment](#)

Arizona Parents Falsely Accused of Child Abuse Lose Infant Son – Have 2-Day-Old Newborn Also Medically Kidnapped

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

Paxton Meissinger came into the world on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, weighing all of 7 pounds and 2 ounces. Like every newborn baby, he wanted and expected only one thing – the presence of his mommy.

To an infant, the most important thing in the world is be surrounded by the love and warmth of the person whose heartbeat he has heard for as long as he had the ability to hear.

In her arms, every need he has is met, from her milk and the nutrition and antibodies it provides to the reassurance of her warmth and love.

Brain growth, his immune system, and his respiration rate develop ideally as he rests against her skin-to-skin, releasing the perfect hormones needed for his system, and hers.

The foundation for basic trust is laid as he hears the voices of both father and mother, and they respond to his communication. The first few weeks and months of life have been likened to a “fourth trimester,” where baby humans are designed to remain still a unit with their mothers.

There is nothing in the world as important to a baby as his mother.

However, for Baby Paxton, these basic human needs are no longer being met, thanks to the Arizona Department of Children’s Services (DCS).

When he was only 48 hours old, social workers took him away from his parents, Briana and Jordan Meissinger, claiming that this is “necessary to protect the child from suffering abuse or neglect.”

In the name of protecting him from potential possible harm, Child Protective Services is depriving him of the very things he needs the most.

Briana Meissinger told *Health Impact News*:

They took him! I was hoping they would leave us alone.



Newborn Baby Paxton Meissinger only had 48 hours with his parents before the state seized him away. Photo supplied by family

Social Worker - “We Are at Your House. Where Are You?”

The devastated parents got a call from DCS just 24 hours after Briana’s c-section.

While she was recovering from surgery in her hospital room and bonding with her new baby, social workers were sitting in the driveway of the Meissingers’ home demanding a meeting.

The workers refused to say what it was about other than that there were new allegations of “general neglect” that they needed to discuss. Obviously, Briana was not able to go home

to meet with them since her baby had been born the day before and they were still at the hospital.

The social workers refused to divulge what the allegations were, but Briana and Jordan later learned that the social workers had reportedly received an anonymous call that the baby had been born 8 days prior and that they were home already neglecting the baby. The DCS workers had already obtained a warrant based on this and other incorrect information, but they didn't mention that to the Meissingers.

They showed up at the hospital the next day, Thursday, October 18, and seized Baby Paxton from his parents.

The incorrect birth date was another in a long line of wrong, false, or outright deceptive statements made by the department over the last year. In conjunction with Phoenix Children's Hospital and their Child Abuse Pediatrician, DCS had taken the Meissingers' son Keaton last September over allegations of Shaken Baby Syndrome.

From the very beginning of that case, some doctors suspected that he had an infection which was treated with several antibiotics. Other medical experts have stated the same, but DCS and the Child Abuse Pediatrician have stubbornly clung to their interpretation of Keaton's symptoms.

The long, drawn-out case to decide which diagnosis to believe is still in the Maricopa Juvenile Court. Dependency has yet to be determined by the courts.

After she learned that DCS intended to step in and take their newest baby, Briana said:

This warrant was one-sided. They didn't give our side, which is the fact that this is a highly contested case. We have experts and medical professionals that are saying that their allegations are bullshit.

THEIR experts are saying that they can't even for sure say that this is abuse, so they haven't proven anything. Nothing. And they're trying to take our newborn from us.

There's nothing we can do!

She explained that, until they can go before a judge, they cannot even fight this to keep their baby.

The Maricopa County social workers went to a different judge than the one in Keaton's case in order to get the warrant to seize Baby Paxton. The Meissingers believe that, had they gone to the judge who is currently presiding over their case, they would not have been able to get a warrant. The judge who signed it was "misled," says Briana.

Their judge has heard some of the Meissingers' side of the story as well as a little bit from medical experts who adamantly disagree with the diagnosis of abuse by the Child Abuse doctor at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

There are still at least a couple more days left of the trial. The next one is at the end of October, followed by another day or two possibly to be held in December before the dependency case wraps up.

According to several doctors and medical experts whose presuppositions have not blinded them to see other medical conditions that can cause similar symptoms, Keaton's

medical history and records do not show any signs of trauma or abuse. Rather, they are, in the words of one of their experts, “100% consistent with [a] brain infection.”

Baby Keaton’s Story – Force Vaccinated in Spite of Medical Problems

Baby Paxton’s big brother was born on June 6, 2017. Briana’s labor was induced, and she was given high doses of pitocin (labor-inducing drug).

After 2 days of hard labor, the baby was not handling the contractions well. His chart showed “decels” in his heart rate, and Briana began having convulsions. They were rushed into surgery for an emergency c-section.

Keaton required resuscitation to help him to breathe when he was born, and he was given oxygen. His APGAR score was just 5 at both one minute and 5 minutes, which indicates that he was in trouble.

He spent his first few hours in the NICU, but he recovered. He was given a Vitamin K shot and Hepatitis B vaccine.

Briana says that “he was extremely fussy for a newborn baby.” After a few weeks, he improved, until his 2 month shots:

At his 2 month doctor appointment he was diagnosed with Acid Reflux and was prescribed ranitidine. I had done quite a bit of research on vaccines, but not nearly enough I know now. At his 2 month appointment on 8/10/2017, I asked his Pediatrician at the time, Dr. Mary Lavalley, to do a delayed and spaced out schedule for his vaccinations.

He was very croupy frequently as he breathed, which was another concern we brought up at the appointment. Because of this, Dr. Lavalley got upset and snappy with me stating that we HAD to get ALL of his vaccines THAT day, BECAUSE he was sick- that not doing this would mean we were knowingly neglecting his safety.

She bullied us into it, so I sat there and cried while he received all of his shots aside from the pneumococcal vaccine. [It was a total of 6 vaccines.] That's when things began, and steadily went downhill.

For the first almost 4 days he screamed a shrill painful scream as he tensed up his whole body, pulling his legs to his chest. He would scream so hard that he would have a " silent scream " where he would hold his breath, which really worried us and broke our hearts. knew he was in pain, but at the time I had no idea that this was due to encephalitis.

He ran a fever on and off for the next week. His typical hour or two naps became 20 minutes, and he "would wake up from his sleep tensed up screaming before he'd even open his eyes."

The second week is when the vomiting started. Keaton began seeming dazed, and the happy baby we knew started to fade away. He wasn't focusing or tracking as much. He was rarely smiling. All of this, the pediatrician informed us was "normal," and that some babies' symptoms last a little longer than others.

As a Mother, I knew, I FELT that these things weren't normal. I felt it with every inch of my being that something was

wrong with my baby.



It was apparent to Briana and Jordan Meissinger that Keaton was not the same after his 2 month shots. Photo provided by family.

On August 24, 2017, Keaton woke up from a nap, crying.

Briana was out running an errand, and Jordan changed his son's diaper. When he went into the kitchen to prepare a bottle, the baby suddenly stopped crying.

Alarmed, his father went to check on him. He looked like he was sleeping, but when Jordan picked him up, he was "completely limp" and wouldn't wake up.

He called Briana who was just 5 minutes away from home by that time. When she got home, Keaton was "awake, but not alert."

While she stripped him down to check for any sign of insect or spider bites or a rash or some other explanation, he seemed dazed. She says his eyes were as wide as saucers and his pupils were "huge."

The terrified couple knew immediately that they needed to rush him to the hospital.

At nearby Banner Del Webb Hospital, a nurse recommended that they try to feed him. Keaton promptly projectile vomited "everywhere."

Doctors began running tests. One doctor came in and said that the x-ray showed that he had "junked up lungs," and told them that this could be septic pneumonia or meningitis.

His white blood cell count was high, at 22,000. The normal range is 5,000 to 10,000. ([Source](#)). Elevated levels usually indicate infection.

With babies that young, the doctor explained, infections can be very serious. They cannot afford to wait for the results of a culture to determine what organism is causing the infection.

They begin treatment immediately. Doctors started Keaton on 3 strong antibiotics.

The baby began improving dramatically in less than an hour. He stopped crying, and began cooing and making eye contact. Briana and Jordan were greatly relieved.

The Doctor then said that he needed a Lumbar Puncture, and that he also needed to be transferred to a Childrens Specialty Hospital – that we could either choose Banner Thunderbird, or Phoenix Children’s, and that we could either have him get the LP there, or once he’s transferred.

This is where we made our biggest mistake, we chose Phoenix Children’s Hospital, and opted to have them do the LP, because they specialize in Children, and we felt we could trust them more with doing an LP.

They were wrong.

Phoenix Children’s Hospital has a long history of medically kidnapping children, as we have reported many times.

The Meissingers didn’t know that information. Nor were they aware that, like many Children’s Hospitals, Phoenix has Child Abuse Pediatricians on staff.

The pattern of these doctors is to “find” abuse where none exists, often ignoring signs of real medical conditions or neglecting to do needed testing in order to do differential diagnoses.

At Phoenix Children’s Hospital, the lumbar puncture showed

that Keaton's cerebral spinal fluid was positive for enterovirus, a virus that can cause various illnesses including encephalitis (brain inflammation) and meningitis.

Other tests were run, including repeat x-rays, an MRI, a CT scan of Keaton's head, and an ophthalmology test.

Not surprisingly, given Keaton's traumatic birth history, he was found to have subdural hematomas and retinal hemorrhaging. These symptoms can even occur in the most normal of childbirths, and they are extremely common with difficult births, pitocin induction, and resuscitation with oxygen, all of which factors were present when Keaton was born.

See:

Common Childbirth Practice Could Lead to Later False Diagnosis of Shaken Baby Syndrome

Combined with the brain swelling likely caused by the enterovirus, that meant that "the triad" was present.

When this trio of symptoms are present, some doctors, including most Child Abuse Pediatricians, view that as diagnostic of Shaken Baby Syndrome, even if there are genuine medical conditions, such as a viral illness, that could cause the same symptoms.

Neuropathologist Doctor: I Believed in Shaken Baby Syndrome until Science Showed I was Wrong

By the time labs were run for Keaton at Phoenix Children's Hospital, his white blood cell was much closer to normal, at

11,000. He tested negative for any bacterial infection at that time, but he had been on 3 strong antibiotics for several hours. According to several medical expert reports, this was normal.

However, the Child Abuse Pediatrician at Phoenix Children's, Dr. Cynthia Nelson, didn't see it that way. From her medical reports, it appears that once she saw the "triad" of symptoms associated with Shaken Baby Syndrome, she threw out the possibility of infection or anything else besides abuse being the the cause of Baby Keaton's symptoms.

DCS was called, and the Meissingers were accused of abusing Keaton by shaking him, and he was seized from them.

The family has been fighting to get him back ever since.

A juvenile court trial to determine dependency was set for early April, but in typical fashion, DCS has requested delay after delay. There were a couple of court dates in September, but the hearings are not complete. Most of the defense testimony has not yet been heard. The next court date is set for October 31.



A case worker argued that Keaton was developmentally delayed. The Guardian ad Litem promptly went to see him at his day care, and found that nothing the social worker said about his development was true. Photo provided by family.

Meanwhile, Briana Meissinger gave birth to a new baby this week. The parents had hoped that everything would be resolved by the time Baby Paxton would be born, and that DCS and the court would see that they didn't hurt Keaton, that instead he was sick.

The first hospital that saw Keaton saw no reason to suspect abuse. They believed that there was evidence of an infectious process, and they began treatment in line with that evidence. Other medical experts have looked at their case and come to a very different conclusion than the doctors at Phoenix Children's and DCS.

In fact, in contrast with the Child Abuse Pediatricians, these

experts take into account the entire symptom picture, not throwing out symptoms such as 3 days of fever, shrill, high-pitched crying, frequent leg tremors, and other symptoms such as the high white blood cell count.

The Child Abuse Pediatrician wrote in the records that the baby tested positive for enterovirus but that it was not the cause of Keaton's problems. Because he had the triad, it was "suspicious for abuse," and other symptoms were thrown out the window as irrelevant. Because she suspected abuse, she rejected the possibility of infection, though meningitis was never truly ruled out.

Everything was seen from that point through the lens of abuse.

This is circular reasoning at its most insidious. The parents are deemed guilty because the doctor has interpreted the data as evidence of guilt. DCS and the family court system often makes no room for another interpretation of the facts.

During the course of the DCS case against the Meissingers, they and their attorneys thought at one point that they had all of the medical records. They were supposed to have them, and DCS told them that they had all the records. A representative of Phoenix Children's Hospital signed an affidavit that all of the records had been released to the family's attorneys.

However, some evidence, specifically some of the scans that DCS and Phoenix Children's Hospital said were evidence of abuse, were not included in the records they released. DCS said they do not consider medical imaging and scans to be part of the medical record, thus their practice is never to disclose them. This deprives the defense of being able to

have them independently evaluated.

Circular Reasoning and Arrogance by Child Abuse Pediatricians

Attorneys for the couple filed an objection with sobering words about the arrogance that the decision represents:

DCS's position also presumes that the scans are subject to only one interpretation and PCH's report on the scan is conclusive to 100% accuracy.

That decision is not theirs to make.

If that is DCS's position, it is disingenuous at best and a misrepresentation to the Court at worst.

It is indicative of a factor common to almost every medical kidnapping case that we have covered involving Child Abuse Specialists: These doctors apparently expect that their verdict is the only possible conclusion.

As they work hand in hand with Child Protective Services, their testimony is elevated above any other evidence and is not to be challenged.

Dissenters are ridiculed and discredited. All other interpretations, even if they are more solidly aligned with scientific evidence, are rejected.

Social workers, attorneys, and judges are all expected to fall into line in giving one particular class of people – Child Abuse Pediatricians – the omnipotent ability to be judge and

jury, boding no challenge or alternate interpretation of the evidence.

They are accountable to no one for their decisions, even if it leads to the destruction of an innocent family or the incarceration of an innocent parent.



A doctor with an agenda and a conflict of interest is allowed to unilaterally make decisions that rob children and parents of each other. Photo provided by family.

In countless cases across America, medical professionals who challenge the decisions of Child Abuse Pediatricians are

ridiculed and discredited.

Judges have been known to ignore a dozen reports by various experts in favor of one report by a Child Abuse Pediatrician.

Yet these doctors are not qualified or trained as experts in the fields who are better suited to identify medical conditions that are not the result of abuse. They are not experts in radiology, infectious diseases, genetics, or neurology.

See:

Pediatric Child Abuse “Experts” are NOT Experts in Anything

Child Abuse Pediatricians Have Financial Motive to Kidnap Children

Attorneys for the Meissingers have discovered that taxpayers, through the Arizona Department of Children and Families, are paying financial incentives to Child Abuse Pediatricians to turn in parents for abuse. The hospitals get kickbacks of more than \$800 per child.

Here is a price sheet for the Kids for Cash agreement between DCS and Phoenix Children’s Hospital – the hospital that has been involved in more Medical Kidnap stories than any other hospital in the entire country:

Service Description	Price
One (1) initial medical examination for referred youth which includes professional consultation and testimony at court proceedings.	\$865 per case referred
One (1) initial medical examination for referred youth suspected of methamphetamine lab or other controlled substance/drug related issues and includes professional consultation and testimony at court proceedings. The exam shall be conducted within twelve (12) hours to determine exposure to controlled substances and include a drug screen, EPSDT and a suspected child and abuse and neglect evaluation. The price included within the initial medical examination shall include up to two follow-up examinations as follows: One (1) subsequent medical examination if exposure to controlled substances was determined in the initial medical examination shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days from the date of the initial examination and include developmental exam and EPSDT. One (1) medical examination if exposure to controlled substances was determined in the initial medical examination shall be scheduled within one (1) year of the initial exam if the child is designated by the contractor as having special needs (developmentally delayed, mental health issues, dyslexia, learning disabilities, congenital conditions, etc). This appointment may include a developmental exam to provide the pediatrician with the opportunity to identify any medical problems resulting from the child's exposure to controlled substances as needed	\$865 per case referred
One (1) x-ray per body area up to two body areas.	\$350 per body area per case referred
One (1) SNAT Imaging Series when an x-ray is necessary for three (3) or more body areas.	\$780 per SNAT per case referred
One (1) CT Scan.	\$780 per case referred
One (1) MRI Brain Test.	\$780 per case referred

Source: Phoenix Children's Hospital

There is ample evidence that the Meissinger's son Keaton suffered from a viral infection following vaccines. While the trial is not yet finished and all the testimony has not yet been heard, DCS social workers have proceeded as though Briana and Jordan Meissinger are guilty. There is no presumption of innocence until proven guilty with the agency.

Social workers presented a petition to a judge asserting their guilt as established fact though it is far from such.

The warrant says:

Due to the parents' continued denials about the cause of the injuries to Keaton, their home is an unsuitable environment for Baby Boy Meissinger.

Because they refuse to admit guilt, the social workers reasoned, the parents are guilty.

The warrant also states:

The parents have claimed the injuries to Keaton were the result of vaccines and/or viral infections but medical professionals have indicated Keaton's injuries could not have been sustained from vaccines or viral infections as suggested by the parents.

The social workers represent that the opinion of the Child Abuse Pediatrician at Phoenix Children's Hospital is the only valid one, while ignoring the fact that numerous doctors and medical experts assert that Keaton's injuries were, indeed, the result of a viral infection.

Thus, based on wrong information, Baby Paxton has been ordered by a judge to be taken from his parents.

In the course of "protecting" him, DCS is subjecting him to risks that began from the moment they tried to put him in a social worker's car at the hospital.

Paxton's father noticed that the car seat in her vehicle did not have the insert to protect a newborn's head. In order to protect his baby, he had to inform the worker that it was needed, and then he was the one who provided the insert for

the social worker's car.

How You Can Help

A Facebook page was established by supporters when the family first began trying to get Keaton back called [Bring Keaton Home](#). Now, as Briana and Jordan Meissinger work to get Paxton home as well, supporters want to continue to utilize Keaton's page for people to learn how they can help with getting both babies restored to their parents.



Governor Doug Ducey can be reached at 602-542-4331 or contacted [here](#).

Greg McKay is the Director of DCS/CPS in Arizona. His office may be reached at 602-255-2500.

The Senator for the Meissingers' district is Senator Rick Gray. He is on the Health and Human Services Committee and may be reached at 602-926-5413 or contacted [here](#).

The House Representative for their district is Representative David L. Cook. He may be reached at 602-926-5162 or contacted [here](#).

Many Arizona parents are fed up with Phoenix Children's Hospital and DCS medically kidnapping children, and some of them are gathering together to rally in front of the

hospital next Saturday, October 27, 2018. See the event page, [Peace Rally – Against Medical Kidnapping](#) on Facebook for more details.

Arizona Foster Mother Found Guilty of Child Abuse after Scalding Young Devani



Samantha Osteraas was found guilty by a jury in Tucson Arizona for child abuse. [Image source.](#)

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

The Arizona woman accused of scalding her adoptive child causing third degree burns to 80% of her body resulting in the amputation of all 10 toes has been found guilty of 2 of the 3 charges brought against her.

Samantha Osteraas of Tucson, Arizona, faces between 10 and 24 years in prison for hurting Devani, the little girl that the Arizona Department of Child Services placed into her care after removing her from a foster home where she was being abused in a pedophilia pornography ring.

A Pima County jury of 9 women and 3 men deliberated for 8 hours before reaching their verdict on Friday afternoon, October 19, 2018. According to [News 4 Tucson](#), Osteraas:

...was found not guilty for the first count of child abuse. However, the jury did find her guilty for the lesser charge of reckless child abuse.

For the second child abuse count, she was found guilty.

One of the court watchers who was present for the emotional trial said that the jury decided that she was not guilty of “negligent child abuse,” which was the first count of abuse. They stopped short of saying that she burned Devani intentionally.

They did, however, find that Samantha Osteraas was guilty of delaying treatment after the burns occurred.



Samantha Osteras during her trial for scalding the child she adopted. Source – [KOLD 13 News](#).

See Devani's heartbreaking story of being taken from innocent parents who had never harmed her, then placed into one abusive situation after another:

[Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned](#)

[Arizona Places 2 Year Old Child in Foster Pornographic Pedophile Ring – Foster Mom Burns 80% of Her Body](#)

Advocates – Devani Is Beautiful!

Seven-year-old Devani appeared in court on Friday, October

12, to tell the judge and jury what happened to her. Court watchers told *Health Impact News* that they didn't know what to expect when they saw her. None of them had seen her since before the incident.

They knew that she had suffered severe burns to most of her body and had undergone numerous surgeries and skin grafts. She had been placed into a medically-induced coma at one point, and her organs had been shutting down.

Devani has undergone 29 surgeries since being burned just after Christmas of 2016. All 10 of her toes had to be amputated. Advocates had no idea if the little girl would be able to walk again.

They were happy to see her walk into court on her own:

She looked so beautiful! She is so strong.

Two different advocates told us that it was clear from Devani's demeanor that she refused to wear the label of "victim," even though she has suffered more abuse than most people can imagine.

Devani has a different legal name after being adopted by Samantha and Justin Osteraas, but her advocates say that they will always call her by her real name, Devani Rose.



Devani, before the abuse that left her with a lifetime of physical scars and pain. Source – [Justice for Devani Rose](#) Facebook page.

See our coverage of Devani's testimony here:

[**Trial Begins for Little Arizona Girl Placed with Pedophiles in Foster Care and Burned by Adoptive Mom**](#)

Real Parents Not Allowed to See Devani in Court

Devani's parents and grandmother, who are still fighting and praying that, somehow, their little girl will be returned to her family, were not allowed to see her testify.

They simply wanted to see her with their own eyes, something they have not been allowed to do since she was so

brutally injured under state supervision. A simple request to be permitted to see her through a crack in the door or from behind a 1-way glass window was denied.

According to one witness, Guardian ad Litem Thea Gilbert brought in a psychologist to court to argue that seeing her birth parents would be “traumatizing” to the child. However, no mention was made of the potential trauma of seeing the woman who has scarred her for life.

Devani testified that Samantha Oстераas held her down in the bathtub with a pink towel. She named Oстераas and pointed her out to the jury.

Court watchers told us that they saw the trauma on the child’s face when she looked at Oстераas and their eyes met. They reported that their hearts broke as Devani “froze up” for about a half a minute.

Abuser – She Did This to Herself

Tucson.com reports that Oстераas denied holding her down. Her version of the story was that the 5-year-old child did this to herself:

Oстераas testified the child got into the hot water on her own and then stayed there until Oстераas found her in a dazed state.

There were “so many inconsistencies in Samantha’s story,” according to one of the court watchers we talked to.

The prosecuting attorney did not buy her story, either.

[Tucson.com](#) reports:

Deputy Pima County Attorney Alan Goodwin had urged jurors to use common sense in deciding whether a child would sit in scalding water as the burns deepened, and whether a mother who claimed to care would wait hours to get help. The girl was “on death’s door” before Oстераas sought help, he said.



Devani – before she was burned over 80% of her body by Samantha Oстераas, the woman permitted to adopt her by DCS. Source – [Justice for Devani Rose](#) Facebook page.

17 Calls Made Over 5-Hour Period Before 911 Called

He pointed out that the burns were so severe that she lost her toes. Yet, the accused waited for possibly 5 hours before making the phone call that should have been her first response. Phone records cited in court showed that Osteraas made 17 phone calls to various people before calling 911.

She said repeatedly that she was “in shock” and that was why she made 17 phone calls to a paramedic neighbor and his wife as well as to her husband before finally calling 911.

If that were true and she was in shock, wouldn't it have been easier to call 911 than a neighbor?

Defense attorney Jeff Rogers suggested to jurors in closing arguments Thursday that the child may have been in such a confused state that she mistook her mother helping her out of the bath for holding her down. ([Source](#)).

He argued that the delay in calling for help was not intentional. Rogers was reportedly disappointed that the jury did not agree, and he says they plan to file an appeal. This is standard in criminal cases.

Sentencing – Aggravating Circumstances or Leniency Due to Abuser’s Own History in Foster Care?

Tucson.com reports that Samantha Oстераas will be sentenced on December 3. There are several factors involved in determining the length of her prison sentence, which could range from a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years up to a maximum of 24 years.

The jury believes that there were factors present that increase the severity of the crimes committed against Devani:

After the verdicts were read, the jurors returned to the deliberation room to decide whether prosecutors had proven three so-called aggravating factors in the case:

- *that the child had suffered emotionally,*
- *that she was 5 years old when the crime occurred, and*
- *that she was harmed by someone in a position of trust.*

The jury found all of these factors were proven, which will allow the judge to consider them when determining Oстераas’ sentence.



Samantha Osteraas during her trial for abusing Devani.
Photo source: [Tucson 4 News](#).

Samantha Osteraas herself was adopted as a child. Her defense attorney pointed to her “very rough childhood,” which included abuse and foster care. Based on those factors, Jeff Rogers intends to request leniency in her sentencing.

The irony is that these same factors – being a victim of childhood abuse (or domestic violence as an adult), and growing up in foster care or being adopted – are frequently used by Child Protective Services agencies and social workers all across the United States to argue against leniency on birth parents.

Many loving parents who are falsely accused in the system hear in court that, because they have a history of being in foster care themselves, they cannot possibly know how to

adequately parent.

These criteria do not actually determine the ability or suitability of anyone to parent, but social workers and attorneys pick and choose how to use facts such as these to twist to fit whatever agenda suits them in the moment.

The reality is that some children who grow up in the system, or who face any other challenge, are able to work through their pain and overcome the difficulties, while some grow up to repeat the patterns of abuse they experienced.

There was no leniency on Devani's mother Michelle Tremor-Calderon when the state of Arizona terminated her parental rights and placed her child into horrific situations that she never would have faced in her mother's care.

Now that the trial is over, Devani is still not with any of her family. Her legal name remains one assigned to her by her adopters, Samantha and Justin Osteraas. As far as we can determine, Devani is in yet another foster home.

Why Is GAL Thea Gilbert Still Allowed on the Case?

Shockingly, her Guardian ad Litem, Thea Gilbert, remains on her case. The attorney who is supposed to represent the child's best interest has been with Devani's case since the beginning.



Thea Gilbert – court-appointed attorney for Devani. Photo [source](#).

Gilbert approved her placement with the now-imprisoned David Frodsham. Even after Devani’s mother Michelle Tremor-Calderon and transporter Beth Breen told Thea Gilbert that the child was terrified and showed clear signs of being sexually molested, Gilbert ignored them.

She and other Pima County social workers ignored the stories of other foster and adopted children in the home telling that they were being repeatedly raped and trafficked. One of the children has now aged out and is suing the state for millions of dollars for placing him and his brothers in such harm.

See:

[Arizona Foster Care System Revealed as Pedophile Ring: Former Foster Child Tortured for Years Sues for \\$15 Million](#)

Despite being informed of the harm to Devani, Thea Gilbert recommended to the court that the Frodshams be allowed to adopt Devani.

According to [KOLD News 13](#):

In November 2015, DCS investigated reports of sexual and physical abuse [by David Frodsham]. Those allegations were unsubstantiated.

Yet, they report:

DCS removed the child from the home of her biological parents in April 2013 when neglect allegations were substantiated.

[Note: these allegations against the parents were investigated by *Health Impact News* as well. We examined the DCS documents as well as the exonerating evidence, which clearly proved that the allegations were false from the very beginning. [Source](#).]

After the pornography pedophile ring was busted by ICE, Gilbert approved Devani's placement and subsequent adoption by Samantha and Justin Osteraas, despite clear warnings that the woman was prone to violence.

Two of the foster parent placements approved by Thea Gilbert and the Pima County DCS face at least a decade in prison each for heinous crimes committed against children.

Still, Thea Gilbert not only remains involved in the case, but she also refuses to so much as recuse herself.

When will those responsible for placing this child into harm's way be held accountable? Are we truly to believe that

they are above the law?

Why are the standards for non-biological fosters and adoptors consistently far more lenient than those to which biological parents are held?

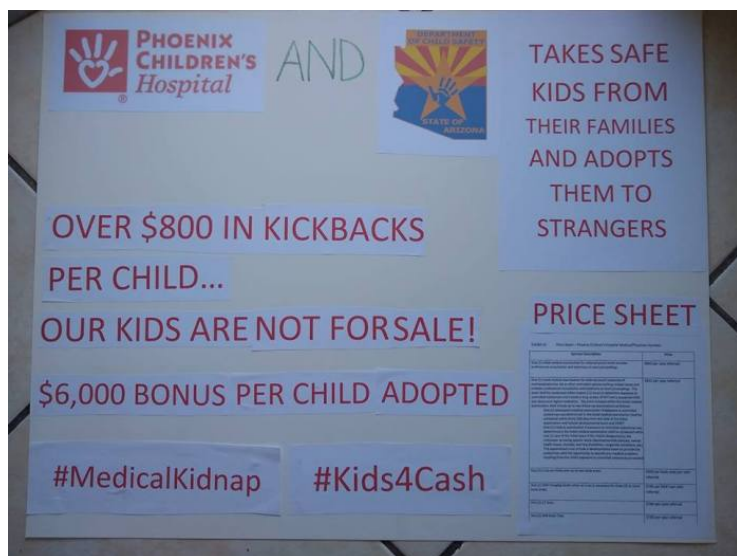
There is a Facebook page established by supporters to continue to fight for “[Justice for Devani Rose.](#)”



Listen to an interview below with Beth Breen, the driver contracted with CPS to transport Devani between the Frodshams' home and visits with her parents.

<https://youtu.be/AN2BML9mbcg>

Former Nurse at Phoenix Children's Hospital Speaks Out Against Medical Kidnapping of Children



Source: Tonya Brown, whose son was also medically kidnapped by Phoenix Children's Hospital. Story [here](#).

Commentary by **Terri LaPoint**
Health Impact News

A hallmark of a free people is the ability to think for ourselves, which includes the right to question, to seek out truth, and to hold opinions that are different from those of someone else.

If, however, the person that parents question is a doctor, the cherished American value of this basic liberty may be squashed by a simple phone call to Child Protective Services, after which custody of the child is seized by the state.

Medical kidnapping has become the go-to punishment for those parents who dare to question their children's doctors. With ancient religious fervor, medical "heretics" are seeing their families ripped apart.

At a recent rally for families in front of Phoenix Children's Hospital, a former nurse spoke out about the abuses that she has seen at the hospital. She told the group:

I am in this field. I didn't go into healthcare to steal children!

Yet, that is the scenario that is being played out in Children's Hospitals every single day, all across America.

Kasandra Ellen, RN, has been a nurse for 14 years. She worked at Phoenix Children's Hospital from 2005 to 2009, and she says that she has seen things there that she never dreamed that she would see.

She is still a nurse, but her beliefs have changed dramatically since she first began practicing. Kasandra Ellen calls herself a "woke nurse," and she now works in a naturopathic clinic.

She told the audience that when she started out as an RN, she was "indoctrinated" just like "many of those who are up in that [Phoenix Children's Hospital] building right now."

She spoke of her time in the hospital:

I can tell you that many children that would come into the ER, if the parents refused a treatment or questioned a treatment, or asked for even a second opinion, CPS was called immediately.

The parents were threatened, intimidated. Basically, they weren't given a choice.

Video no longer available.

She described the situation that prompted the day long rally on Saturday, October 27, 2017, attracting a total of about 200 activists and parents throughout the course of the day: the medical kidnapping situation of a 15-year-old autistic boy, Jonathon Zeek.

Watch the video from his mother Arlena Willis:

https://youtu.be/Oj_BaOJ9K38

Some of the doctors, she says, know what is happening:

I think a lot of these people who are in the healthcare field don't see it. And some of them do. Some of the doctors definitely do.

Part of it is ego – it's like we're in this society where you don't question the doctor. You do what the doctor says, and we're kind of brainwashed with that from the time we're young.

So when you don't question what the doctor says, and then someone actually does, they don't like that. They don't like to

be questioned.

It's almost like a punishment. It's like, "How dare you question me, because 'I'm the doctor,' right? I am like the god-doctor. How dare you question me!"

Dr. Robert Mendelsohn called it "medical heresy" in his 1979 book, [Confessions of a Medical Heretic](#).

Almost 4 decades ago, Dr. Mendelsohn described the very things that nurse Kasandra Ellen spoke of in Phoenix last Saturday.

Watch Dr. Mendelsohn here:

Video no longer available.

Kasandra Ellen continued:

We have been taught, we've been indoctrinated, we've been brainwashed from the time we're little that we listen to what the doctor says. We don't question what the doctor says.

I can tell you after working with them for 14 years we absolutely NEED to question what they say. I've had to stop doctors from making orders that would kill patients, ordering things that they are allergic to or that would interact with other drugs they were taking.

They're not God. They're human. They make mistakes, and they're also very indoctrinated.

The nurse told her audience that she didn't believe at first that doctors and hospitals could actually be taking children from innocent parents:

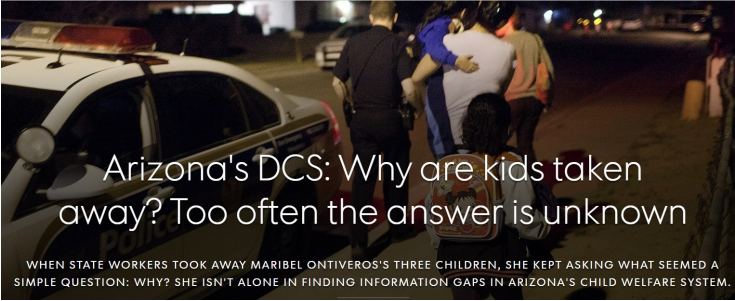
I didn't used to think it was actually real. I was, like, "No way. That doesn't happen. There's got to be a reason they call CPS, right?"

No. It could just be that the doctor didn't like the fact that they were questioned or that they feel they have a parent that they feel they can intimidate, or that doesn't have the means or support to fight back.

And those things are not ok. That's why we're here. That's why I'm here.

Watch Part 2 of her speech:

Video no longer available.



Arizona's DCS: Why are kids taken away? Too often the answer is unknown

WHEN STATE WORKERS TOOK AWAY MARIBEL ONTIVEROS'S THREE CHILDREN, SHE KEPT ASKING WHAT SEEMED A SIMPLE QUESTION: WHY? SHE ISN'T ALONE IN FINDING INFORMATION GAPS IN ARIZONA'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.

[Story here.](#)

[**More on Arizona Medical Kidnapping**](#)

Arizona Attorney General Demands Health Impact News Take Down Story on Medical Kidnapping in Violation of 1st Amendment



Child Protective Services and the State Attorney General's Office do not want the public to know about the medical kidnapping of the Meissinger family's two infant sons, and have demanded that *Health Impact News'* coverage of the

story be taken down. [Read the story we will NOT take down here.](#)

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

In October (2018) we brought you the story of a young couple's situation in Arizona, where both of their infant sons were removed from their family by the Department of Child Safety, Arizona's version of CPS (Child Protection Services).

They lost their first son, Keaton, at 2 months of age after taking him to the doctor shortly after receiving multiple vaccines and becoming sick. A *Child Abuse Pediatrician* at Phoenix Children's Hospital, Dr. Cynthia Nelson, reported that Keaton had been abused based on medical evidence.

And while the parents have not yet been found guilty of any crime in an ongoing investigation, an investigation in which other doctors have allegedly weighed in and disagreed with Dr. Cynthia Nelson, the State of Arizona also removed the Meissinger's second son 48 hours after he was born, simply because there was an open investigation regarding their first baby.

Read the full story here:

[**Arizona Parents Falsely Accused of Child Abuse Lose Infant Son - Have 2-Day-Old Newborn Also Medically Kidnapped**](#)



Arizona Assistant Attorney General Colleen O'Donnell-Smith (second from left) is demanding that *Health Impact News* take down their story about the [Medical Kidnapping of the Meissinger babies](#). [Image from Facebook](#).

This story has drawn national attention, and *Health Impact News* recently received an email from the mother, Briana, explaining that the Arizona Attorney General office was demanding that we take down their story:

I have been instructed by the Assistant Attorney General (Colleen O'Donnell-Smith) to write you a formal letter to request the removal of the article that was published about our family and children; the AAG stated that I am to request this because the article contains information that violates confidential information of the case.

So, this email is being sent to suffice the request of a formal request to remove the article from the website [Medicalkidnap.com](#).

I would like to clarify and have in writing that all communication that was provided to you, was given to you by myself, and that you never had contact nor were you ever supplied any information by my husband, Jordan Meissinger, so that if there are any consequences incurred for our involvement, they fall on me, and me alone- as I am ready to accept responsibility for my actions.

However, I also would like to note that I was not aware that I was violating any laws, rather, practicing and utilizing my 1st ammendment right, and I was not aware speaking about what my family is going through contradicts or disqualifies me of practicing my 1st amendment right.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response on how we can resolve this matter.

*Kind regards,
Briana*

1st Amendment Routinely Violated in State-Sponsored Child Kidnappings When Children go into Foster Care



We have been publishing stories about state-sponsored child kidnappings on our MedicalKidnap.com website for over 4 years now, and this is not the first time we have been told we must remove one of our articles.

We have never complied with these demands and threats, and we are NOT going to start now.

These demands are directed towards traumatized parents while keeping their children captive, and are usually accompanied by an unconstitutional gag order to try and silence the parents.

We have had judges from Arizona in the past make similar demands of *Health Impact News* (see: [Arizona Judges Continue to Threaten Parents and Restrict Free Speech](#), and [10 and 12 Year Old Sisters Seized from Family by Hospital in Phoenix](#)), and the Arizona DCF has made similar demands (see: [Arizona DCF Tries to Stifle Free Speech in Medical Kidnapping Case – Demands Our Stories of Coumpy Family be Taken Down](#)).

However, I believe this is the first time that a State Attorney General has made such a demand.

Here is a description of the office of Attorney General as defined by the [Arizona State Attorney General Website](#):

The Attorney General serves as the chief legal officer of the State. The Attorney General is mandated by our constitution and elected to a four-year term by the people of Arizona.

The Attorney General's Office is the largest law office in the State. The Office is divided into:

- *Criminal Division*
- *State Government Division*
- *Child and Family Protection Division*
- *Civil Litigation Division*
- *Solicitor General's Office*
- *Communications Division*
- *Operations*

Mark Brnovich is the current Arizona Attorney General, elected into office by the people of Arizona.

Arizona Assistant Attorney General Colleen O'Donnell-Smith apparently works in the [Child and Family Protection Division, Durango Unit #2](#). She is a public servant, and can apparently be [contacted here](#).

The Attorney General Office [contact page is here](#).

Attorneys working within the office of the State Attorney General office should be well-versed in the U.S. Constitution, and specifically the First Amendment which protects Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press.

By intimidating parents whose children are held in captivity by the State, and demanding that they not speak out against any alleged abuse happening with the abduction of their children, is a clear violation of the intent and purpose of the First Amendment contained in the Bill of Rights.

Here is part of the text of the Preamble of the Bill of Rights, stating the purpose of these “rights:”

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

Clearly, the Bill of Rights, and other amendments to the U.S. Constitution that followed, were intended to protect citizens of the United States from abuses in government.

Here is the First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the

people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

So on what basis do government officials intimidate parents and members of the press like us, trying to silence us, which appears to be such a blatant violation of the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment?

Most states have passed some kind of “confidentiality law” which is used as justification to keep proceedings in family or juvenile courts secret, away from public scrutiny.

However, just because a State Law is on the books allowing officials to intimidate and silence parents and/or members of the Press, does not mean that the law is Constitutional. Many, if not most, of these laws could probably be challenged in Federal courts as to their Constitutionality with very favorable outcomes.

The law we have seen usually referred to in Arizona is the [Arizona Revised Statutes Title 8](#) on “Child Safety.”

The section on “Confidentiality” is [8-542](#):

A. It is unlawful, except for purposes for which files and records or social records or parts of or information from files and records or social records have been released pursuant to section 8-541, or except for purposes permitted by order of the court, for any person to knowingly disclose, receive or make use of, or authorize, knowingly permit, participate in or acquiesce in the use of, any information involved in any proceeding under this article directly or indirectly derived from the files, records, reports or other papers compiled pursuant to this article or acquired in the course of the

performance of official duties.

B. A person who knowingly discloses information in violation of this section is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor.

C. This section does not prohibit persons employed by the court, the division or a licensed child welfare agency from conducting the investigations or performing other duties pursuant to this article and done within the normal course of their employment.

We have had multiple reports over the years from parents who claim that they have been threatened with jail time if they do not comply with a gag order, or refuse to take down a website or Facebook Page that contains pictures of their children who are now in Foster Care.

And while to our knowledge no judge has of yet followed through with implementing that threat (maybe because they know it is not Constitutional?), how many parents in Arizona know that the law states this particular “offense” is only a “class 2 misdemeanor?”

What about section C of 8-542 where the law states:

“This section does not prohibit persons employed by the court, the division or a licensed child welfare agency from conducting the investigations or performing other duties pursuant to this article and done within the normal course of their employment.”

What is the purpose of this section, and how is it used?

Double Standards: Parents May not Post Pictures or Information About Their Own Children, but State Agencies Can for the Purpose of Adoption

Whether justified by 8-542 section C or not, it is easy to see the double standards of imposing gag orders against parents and demanding that news organizations like *Health Impact News* remove any photos or information about children in Foster Care, when State agencies do that very exact same thing.

Here is a screenshot from a tax-payer funded [Arizona government website](#), where anyone can basically put in an order for a child to adopt, based on search criteria:



Search AdoptUSKids

Search

Search the database of children available for adoption using the search methods below.

General Characteristics

Gender:

What is the minimum number of children you would accept?

What is the maximum number of children you would accept?

Youngest age acceptable:

Oldest age acceptable:

Racial composition: Do not search based on race
 Search based on single race
 Search based on multi-racial
 Search children with single or multiple races

Disability Levels

Physical/Medical: None Mild Moderate Severe

Emotional: None Mild Moderate Severe

Behaviors: None Mild Moderate Severe

Developmental: None Mild Moderate Severe

Learning: None Mild Moderate Severe

Limit Search

Video: Search for children with video

Child profile activity: Find children whose profile was updated within the past:

SEARCH

After entering search parameters, results will be shown with pictures (sometimes even videos as well), and a full profile of

the child currently in Foster Care:

Search Results

[← Modify Search Criteria](#)

Showing 1 to 15 of 71

Page 1 of 5 [Next](#) Go to page: [GO](#)



Siblings

Name:	Angel, Rachel, Alyssa
Ages:	13, 12, 10
Gender:	3 female
State:	Arizona
Case #:	SAZ1611234

[View Full Profile](#) →



Siblings

Name:	Sean, Chance
Ages:	9, 8
Gender:	2 male
State:	Arizona
Case #:	SAZ1911404

[View Full Profile](#) →



Siblings

Name:	Damian, Deja "Rose"
Ages:	13, 9
Gender:	1 male, 1 female
State:	Arizona
Case #:	SAZ1611235

[View Full Profile](#) →

And this is just one example. There are many other such sites as well.

So while the State intimidates and threatens parents who post photos and information about their children who have been placed into Foster Care, the State has no qualms about

marketing those same children for adoption, which brings in massive amounts of federal funding.

CPS and Foster Care = Child Trafficking

Billions of taxpayer funds are spent each year on the Child Welfare system, which employs hundreds of thousands of people, from Child Abuse Pediatricians to Social Workers to Judges and apparently to Attorney Generals as well, among many, many others.

We have documented much over the years about the abuses of this system, which MUST take children away from their families in order to survive and receive government funds, and has basically become a Child Trafficking System.

And as long as the 1st Amendment still stands, we will continue to expose this evil system that is destroying lives and families.

To learn more 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](#)

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

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

Child Sex Trafficking through Child “Protection”
Services Exposed – Kidnapping Children for Sex

Arizona's Double Standards: Requirements Higher for Biological Parents to Keep Their Children at Home than for Foster Parents to Take Other People's Children into Their Home

Foster Parents

State says you don't have to be perfect



Homeschool Parents

You children need to be in school



Nation-wide the government advertises for foster and adoptive parents by saying “you don’t have to be perfect,” but biological families can lose their children to Child Protective Services when others don’t like the way they parent, such as disagreeing with doctors, homeschooling, etc.

Commentary by **Terri LaPoint**
Health Impact News

In the course of our research at *Health Impact News*, we often discover medical or governmental policies which may sound good on the surface, but when examined, they expose a blatant double standard.

These policies often hold biological parents to a standard that is not expected of the state actors, whether they be foster parents entrusted with caring for children that don't belong to them, social workers, Guardian ad Litem, or others.

Sometimes such policies are worded so as to appear that they are established in order to ensure the safety and well-being of children, but upon examination, they do the opposite.

One such policy has come to our attention that was established by the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) director Greg McKay.

According to a document on the department's website, DCS must perform background checks on every adult "living in or having access to the home" within 10 days of returning children to their homes when they are to be reunified with their parents. (See [document](#)).



Douglas A. Dukey
Governor

Arizona Department of Child Safety

Gregory McKay
Director

To: DCS All Staff

From: Gregory McKay, Director

Re: Administrative Directive on: Child Safety Assessment

Date: February 24, 2015

Effective February 24th, 2015, the DCS will conduct Criminal Background checks on all adults living in or having access to the home within 10 days prior to the return of a child. Additionally, DCS will conduct a public records search on all adults living in or having access to the home at <http://apps.supremecourt.az.gov/publicaccess>.

This directive is to ensure all possible safety threats have been identified prior to returning a child to their parent/guardian home.

Please ensure that safety decisions are staffed with your supervisor in accordance with policy [Chapter 2: Section 4 Assessment of Child Safety and Risk](#). As always, the Attorney General's office remains a resource for obtaining legal advice. Contact information for the Attorney General's office is below.

This administrative directive is effective February 24th, 2015 and replaces any prior directives on this matter.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHILD AND FAMILY PROTECTION DIVISION
PROTECTIVE SERVICES SECTION

Durango Unit #1	Brett Harames
Durango Unit #2	Colleen O'Donnell-Smith
Mesa Unit	Carey Turner
Gila/Pinal Unit	Dave Wolak
North Unit	Jason Ceola
South Unit	Michelle Nimmo

The stated purpose of the policy is one that most would probably agree sounds noble:

This directive is to ensure all possible safety threats have been identified prior to returning a child to their parent/guardian home.

Everyone wants children to be safe, of course.

But there are several issues that arise with this policy.

Hinders Reunification

As parents all over the United States will attest, it is much easier for a child to be snatched from everyone and everything they know and love than it is for them to be returned to their rightful parents.

Even if children were taken for false allegations (as statistics show most are), Child Protective Services social workers are notorious for creating ever increasing hoops for the parents to jump through in order to get their children back.

In some cases, it is merely an illusion of hope with the carrot of their children's return dangled in front of them, never getting closer, while an increasingly widening circle of "providers" take their bite of the financial pie attached to every child who falls victim to remaining in the system.

Even in cases where children do come home eventually, the reunification process drags out as long as the state can still squeeze another dime out of them for services.

All Adults with Access?

In what other circumstance is every person who "has access to" a home required to undergo a background check?

The same requirement is not placed upon foster or adoptive homes.

What is the standard to be applied?

In any given family or household, there may be a relative or friend with a questionable background that comes into the home, but who does not present a danger to the children as long as they are supervised.

Almost every family, including those of legislators, social workers, attorneys, and judges, has a “crazy uncle” or a black sheep. There are people who did stupid or even bad things in the past who have changed their ways and no longer present a threat.

No Agency or Entity Can Ever Remove All Possible Dangers

Another issue is that it is not truly possible to remove “all possible safety threats” from any home, whether it is a familial home, a foster home, a group home, or a hospital.

It is called “life.”

J.R.R. Tolkien acknowledged this reality in his epic novel trilogy, “The Lord of the Rings.” In the first book of the series, Frodo the hobbit recounts the words of his wise Uncle Bilbo:

“It’s a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door,” he used to say. “You step into the Road, and if you don’t keep your feet, there is no telling where you might be swept off to.”

No doctor, social worker, President, or parent can remove every possible safety threat, no matter how hard we may all try.

But we do the best we can with what we have.

Instead of trying to insulate children from every possible threat, we can equip children and families to deal with the dangers that inevitably arise despite our best efforts.

Foster Parents Do Not Undergo the Same Scrutiny

The most obvious is that the same standard is apparently not applied to the foster and adoptive parents with whom the department places children.

It would seem logical that the stricter standard would be placed upon those that taxpayers pay to care for children taken from their families, while some grace would be extended to biological families.

After all, simply being removed from their homes, no matter the family condition, is in itself traumatic to children. Children have the innate biological, psychological, emotional, social, and spiritual need for their own families that doesn't go away when they are placed with other people.

Even the kindness of a stranger is not as welcome to a child as the love of their own mother, father, and grandparents.

Yet the opposite is true. The looser standard lies with those homes the children are placed into.

Perhaps no story we have covered in the last 4 years illustrates this more clearly than the case of Devani, a child taken from her family at the age of 2.

When we investigated her story, we found that the allegations under which she was taken were not legitimate. But the damage was already done – she was in the system, where she remains to this day.

Samantha Osteraas was approved by Arizona DCS to adopt her. She was recently found guilty after Devani testified that she had held her down in a scalding tub of water, which resulted in the child losing all ten of her toes and undergoing almost 30 surgeries thus far.



Samantha Osteraas stands trial for scalding a child she adopted, causing severe burns over most of her body. Photo [source](#).

There were warnings given to the adoption agency and to the state that she had a history of violence.

Did the DCS background check miss those, or did they even do a background check?

See:

[Arizona Foster Mother Found Guilty of Child Abuse after Scalding Young Devani](#)

Before Samantha and Justin Osteraas adopted her, Devani had been placed by the department into the home of David Frodsham.

He is serving a 17-year prison sentence for running a pornography and pedophilia ring out of his house, using foster children who were placed in his care by the Arizona Department of Child Safety.

According to a [lawsuit](#) against the state of Arizona by a former foster child in the house of horrors whom the department allowed to be adopted by Frodsham:

David Frodsham utilized the State of Arizona and the foster care system to funnel innocent, vulnerable children into his home, so he could run a pedophile ring.

John Doe was sexually and physically abused by David Frodsham countless times both inside and outside the home while Frodsham's wife, Barbara witnessed this abuse, and physically abused John Doe herself.

Mr. Frodsham also acted as John Doe's pimp, prostituting John Doe to other men, for their sexual enjoyment, and for money for himself.

Frodsham often participated in these sexual meetups. Frodsham helped enable a network of pedophiles in the Sierra Vista area and these men participated in further sexual abuse against John Doe.

See:

Arizona Foster Care System Revealed as Pedophile Ring: Former Foster Child Tortured for Years Sues for \$15 Million



David Frodsham / Photo: Sierra Vista PD

David Frodsham, an Arizona foster parent for over 12 years, was arrested and convicted for operating a pornographic pedophile ring based out of his state-approved foster home.

Sadly, this is not unique.

Justice Clearinghouse reports:

According to studies from the State Policy Advocacy Center and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, up to 80% of children/youth who are currently or formerly under foster care become victims of sex trafficking.

The number deviates from city to city, state to state, but it is never acceptable that at some point, eight in ten children in foster care suffer this horrendous experience.

Most of the children who are rescued from child sex trafficking were involved in foster care.

Though there are caring people who foster and adopt, many wicked people go into the industry for less-than-noble purposes.

This past summer we reported a man running for office in the state of Virginia who was quite transparent about the fact that he is a pedophile who advocates adopting children from the system in order to use them as objects for disgusting purposes.

See:

[Publicly Open Pedophile Running for Office in Virginia Reveals How Foster Care is a Pipeline to Adopt Children as “Sex Toys”](#)

Tammi Stefano of the National Safe Child Alliance has

spoken out about the fact that Child Protective Services not only ignores red flags about foster parents, but sometimes outright participates with the child sex trafficking industry.

Stone asked her who CPS was turning these children over to with such “gruesome” statistics.

She told Filmmaker Sean Stone that:

...what she discovered, and what the Los Angeles Times was kind enough to publish, was that 1000 “convicted sex offenders” had been given a “green light” by CPS to become “approved foster parents” just in Los Angeles County.

Child Sex Trafficking through Child “Protection” Services Exposed – Kidnapping Children for Sex

The end result of children being taken by an agency that does not adequately screen providers, but scrutinizes biological families to the point of absurdity, is that children are at least 6 times more likely to be abused, raped, molested, or killed in foster care than they would be in their own homes, often while their social workers turn a blind eye.

Parents who had their children taken from them because they had a medical disagreement or wanted a second opinion have reported seeing obvious signs of abuse in their children when they have visitation, but their concerns are brushed aside or ignored.

Our own interviews with children who have come out of the system reveals that most of them were put into dangerous situations and suffered abuse in foster care, sometimes

horrific abuse, yet they had never been exposed to abuse in their own homes.

Double Standards Abound in CPS System

There is a vast double standard that exists within the Child Welfare system.

Potential foster parents are told that “you don’t have to be perfect to be a perfect parent,” yet biological parents have had their children taken from them, placed in foster care, or adopted out to strangers for being less than perfect.

The reasons can literally be as simple as dirty dishes in the sink or paying a power bill late and getting the electricity turned off.

In our latest Medical Kidnap article, [Arizona Attorney General Demands Health Impact News Take Down Story on Medical Kidnapping in Violation of 1st Amendment](#), we discussed the double standard within Arizona’s DCS department which chastises parents involved in the system for posting photos of their children or information about their case.



Briana and Jordan Meissinger's baby Keaton was vaccinated while he had a cough. When his health declined and he contracted a viral infection, a Child Abuse doctor accused them of Shaken Baby Syndrome. See [story](#) (which we will not take down).

The justification for the rebuke centers on the “privacy” and “confidentiality” rights of the children. Yet, the same department has no qualms about posting photos, videos, and information about the children they have taken when they attempt to sell adopt them out, advertised like puppies on Craigslist.

Note that the policy document that is the subject of this article lists Colleen O’Donnell-Smith as working in the [Child and Family Protection Division, Durango Unit #2](#).

She is the Assistant Attorney General who has demanded that the Meissinger family be silent about how DCS and Phoenix Children’s Hospital medically kidnapped their children.

It is not just Arizona; behaviors that are standard practice for the department are vilified as unacceptable and bad when parents do it. The rights of both parent and child vanish when CPS becomes involved.

Children pay the price when they are ripped away from loving parents who didn’t harm them and placed with strangers who sometimes do not truly have their best interests at heart.

They don’t need politicians or government agencies to do what they THINK is best, because that standard has evolved into little more than what is in the best financial interests of the state that makes a great deal of money by using them as commodities.

What children need is their families who love them.

Arizona Adoptive Mother Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison for Scalding Young Foster Girl Who was Part of Pedophile Ring



Samantha Oстераas at her sentencing hearing. Photo by [Mamta Papat / Arizona Daily Star](#).

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

The Arizona woman convicted of scalding a little girl placed in her care by Child Protective Services has been sentenced to 15 years in prison, followed by 15 years probation.

Samantha Osteraas could have received up to a 30 year sentence at her hearing on December 3, 2018, but Superior Court Judge James Marner of Pima County felt that Osteraas “deserved some leniency,” according to the *Arizona Daily Star*. ([Source.](#))

A group of concerned citizens called the AZ DCS Oversight Group says that they tried to submit a Victim Impact Statement to the court, but were refused. The judge’s clerk threatened to throw the group representative out of the courtroom if the document was distributed, but the group had already given it to various media representatives before giving it to the clerk.

Osteraas was found guilty in October of reckless child abuse for waiting for several hours before calling 911 after then 5-year-old Devani was scalded in the bathtub. Devani suffered 3rd degree burns to more than 70% of her body and had to be placed into a medically induced coma. She lost all 10 of her toes and has undergone 29 surgeries since the crime against her almost 2 years ago. During the trial, Devani, now 7, testified that Osteraas held her down in the bathtub with a pink towel.



Devani – before she was burned over 80% of her body by Samantha Oстераas, the woman permitted to adopt her by DCS. Source – [Justice for Devani Rose](#) Facebook page.

See:

[Arizona Foster Mother Found Guilty of Child Abuse after Scalding Young Devani](#)

Devani’s horrific story spotlights many of the problems of the child protective services system, beginning with the reality that Child Protective Services frequently takes children from non-abusive parents without any evidence of the children being in harm’s way with their parents.

See:

[Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned](#)

[Arizona Places 2 Year Old Child in Foster Pornographic Pedophile Ring – Foster Mom Burns 80% of Her Body](#)

After she was unjustly taken from her family at 2 years of age, the system charged with protecting children repeatedly put the little girl into extremely harmful situations. Among other abusive placements, the Arizona Department of Child Services (DCS) placed her in a house of horrors headed by David Frodsham, who ran a pornographic pedophile ring out of his house using foster children.

See:

[Arizona Foster Care System Revealed as Pedophile Ring: Former Foster Child Tortured for Years Sues for \\$15 Million](#)

After the system terminated parental rights (based partly on her mother's trying to get DSS to stop allowing Devani to be a victim of sexual abuse in the foster home), DSS placed her for adoption with Samantha Oстераas and Justin Oстераas.

The placements were approved by the Guardian ad Litem Thea Gilbert, an attorney who is supposed to represent the best interests of the child. Gilbert has been involved with Devani since the beginning of her DSS experience. To this day, Thea Gilbert has not been removed from Devani's case, nor have there been any consequences for her poor judgement in placing the child repeatedly in harmful

situations.



Thea Gilbert – court-appointed attorney for Devani. Photo [source](#).

With both Frodsham and Oстераas, there were clear indications of problems before children were placed with them. To date, there has been no explanation or apology from DSS or the GAL for missing these signs. Frodsham’s record from his military service in Afghanistan shows that he was disciplined for sexual misconduct. The adoption agency was notified by family members that Oстераas had a history of instability and violence.

Reasons Given for Leniency in Sentencing

The defense attorney for Samantha Oстераas, Jeffrey Rogers, argued that she had suffered herself as a product of the foster care system itself. According to the *Arizona Daily Star*:

...she was physically and sexually abused by her father and that both of her parents neglected her due to drug addiction. Osteraas was removed from her parents' care at age 2 and their rights to her were terminated when she was 6.

"She made the decision to become a foster parent herself because of that," Rogers said. ([Source.](#))



Defense attorney Jeffrey Rogers. Photo by [KOLD News 13](#).

Instead of getting the help she obviously needed to deal with her personal trauma, she continued the cycle of abuse – this time on an innocent child that she adopted from foster care. After adopting Devani, she changed her name to Madison Osteraas.

The Sun reports that Samantha Osteraas read a prepared statement at the sentencing hearing in which she said that

none of what “Madison” suffered was “her fault.” She told the court:

I want you to know I take full responsibility for anything that could have caused my daughter to be injured. ([Source.](#))

Judge Marner considered Samantha Osteraas’s difficult background in sentencing her. The *Arizona Daily Star* reports that the judge “agonized for days” as he tried to determine her sentence, considering factors listed in the defense attorney’s report such as the fact that her husband has filed for divorce and their 3 biological children, as well as Devani, have been placed into foster care.

The maximum sentence that Osteraas could have received was 24 years. The minimum was 10.

[Judge] Marner said giving her less than 17 years wasn’t easy when he considered how horribly the child suffered and how much she would continue to suffer through more surgeries to deal with the burns.

But the judge told Osteraas that as he recovered from the flu over the weekend, he kept thinking about the case, about the child and about her. He said at times he wished he could sentence her to 30 years or more, and other times he wished it could be less than 10. ([Source.](#))

Devani’s biological families and her advocates wish that the judge would have taken into consideration the Victim Impact Statement composed by the AZ DCS Oversight Group.

Victim Impact Statement – Not Heard in Court

Here is that statement in its entirety:

December 3, 2018

Judge James Marner,

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT: WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

This girl who was renamed M.O. at age 5, was seized on April 17, 2013 by Child Protective Services from her real parents without warrant, emergency or due process of the law. Although DCS continue to smear and cast blame on her real parents this child was NEVER harmed by any member of her birth family. They adored her and she adored them, she and her real parents, Michelle and Jon were deeply bonded.



Devani's real mother, Michelle Tremor-Calderon, never

abused her. Photo credit: [David Wallace/The Republic](#).

It is an indisputable fact that when CPS later named DCS seized this child there wasn't a mark on her body. It is also an indisputable fact that this child's suffering in the hands of foster care providers began immediately upon seizure into foster care just a few days shy of her second birthday.

There were four disastrous foster care placements including the Samatha Osteraas who changed the name of Michelle and Jon's daughter's to M.O.. Within two weeks of her seizure from her real parents this child showed signs of abuse. Her parents were the only ones who came forward to report scratches, bruises and bite marks. Michelle took pictures of her daughter injuries and called the police when DCS operatives and contractors did nothing to protect their precious daughter.

After removal from foster care placement #1 to foster care placement #2 in Sierra Vista, into the home of David and Barbara Frodsham, Jon and Michelle repeatedly reported their daughter had developed an 8 month long urinary tract infection and an inexplicable fear of unfamiliar men ...Their daughter did not fear her real father because, she would fly into her real father and mother's arms as soon as she could get out of her carseat at her two hour monitored visits at Casa de Los Ninos in Tucson.

This was the child's behavior as reported by her driver after the long 90 mile trip from foster care on Sunflower Street in Sierra Vista. And, when those visits were over the same female driver reported their daughter cried inconsolably when it was time for her to leave her beloved parents to be returned to the Frodsham's. In a sworn statement the female driver reported the little girl cried herself to sleep on the long

drive back to the Frodsham's home.

Frodsham's home was later found to be a full fledged pedophile ring, producing child pornography. Repeated complaints of battery, starvation and rape from children to their CPS case workers that were ignored.

Michelle begged DCS to investigate and protect her daughter and as DCS did nothing, Michelle called South Tucson police when DCS would not act to protect her daughter. Michelle was excoriated by DCS and lost her rights to her daughter for interfering in her daughter's foster care placements.

DCS did not explain to Judge K.C. Stanford that Michelle's daughter was being abused and that her parents and grandmother were the only ones fighting to protect her as Stanford ordered severance of Michelle's parental rights.

Foster care placement #3 resulted in a goose egg sized bump on the little girls head and an introduction to the Osteraas family after Mr. Frodsham was found drunk with M.O. and a child she called Kinsy in the back seat of Frodsham's car. He left the two toddlers alone as he picked up his check at the DCS office in Sierra vista.

Mr. Frodsham was charged by ICE, Homeland Security and the FBI nine moths later, on October 1, 2015 for his crimes against children.

On October 8, 2015, Michelle's parental rights were severed. Jon the target of DCS, to absolve themselves of their own negligence and refusal to report suspected sexual abuse of M.O. ... gave up his rights to his daughter in hopes Michelle could regain custody ... but to no avail.

At the termination of Michelle's parental rights the Osteraases were in the back of the courtroom. Samantha Osteraas looked at Michelle with the same rank disdain as has DCS displayed against her though out all proceedings even this proceeding.

Michelle and Jon were not even allowed to take a glimpse of their daughter through the crack in the courtroom door as their daughter testified against the woman who submerged their daughter in a bath of hot water causing grave injury to THEIR CHILD! The real family tried to see their child and were denied entrance to the hospital as she lay gravely ill hanging by a thread to her life and isolated from all that she ever knew and loved. And when she testified they were removed from the courtroom. They huddled down as not to distract their daughter but Jon and Michelle were literally dying to lay eyes on their little girl.

Civil rights attorney Shawn Macmillan (Quote from his opening statement, court transcript) –

“Nobody, nobody especially the government is above the law. The County of Los Angeles, they know that sizing a child from his parent without getting a warrant accept in an emergency violates the United States Constitution and harms not only the parent. You'll hear this in the evidence. It also harms the child. County also knows that doing a bad, a biased, a shoddy investigation, not following procedures, not properly supervising its workers, it could cause a parent to lose their child. Potentially forever. (Transcript from Duval vs. County of Los Angeles January, 2016 winning jury trial)

If there were a proper warrant procedure in this state this child, M.O. would never have suffered all that she suffered. She did not need to be removed from her family. When the notion sets in that the minds and the bodies of children are

worth protecting instead of the harvesting and monetizing of children into adoption schemes then this state will be a better and safer place to raise our children. We ask that this child be reintegrated into her real family so that she knows it was DCS that has isolated her from those she loves and that her real family who love her with all their hearts did not abandon her.

FOR THE FAMILY AND A DEEPLY CONCERNED COMMUNITY.

KOLD News 13 reports that the attorney for Samantha Osteraas intends to file for appeal. ([Source.](#))

Listen to an interview below with Beth Breen, the driver contracted with CPS to transport Devani between the Frodshams' home and visits with her parents.

<https://youtu.be/AN2BML9mbcg>

Arizona Twin Boys Suffering from Environmental Illness Medically Kidnapped from Parents Feeding them Organic Diet



Twin Boys Taken From Their Parents Due To Food Intolerances, Accusing “Neglect”

by [BECKY PLOTNER](#)
[Nourishing Plot](#)

Six-year-old twin boys in Mesa, Arizona were taken into custody by the Department of Children Services (DCS) for “Neglect” due to food intolerances. Both boys have had a lot of chemical and food sensitivities their whole lives, starting from when they were weaned from breastfeeding.

“We have constantly struggled with their food sensitivities,

one step forward, two steps back,” Jessica, acupuncturist and mother of the twin boys says.

From very early on, both boys suffered with joint pain, irritability, headaches, horribly dark circles under their eyes, swelling all over the body, difficulty sleeping, heel pain, itching, rashes that got so bad they turned purple and great bloating.



The family removed different foods such as wheat and other processed foods, switching to a real food diet so popular today that it was thoroughly explained in a recent documentary on Netflix called “The Magic Pill”.

Their problems subsided until they were literally thriving with no negative issues. They began taking tennis lessons, taekwondo and playing at the local playground regularly.

Looking at the boys, you wouldn't be able to tell anything was different about them from any other healthy child. They continued to thrive on their foods, growing taller, gaining

weight and participating in scheduled activities. They were elated and spent their days filled with laughter and play.

They continued to get more and more healthy, while introducing more foods, according to what foods didn't cause negative reactions. This continued for over two years.







The boys started at a local charter school in August of 2018. Shortly thereafter, they experienced great change in their bodies. They felt yucky overall, suffered from joint pain, weakness in their muscles and headaches. The problems escalated.

Jessica, the boys' mother, was in close communication with their teachers. They navigated the potential factors together including possible ingested foods, perfumes, cleaning products, pesticides and many other potential factors.

Due to the pains and specifically a fall at school on the playground for one of the boys, the parents scheduled a visit to an orthopedist.

Healing took longer than expected, incorporating more and more visits to the orthopedist where they were told to just give it more time.

As concerned parents, they went to Phoenix Children's Hospital for a second opinion where they agreed with the schedule of treatment. The child who fell, experienced such

pain that he was unable to stand and was put in a wheelchair for over a month.

The other boy also had a fall at school, tripping over a child on the floor when the teacher was absent from the room. This fall injured his knee so the parents took him to Phoenix Children's Hospital where he was diagnosed with a severe bruise on the end of his femur. Rest was advised, so he was also given a wheelchair.



This means both boys were in wheelchairs and still attending school for roughly one month, where they continued to decline in stability, suffered from increased pains and began having cold after cold.

After much detective work from Jessica, overturning every possible cause, the biggest concern came down to the 30 kids in the classroom using dry erase markers on white boards.

Other factors could have been pesticides, herbicides and cleaning chemicals.

The potential side effects of dry erase makers and the dry erase maker cleaners included every one of their symptoms. The boys were pulled from school and began homeschooling. This method fitted them better as they were ahead in their schoolwork in class and could advance at their own pace.

They visited a neurologic rehabilitation center while they were waiting for many months for an appointment with a neurologist.

Their hopes were to find help with the pains. Both boys were struggling, one more than the other. Facial swelling began and went, began and went.

They visited their chiropractor, osteopath and continued to see their naturopath, chiropractor and MD Functional Medicine Doctor, as their support tools were what historically worked best for the boys. Each practitioner said the symptoms were consistent with liver signs.

Nutritional labs showed micronutrients at the cellular level were all within optimal ranges. The pains and weaknesses continued to overwhelm the child, heart pain and a change in his breathing pattern concerned the parents greatly.

They took the boy to the Cardon Children's Medical Center. Staff told the parents they did not have concerns regarding the boys and sent them home.

Two days after being sent home the parents saw continued swelling in their son with lethargy so they took him to Cardon Children's Medical Center Emergency Room.

Emergency Room staff was told there was chemical exposure at school with subsequent edema and lethargy. After finding out he did not eat a Standard American Diet, and wasn't recovering as quickly as he should, the Emergency Room Doctor made a complaint to DCS.

The boy was admitted to the hospital for further testing, to the PICU, telling the parents that since they were going into the weekend he would get better care in the PICU, not that he needed the ICU.

After many, many, many tests pre-albumen levels were abnormal showing protein wasn't being absorbed properly, but albumen levels were fine.

This is consistent in those with Intestinal Permeability, AKA Leaky Gut, which they already knew the boys had from many years earlier. Again, both boys were thriving on organic meats, organic vegetables, collagen, grass fed animal fats, marrow bones, organ meats, avocado and other foods.

After numerous tests finding no real cause for the boy's struggle, DCS visited their home, after 10 pm, to interview the twin brother and visited the mother, father, doctors and child in the hospital.

They put him on levothyroxin, a synthetic thyroid medication. They insisted more food needed to be given to the child in the hospital, that he was malnourished.

The only test showing anything regarding malnutrition was the pre-albumen level, low blood sugar and electrolytes upon admission as the child hadn't eaten prior to admittance.

While in the hospital the parents continued to run home, cook food and bring their food to the hospital, juggling each of their jobs. The hospital insisted the child be fed more, threatening they would put him on a feed tube.

Jessica continued to increase his intake of food to the point where the few days prior to when they took custody of both boys citing “neglect”, he was fed continually through the day.

At that time his food intake included: **breakfast** – 6 New Zealand lamb meatballs, 3 turkey meatballs, 2 tablespoons mashed potatoes, 2 teaspoons beets, 1 teaspoon carrots with the skins, 5 ounces of water, **lunch** – 11 New Zealand lamb meatballs, 1/3 of a cup of potatoes, 1/8 of cup of lentils, 1/4 hard boiled egg yolk, **dinner**– 2 teaspoons mashed potatoes, 6 New Zealand lamb meatballs, 4 lamb meatballs, 3 teaspoons baked apple, **snacks** – 2 tablespoons carrots, 1 tablespoons beets, 5 New Zealand lamb meatballs, lamb meat stock, 1 tablespoon rutabaga, 2 tablespoons carrots, 1 tablespoon beets, 2 New Zealand lamb meatballs and 1/4 of a yolk.

They insisted this wasn’t enough food because he didn’t gain weight over the prior three days. Since the parents were abiding by the orders, they were pushing foods that were generally not tolerated.

This resulted in itching, red rash, crying, fussiness, irritation, anger, bloating, restlessness, and he began to stop sleeping from the hours of 1 am to 5 am. These responses grew to constant itching, the rash turned an angry purple and grew to cover most of his torso and he stopped sleeping. The child spent most of the day crying.





When the reactions were brought to the attention of the hospital staff and doctor, they said they weren't concerned unless it was an anaphylactic reaction and specifically saying,

“Food can’t cause these reactions. We are to ignore any reaction that isn’t anaphylactic.”

His regular food intake was easily tripled to appease the staff. Jessica was measuring every morsel of food, calculating every calorie which far exceeded 2,000 calories for the 6-year-old. Since he didn’t gain weight in the last three days **they blamed the mother accusing her of refusing him food.**

DCS took custody of both boys two weeks after one was admitted to the hospital. The parents were still allowed to visit the son in the hospital but were required to leave while he ate.

The first meal he was given from the hospital cafeteria “for more balanced nutrition” was a muffin and piece of sausage. After his dinner meal, the parents came back into his room and asked their son what he had for dinner which resulted in them getting kicked out of the hospital.

They were escorted from the hospital by security, the husband was threatened to be put in handcuffs.

The parents were told they were taking custody of the boys due to medical neglect.

They said the boys were in pain due to abuse from the parents.

The mother was blamed of refusing him food, denying him food when he asked. She was **accused of keeping him in pain** since she said he doesn’t tolerate Tylenol.

The mother was also accused of being argumentative

because she continued to bring him food from home instead of allowing him to eat from the hospital cafeteria.

The hearing on this case will be held in two days.

To express your concerns, fear of taking your own kids to a doctor and questions regarding this situation, call Sarah Kramer at the DCS Field Office for Mesa, Arizona (480) 659-6364 or send an email to sarah.kramer@azdcs.gov and call Sarah Mendez at 480-659-6648 regarding the twin boys Dylan and Kenan.

If you have the time to make three calls, do the same with Cardon Children's Medical Center (480) 412-5437.

If this happens to them, it can happen to us. If we speak up offering our thoughts, they may let these children come back to their parents.

An advocate has told the parents that this situation is becoming more and more common and children are often held. She also said that parents usually receive a gag order for raising awareness.

This is not a situation to sit by and see what happens, it's a call to action.

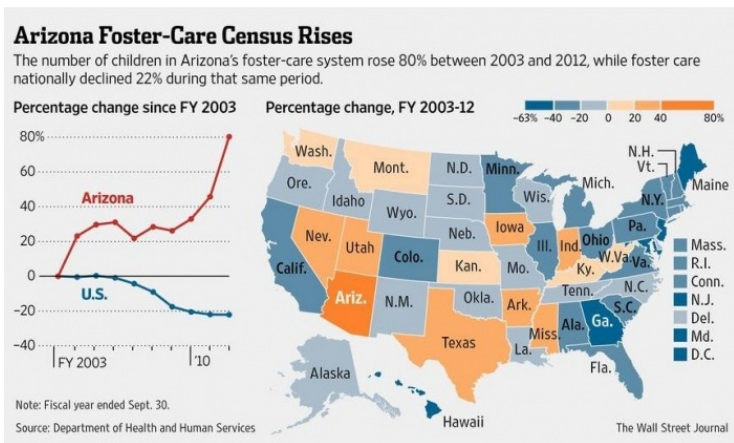
[Click here to hear mom's words on the situation.](#)

Video no longer available.

Read the full article at NourishingPlot.com.

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Is Arizona a Hub of Child Sex Trafficking? Why does Arizona Take the Highest Percentage of Children from their Homes?



by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

It has been [well-documented](#) that the State of Arizona removes children from their homes and places them in foster care at a rate that is higher than any other state in the U.S. See:

[Arizona's Exploding Foster Care Intake: Kids sleeping in State Office Buildings](#)

In 2015, Arizona House Democrats [wrote a letter](#) to the governor asking why this rate continues to increase, and has reached a rate of 1 out of every 100 children in Arizona is in

foster care. See:

**Arizona Continues Record Pace of Taking
Children out of Homes into State Custody - Now
1 of every 100 Children in Foster Care**



ARIZONA REPUBLIC

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 R1

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2008

The Legislature broadens the definition for when CPS can remove a child for neglect.

2009

The Legislature slashes the division's funding, leading to hundreds of layoffs at CPS.

2012

A record number of children are in foster care and case backlogs are still rising, despite high-level reviews and scrutiny.

Nov. 2013

6,000 reports of child abuse and neglect are found labeled not investigated, on top of a growing backlog of other cases.

May 2014

The Legislature approves and Gov. Brewer signs a law creating the new Department of Child Safety, with Charles Flanagan as director; some funding is restored.

Feb. 2015

New Gov. Doug Ducey fires Flanagan and replaces him with Greg Mickey.

Feb. 2016

The number of children in foster care peaks at more than 19,000.

Sept. 2016

As the fiscal year ends, DCS has removed just eight children more than in fiscal 2015.

CHILD WELFARE IN ARIZONA

Every 40 minutes, an Arizona child is removed from his or her home. We're still asking,

Why?



BOB ORTEGA

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

When Arizona workers refused to let Maribel Ontiveros see her son Christopher at the hospital, then came to her house three days later, at 3:30 in the morning, to take away her other two children, she kept asking what seemed a simple question: Why?

More than a year later, she's still asking. Ontiveros and her common-law husband, Antonio Garcia, a house painter, had never had any run-ins with the police or child-welfare workers before they took their son Christopher, then 13, to Phoenix Children's Hospital in August 2015. They hoped doctors could figure out why he'd started having debilitating panic attacks. The hospital kept the boy for observation. But after several daily visits to Christo-

See DCS, Page 20A

About this series

This is the first in a series of investigative articles on Arizona's child-welfare system. Read more at investigations.azcentral.com.

An Arizona state caseworker escorts a family with the help of Phoenix police.

NICK OZATH/THE REPUBLIC

In 2017, reporter Bob Ortega ran a series of articles on the state of Child Welfare in Arizona in the *Arizona Republic*.

The front page of a January Sunday edition (seen above) of the *Arizona Republic* had a photo with this inscription:

“Every 40 minutes, an Arizona child is removed from his or her home. We’re still asking, Why?”

See:

[Arizona Medical Kidnapping Exposed in Mainstream Media Report](#)



David Frodsham / Photo: Sierra Vista PD.

In 2017, *Health Impact News* reported on the arrest of Arizona foster parent David Frodsham, who allegedly ran a child pornographic and pedophile ring out of his state-approved foster home.



Devani.

After he was arrested, one of his foster children, Devani, was placed into another state-approved foster home where 80% of her body was burned by scalding water, forcing the amputation of her toes. See:

Arizona Places 2 Year Old Child in Foster Pornographic Pedophile Ring – Foster Mom Burns 80% of Her Body

Another boy who was part of his foster home aged out of the system at 18, and filed a lawsuit for \$15 million for years of torture and sexual abuse. See:

Arizona Foster Care System Revealed as Pedophile Ring: Former Foster Child Tortured for Years Sues for \$15 Million

Why are these horrific situations allowed to continue in Arizona? Why was it necessary to bring in federal agents in the arrest of David Frodsham? Is there something going on in Arizona preventing local authorities from dealing with what appears to be a massive child trafficking system?

**Maria Hoffman: Director of the Arizona
Legislative Office of Family Advocacy**



Maria Hoffman

Image from [Arizona State University website](#). (Page has now been removed apparently.)

In 2014, *Health Impact News* editor Brian Shilhavy wrote an article about Maria Hoffman, the “Director of the Arizona Legislative Office of Family Advocacy.” See:

Why is the Arizona “Family Advocate” Threatening People Asking About Children in State Custody?

Several Arizona families whose stories we had published on our MedicalKidnap.com website had complained about their dealings with Ms. Hoffman.

Hoffman is not an elected official, but a contractor for the State of Arizona who reports directly to the President of the Senate. It is reported that all lawmakers in Arizona, whether in the House or the Senate, are told to not deal with any of their constituents’ concerns about their children being removed from their home and placed into State custody, but to refer all of these matters to her only.

If a parent or anyone else tries to contact Hoffman about a case, we have been told that she refuses to discuss the case and uses threats and intimidation to try and silence anyone questioning a child welfare case.

In 2014, [we published](#) an email exchange between a child advocate in Massachusetts trying to help a young mother get her daughters back and Maria Hoffman which confirmed this practice was going on:

From: Kristi Devine

Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 12:28 PM

To: Maria Hoffman

Subject: Urgent Matter

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

In accordance with any number of emails you have sent out, you are THE liaison between "... all 'children and family issues' for all members of the Arizona Senate." You go on to say that "the people" have no right to petition legislators in the state of Arizona for anything unless they have a premonition of what is to happen, because, according to you, once anything egregious happens, there is no recourse to petition legislators as it is in the courts. That begs the question, why do you have any such job function when there is nothing to that job, and all people are shut down before they have reason to petition legislators?

I also question your job function in the wake of the fact that now, and long before, Arizona has had unbelievable and unconscionable problems with it's CPS/DCF agency. They have been funded hundreds of millions of dollars to care for the children in their system, and yet nobody is held accountable for anything, most especially, wrongdoing that amounts to child abuse in state custody. WHO do "the people" petition their grievances to for the following when children in Arizona are being kidnapped by the state, by the very agency the Governor saw fit to abolish because it is so out of control?

CPS is breaking their own rules every single day in ways that are destroying families throughout the state, and causing far reaching and long lasting damages to Arizona's most important, and most vulnerable, the children . . . Arizona's and America's future! Moreover, THEY ARE BREAKING ARIZONA'S LAWS!!!

- 1. CPS never filled the oversight panel.*
- 2. CPS is not following their own laws such as holding a trial within 90 days.*
- 3. Children are being abused while under the state's care.*
- 4. Arizona is taking so many children right now that there is no room to house them and they are sleeping in CPS offices.*

(This is stated to be over 32 children a day!)

- 5. Parents are screaming foul play as rights are being terminated without trials.*
- 6. Out of state (unlicensed in this state), specialists are being hired to testify against parents at the taxpayers expense.*
- 7. Children are being entered into drug trials, being starved without their feeding tubes and forced to have bone marrow transplants by local hospitals.*
- 8. Judges are teaching judges that money is more important than returning the children (so make sure you check the right box so that the state can get federal funds to rip children out of loving homes with no investigation or evidence before doing so!)*
- 9. A billionaire scientist is behind a new super computer at Phoenix Children's hospital, which happens to be the hospital that is taking the most children in Arizona.*
- 10. Arizona takes more children than any other state in the country.*
- 11. Parents are gagged, and/or being threatened to be gagged, or arrested for speaking out on what is happening to their own families and children.*
- 12. There are financial incentives to adopt children out, and away from their loving families.*
- 13. Phoenix Children's Hospital gets \$865 every time they turn a child over to CPS.*

The list goes on and on, and every citizen of Arizona's rights, most especially parental and free speech rights, is under attack. You are not only saying there is no recourse, but are even threatening JAIL for those that speak out, and seek recourse from our legislators, and JAIL for the legislators themselves:

Again, (you say) this is a judicial matter, a federal matter, and that is why no member of the Arizona Senate or a member of the Arizona House of Representatives or the

governor can get involved—that would be against our Arizona Constitution regarding “separation of powers” and against our Arizona laws and a judge would have the right to have any elected official who tries to investigate or get involved to hold that person “in contempt of court”. The fine for that could be jail time, a financial fine or a combination of the two.

And so I ask you, how do the people of Arizona speak out against wrongs and even government officials who are breaking the LAW, and how do they protect their children against the abuse and assault on them by these law breakers? What exactly do you suggest “we the people” to do in the face of such tyranny, government sanctioned kidnapping, and the destruction of families?

The Revolution was over Tea and Taxes. We seek more peaceful remedies over an assault far greater, i.e., an assault by the government on Families and Children. Please advise on how we may STOP this carnage. You seem to provide no options, and I still believe in AMERICA!

Sincerely,

Kristi L. Devine

Hoffman’s reply:

From: Maria Hoffman

To: Kristi Devine

Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 3:51 PM

Subject: RE: Urgent Matter

Ms. Devine: I am not a legislator—the 90 members of the

Arizona Legislature—30 members of the Senate—and 60 members of the Arizona House of Representatives—make the laws.

If a bill passes out of both chambers, then the bill goes to the Governor. The Governor can veto the bill, sign the law or let it become a law without her signature.

The Legislature does not go back into session until the second Monday of January and in most cases, the bills usually go up to the Governor between May to June, which means if the bill is to become law, then it usually won't take effect until September—in other words, September of 2015.

I do not make laws.

And, once a Superior Court Judge signs a motion/petition from the Attorney General's Office to place a child into state custody, if the Judge signs the motion/petition to place the child in state custody, then the child is in protective custody of the Judge.

Only a Superior Court Juvenile Judge can close a case and return a child to the parent(s) or sever the child from the parent(s) and decide who adopts.

Once any matter involves a Judge of any type—a City Magistrate, a JP, a Superior Court Judge, a Court of Appeals Judge, a Supreme Court Justice—NO elected official in Arizona at any level—and this includes the Governor, members of the Arizona Legislature, a Mayor, a member of a County Board of Supervisors, etc.—can intervene in, investigate or change a decision made by a Judge.

Our Arizona laws and our Arizona constitution do not allow

any intervention of any kind or change of a judicial decision by an elected official—that would be against the law.

I want to advise you on another matter. You are putting in writing statements regarding a current Superior Court Judicial matter—you are in violation of the state law regarding stating confidential matters about a state dependency matter in Superior Court/Juvenile Division. You can be held in contempt of court by the Superior Court Judge and a person doing this can be subject to a fine, jail time and/or a combination of the two.

Maria Hoffman

Ms. Devine's reply (in part):

With regard to your claim that “You are putting in writing statements regarding a current Superior Court Judicial matter—you are in violation of the state law regarding stating confidential matters about a state dependency matter in Superior Court/Juvenile Division. You can be held in contempt of court by the Superior Court Judge and a person doing this can be subject to a fine, jail time and/or a combination of the two.”

I seek clarification for how I, or others seeking answers and transparency could be found in contempt of court when we are neither under any unconstitutional gag order, or writing statements regarding any particular case currently in Superior Court, but rather, ALL cases where children have been unjustly taken from their loving families.

Health Impact News also contacted someone who formerly

worked in the Arizona Legislature and has had dealings with Ms. Hoffman in the past, to ask about some of the allegations made about Ms. Hoffman, and the threatening manner in which she addressed Ms. Devine.

Here is what that person, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated:

As a representative of elected officials, she is standing in the way of accountability with elected officials and agencies. Hoffman threatens that Kristi and others who question her and the system are breaking state law and can be held in contempt, without backing it up by citing the law. Where is that "law"?

She is intimidating people with threats of contempt. But we don't need a lesson in government; we know how it works.

Where is the accountability for Hoffman? She is part of what appears to be a cover-up. She is acting as a barrier to truth and transparency. The system seems to be hiding something, but Hoffman is hindering those trying to learn what it is.

Is the agency being held accountable? Parents can't fight for themselves in this kangaroo court. Checks and balances are needed, and that IS the job of the legislative branch. The judges aren't elected.

Apparently not much, if anything, has changed since we published this in 2014, as *Health Impact News* has learned that Maria Hoffman has been under contract for the same position, *Director of the Arizona Legislative Office of Family Advocacy*, since 2014, and is currently under contract through June 30, 2019.



Arizona State Senate

AGREEMENT

The Arizona State Senate (Senate) agrees to retain Maria Hoffman (Consultant), as a Senate DCS Constituent Services Consultant, subject to the following terms and conditions:


1. The Consultant shall work under the direction of the President of the Senate, and report to the Chief of Staff or designee.
2. This agreement shall commence on July 1, 2018 and terminate on June 30, 2019.
3. The Senate shall pay the Consultant for her services at a rate of \$4,500 a month.
4. Serve as a DCS Constituent Service Consultant by working the cases delegated to the Consultant from the Senate's Constituent Services Office. The Consultant must work in coordination with DCS Office regarding DCS cases. The consultant must use the Senate's tracking system to document pertinent information, maintain communication with the constituents and families, with DCS and with any other pertinent key stakeholders by interfacing for purposes of gathering critical information regarding delegated cases. The Consultant will report the status of the delegated cases on the 27th of each month to the President of the Senate or their designee.
5. Consultant may attend appropriate legislative committee hearings as needed, but will refrain from any involvement in judicial proceedings on behalf of a constituent.
6. The Consultant will disclose any and all other contracts to the Senate President.
7. An office in the Senate building will be provided.
8. As an independent contractor, Consultant is not considered an employee of the State of Arizona or of the Senate. Consultant is not eligible for State employee participation in State insurance or retirement programs. Consultant is responsible for reporting compensation paid and payment of all taxes and other required deductions on such compensation.
9. The Consultant or the President may terminate this agreement with or without cause at any time by giving the other party (20) working days' advance notice.
10. This agreement is subject to cancellation pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 38-511, provisions of which are incorporated herein.
11. Any modification or waiver of this agreement must be in writing and is not valid unless signed by both parties.



President Steve Yarborough

6/12/18

Date



Maria Hoffman, Consultant

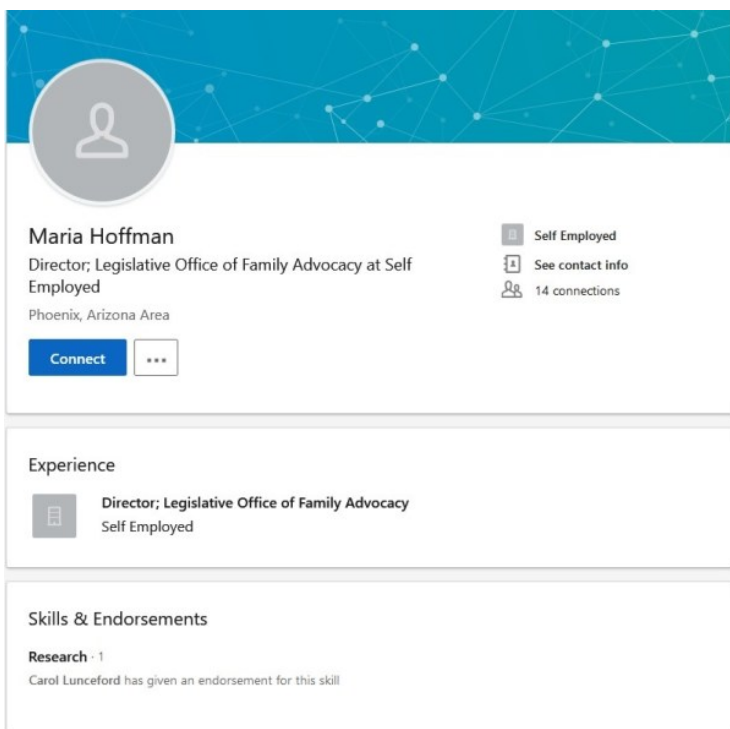
6/12/18

Date

Who is Maria Hoffman?

Details about Maria Hoffman and how she came into this consultant position are sketchy at best.

This is her [LinkedIn Page](#) (where most people keep their resume), for example:



The image shows a LinkedIn profile card for Maria Hoffman. At the top is a teal banner with a white network diagram. Below the banner is a circular placeholder for a profile picture. The name "Maria Hoffman" is displayed in bold. Her title is "Director; Legislative Office of Family Advocacy at Self Employed" and her location is "Phoenix, Arizona Area". To the right of the name, there are three icons: a briefcase for "Self Employed", a person icon for "See contact info", and a group of people icon for "14 connections". At the bottom left of the profile section are a blue "Connect" button and a white button with three dots. Below the profile section is a section titled "Experience" with a briefcase icon and the text "Director; Legislative Office of Family Advocacy" and "Self Employed". Below that is a section titled "Skills & Endorsements" with the text "Research · 1" and "Carol Lunceford has given an endorsement for this skill".

Maria Hoffman
Director; Legislative Office of Family Advocacy at Self Employed
Phoenix, Arizona Area

Self Employed
See contact info
14 connections

Connect

Experience

Director; Legislative Office of Family Advocacy
Self Employed

Skills & Endorsements

Research · 1
Carol Lunceford has given an endorsement for this skill

Health Impact News has been able to find a few details about her, however.

Tumbleweed – Home for Runaway Teens

In 1975, Hoffman was one of the founders of “Tumbleweed,” a Phoenix shelter for runaway teens. [1]

By 1979, it housed up to nine females and four males in a 55-year-old inner city house. It had six full-time and five part-time staff, and housed 250 youth and counseled an additional 300 in 1978.

Tumbleweed received funding from “YDB, LEAA, the City of

Phoenix and the United Way.” [2]

Funding to start Tumbleweed was “with tremendous support” from the Soroptimists. [3]

The *Soroptimist International of Phoenix Collection*, which was donated to the Arizona Historical Foundation on November 6, 2009, and was then donated to the Arizona Historical Society in 2012 where it currently resides, states this about the Phoenix Soroptimists:

Soroptimist International of Phoenix is currently one of the largest Soroptimist clubs in the world.

Its members represent the downtown and central Phoenix communities of executive and professional women.

The club was chartered in 1936, and membership is by invitation.

Each member is “classified” according to the principal activity of the company, institution for which she works or spends occupational time.

It is a charitable organization which focuses on numerous service projects to benefit women and children. Its program areas are economic and social development, health, education, environment, human rights/status of women, and international goodwill and understanding.

*The club was a co-founder and principal supporter of Girls Ranch and **Tumbleweed**.*

Over the decades club membership has included Arizona

leaders, such as Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justices Lorna Lockwood and Ruth McGregor; Secretary of State and Governor Rose Mofford; Secretary of State Betsy Bayless, and other prominent Phoenix professional women such as Jana Bommersbach, Dorothy McLaughlin, Anne Lindeman, and Margaret Rockwell.

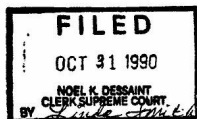
So the group behind the founding of Tumbleweed was a group of rich and powerful people where membership is by invitation only.

Executive Director Arizona Council of Centers for Children and Adolescents

By 1990, Maria Hoffman had attained the position of *Executive Director Arizona Council of Centers for Children and Adolescents* in Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1990, the Arizona Supreme Court appointed her to a task force that apparently created her current position as *Director of the Arizona Legislative Office of Family Advocacy*.

SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA



MEMBERSHIP OF THE
COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE TASK FORCE

Administrative Order No. 90- 49

In accordance with Administrative Order 90- 48, the Chief Justice is responsible for appointing members to the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Task Force of the Committee on Juvenile Courts. Now, therefore,

IT IS ORDERED THAT the following persons are appointed as members of the Task Force until completion of the task force's work:

Barbara Polk
CASA Volunteer/Governor's Office for Children Advisory
Council Co-Chair
Prescott, Arizona

Honorable James McDougall
Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Carol Kamin
Executive Director
Children's Action Alliance
Phoenix, Arizona

Marsha Porter
Program Administrator
Department of Economic Security
Administration For Children, Youth and Families
Phoenix, Arizona

Maria Hoffman
Executive Director
Arizona Council of Centers for Children
and Adolescents
Phoenix, Arizona

Honorable Douglas W. Keddie
Presiding Judge
Superior Court in Yuma County

Honorable William F. Garbarino
Presiding Judge
Superior Court in Coconino County

Jackie Flowers
CASA Volunteer
Phoenix, Arizona

Mary Margaret Chapman
VOCAL
Gilbert, Arizona

Rachel Radoy
Foster Care Review Board
Tucson, Arizona

Kathy Ford
Early Childhood Development Specialist/Former Foster Parent
Pima County Health Department
Tucson, Arizona

Cindy Donaldson
National Council of Jewish Women
Phoenix, Arizona

Debby Gaffney
Junior League of Phoenix
Phoenix, Arizona

Glenn Davis
Attorney-at-Law
Maricopa County Juvenile Practice Committee
Phoenix, Arizona

Wanda Marts
CASA Volunteer
Tucson, Arizona

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Barbara Polk shall serve as
chairperson of the Task Force.

DATED AND ENTERED this 31st day of October, 1990, at
the State Capitol in Phoenix, Arizona.

FRANK X. GORDON, JR.
Chief Justice

JL:edg

24.038

In 1999, the Arizona Council of Centers for Children and Adults (ACCCA) merged with the Arizona Association of Behavioral Health Programs to form the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers and the Arizona Foundation for Human Service Providers. ([Source](#))

Questions that Parents and Advocates in Arizona are Asking About Maria Hoffman that Need Answers

- Is the position of *Director of the Arizona Legislative Office of Family Advocacy* a position anyone can apply for?
- What are the qualifications for this critical position?
- Where does the funding for this position come from? Are the funds for the contract/position State, Federal, or Grant?
- Is there a yearly bidding procurement process to achieve the highest qualified vendor/provider?
- Is there a yearly evaluation for this position?
- Is Arizona the only state to have this kind of position, or do other states have similar positions?
- Does this position have a background check and fingerprint clearance card?

Health Impact News has reached out to Maria Hoffman for comment, but at the time of publication she has not responded yet.

If you have had experience in dealing with Maria Hoffman in the state of Arizona and would like to share your experience, [please contact us](#).

Child Sex Trafficking in Arizona: Michael Lacey and Jim Larkin of BackPage.com

backpage

Choose a

Alabam

Auburn

Birming

Dobson

Gadsden

Huntsv

Mobile

Monte

Muscle

Tuscalo

Alaska

Anchorage

Fairbanks

Juneau

Kenai

Arizona

Elizabet

Mohave

Phoenix

Prescott

Sierra

Sierra

Tucson

Yuma

Arkans

Fayette

Fort St

Joness

Little R

Califor

Bakers

Chico

Fresno

Humbol

Imper

Inland

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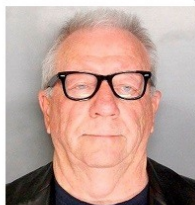
Los Ang

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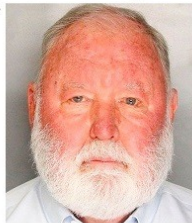


backpage.com and affiliated websites have been seized

as part of an enforcement action by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, with analytical assistance from the Joint Regional Intelligence Center.



April 6, 2018



Worcester

Worcester

Arizona residents Michael Lacey and Jim Larkin had their homes raided by the FBI in April of 2018 as their website, BackPage.com, was shut down with allegations of illegal prostitution including child sex trafficking.

In April of 2018, federal law enforcement officials arrested Arizona residents Michael Lacey and Jim Larkin after years of investigating their involvement in human trafficking, including child sex trafficking, mainly through their online classified ads website “Backpage.com.”

The website was also seized and closed down.

While Backpage was presented to the public as a general online classified ads directory, most of its profits were

derived from illegal prostitution and child sex trafficking, bringing in over \$500 million in sales according to [court documents](#).

Backpage.com has been linked to 73 percent of all child trafficking in the United States, as was revealed in a Senate investigation in 2017.

A Senate investigation into child-sex trafficking has uncovered evidence that employees of a major sex advertising website deleted incriminating evidence from ads posted on its site — allegedly helping to conceal illegal activity, rather than reporting it to authorities.

The website, Backpage.com, used a filter that automatically stripped out words that would have revealed a child was being sold for sex—terms such as “Lolita,” “amber alert,” “fresh,” and “school girl,” according to a report issued ... by a Senate investigative panel.

Backpage is involved in 73 percent of all child trafficking reports that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children receives from the general public, the report says, adding that the site has been called a “hub” of “human trafficking, especially the trafficking of minors” by law enforcement officials.

More than 400 cases of child sex trafficking across 47 states have been linked to the website — including at least 13 in Ohio and six in Missouri over the last several years. Those figures stem from a probe, launched in 2015 by Sens. Rob Portman, R-Ohio and Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., who lead the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs’ investigatory subcommittee. ([Source](#).)

A new law ([Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act](#)) to fight online sex trafficking passed with strong bipartisan support (it passed the Senate with a 97-to-2 vote) targeting Backpage was signed into law by President Trump around the same time as the FBI raid.

Lacey and Larkin, while residing in Arizona, escaped prosecution for years, even after appearing at the 2017 Senate hearing.

Even after the FBI seized their Arizona homes and shut down their website, they taunted their opponents, seeming to have no fear of reprisal.



Michael Lacey (left) and Jim Larkin hold up a California judge's August 2017 order tossing out pimping charges against them. Photo by Stephen Lemons. [Source](#).

[Phoenix New Times](#), founded by Lacey and Larkin

themselves as part of their media empire, reported in August of 2018:

With monitoring devices clapped to their ankles and the might of the federal government arrayed against them, veteran newspapermen Michael Lacey and Jim Larkin recently did something nearly all lawyers in the universe would advise their clients not to do: They talked to a journalist and took aim at their powerful enemies, who include the recently deceased Senator John McCain and his widow, Cindy.

In a widely read interview published August 21 in Reason magazine with associate editor Elizabeth Nolan Brown, the former owners of both Phoenix New Times and the online listings giant Backpage.com spoke for the first time since the FBI seized the Backpage.com website and shut it down in April as part of a 93-count indictment related to the facilitation of prostitution, conspiracy, and money-laundering.

Lacey, 70, and Larkin, 69, could spend the rest of their lives in prison if convicted. Still, the pair were at their pugnacious best in their discussion with Brown, arguing that the case against them is political payback for their years of speaking truth to powerbrokers.

Over time Lacey's and Larkin's local enemies have included disgraced former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and former Phoenix police chief Ruben Ortega. But their most formidable foes may be the McCains. ([Source.](#))

Lacey and Larkin may not be smiling much today, however, as hundreds of millions of dollars of their assets have been

seized by the government through forfeiture from banks all over the world, as revealed to the public on January 22, 2019 from the [U.S. District Court in Arizona Notice](#).

The [original complaint](#) for seizure of their assets states:

The Subject Assets, including the Defendant Assets, represent property derived from or traceable to proceeds to multiple knowing violations of federal laws constituting SUA, including 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591 (Sex Trafficking of Children) and 1952 (Interstate and Foreign Travel in Aid of Racketeering Enterprise). The Defendant Assets are therefore subject to forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C).

There are some interesting names belonging to assets that were seized, such as over \$10 million seized from the “Perkins Coie Trust Company.”

Perkins Coie is a very famous International law firm that has worked to shape foster care laws in several states, [including Arizona](#).

Were Child Sex Trafficking Victims of Backpage Recruited from Foster Care?

Since very few of the court documents against Arizona residents Lacey and Larkin have been unsealed at this point, it is difficult to determine how many of the children trafficked via Backpage came out of foster care, but it could be one reason why Arizona leads the nation in percentage of children taken out their homes and placed into foster care.

It has already been widely reported that many, if not most, of

the children who are victims of sex trafficking do, indeed, come out of foster care. See:

[Child Sex Abuse and Trafficking Through Foster Care Continues in the U.S.](#)

[Attorney Reporting in Newsweek: Foster Care is a System Set Up to Sex Traffic American Children](#)

Health Impact News reader Sharon Kramer, an *Advocate for Integrity in Health Marketing*, contacted us concerning Lacey and Larkin's other media companies (besides Backpage.com) that have potential ties to foster care. She has allegedly been involved in trying to expose CDC corruption in regards to science surrounding mold, and she claims she has been attacked by one of Lacey and Larkin's publications.

She writes:

Backpage.com was headquartered in Phoenix. It was owned by Michael Lacey and Jim Larkin. They also ran a non-profit to "help" migrant children entering the country w/o adults.

Lacey and Larkin also owned Village Voice Media LLC. One of the publications of VVM was LAWeekly.

Jill Stewart was the editor of LAWeekly and she was close to Lacey and Larkin. One of her protégé-authors beginning around 2008 was Daniel Heimpel.

He wrote a hit piece of me for exposing the insurance industry's science fraud in the mold issue in 2008 — w/the CA courts still framing me for libel w/fraudulent court documents to this very day to keep that scam going.

I am still trying to get the Federal Government Accountability Office GAO to intercede to shut down the CDC-backed junk science in the mold issue — that is used to commit insurer fraud in mold litigations.

I complained to Lacey and Larkin to no avail.

The next thing I knew, Heimpel had risen to stardom as an advocate for foster care. He's gotten bigger as the years have gone on.

Stewart is one of his advisors. See "[Fostering Media Connections](#)"

Unaccompanied Minor Children Crossing the Border: Arizona's Other Pipeline to Foster Care and Child Sex Trafficking?



LACEY & LARKIN
FRONTERA FUND

Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) [published a six-month investigation](#) in 2016 looking at 125,000 unaccompanied minors who have crossed the U.S. borders into the United States since 2011, reportedly fleeing violence and unrest in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

This U.S. Senate [report](#) concluded that the Office of Refugee Resettlement, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has failed to protect these children from human trafficking, leaving them vulnerable to abuses at the hands of government-approved caretakers.

U.S. law requires HHS to ensure that **unaccompanied alien children (UAC)** are protected from human trafficking and other forms of abuse.

However, this is not happening.

The fact that the United States is a popular destination for child trafficking has been well documented:

The causes of the surge of UACs are disputed, but all stakeholders, including HHS, agree that one reason UACs come to this country is that they are ‘brought into the United States by human trafficking rings.’

According to the State Department’s 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report, ‘[t]he United States is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, transgender individuals, and children—both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals—subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor.’

Human trafficking involves transporting or harboring human beings, often for financial gain, through the use of fraud, force, or coercion. ([Report](#))

Many of these unaccompanied alien children end up in foster care.

Lacey and Larkin have been involved in UACs also, through their [Lacey and Larkin Frontera Fund](#). For example, one of the groups they have funded is [The Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights](#).

Lewis Arthur and Veterans on Patrol



Lewis Arthur is the head of Tuscon-based *Veterans on Patrol*, and is quick to testify that he is trusting in God to lead him to shut down cartel pedophile corridors near the border in Arizona.

One man who has apparently had enough of the child sex trafficking in Arizona and is actually doing something about

it, is Lewis Arthur, head of *Veterans on Patrol* based out of Tucson, Arizona.

In May of 2018, he led a group of veterans out searching for homeless veterans, part of their mission in trying to prevent [veteran suicides](#).

When they found a structure powered by solar lights, they knew right away they had found something that certainly was not constructed by homeless people or drug addicts.

They found an underground chamber where young children apparently had been imprisoned, presumably as part of a pedophile sex trafficking ring. Here is a video recording of the underground chamber:

<https://youtu.be/ub4h85HPe7c>

The group alerted local law enforcement and Homeland Security to investigate, and to bring out “cadaver dogs” to look for bodies, but they would not respond.

After nearly 24 hours of no Investigator showing and the [Department of Homeland Security](#) making a PHONE ASSESSMENT declaring that no Human Trafficking was occurring in our area... Alpha Company invited [Fox News](#) to come get a first hand look at rape trees, an underground child prison cell, and new construction going in to expand child holding capabilities. This is occurring not on our Border... but in our own City... Tucson, Arizona.

The Child Sex Traffickers took a hit when VOP and ARC discovered their secret Camp... but they will just move on and start again elsewhere (unless we find them first, and we are looking.)

VOP finally found out the name of the company who owned the property where the child sex camp was found, and it is a company called Cemex.

Cemex had their attorneys make a complaint to the police asking them to remove VOP, or else they would send their own security to remove them.

Who is Cemex? Others have investigated the company and found out some things about them.

They have connections to powerful people such as the Clintons and the Clinton Foundation:

Cemex teams with Clinton-backed UN Foundation Alliance

Published: Tuesday, 01 October 2013 13:11 Written by Concrete News

[Print](#) [Email](#)

Source: Cemex S.A.B. de C.V., Monterrey, Mexico

Amid General Assembly of the United Nations meetings in New York City, Cemex officials signed an agreement to join the UN Foundation Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. The public-private partnership seeks to protect the environment and improve local communities' quality of life by creating a global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

"By joining the Alliance, [we] will foster the adoption of cookstoves in Latin America and Asia, strengthening our ongoing corporate social responsibility efforts in these regions and contributing to the well-being of their communities," said Cemex Chairman Lorenzo Zambrano. The company has worked in the field the past three years, he added, providing sustainable cookstove solutions in tandem with government agencies, social entrepreneurs, academia and nongovernment organizations. The Alliance partnership enables Cemex participation in steering committee and advisory group activities, plus high-level meetings with sister UN organizations and the Clinton Global Initiative.

Launched in 2010 by then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Alliance eyes adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels in 100 million households globally by 2020. It advocates for alternatives to open air stoves, whose pollution levels jeopardize individual and community health. The group is "building bridges between the public and private sectors to make the basic but essential act of cooking safe and healthy worldwide," notes Alliance Executive Director Radha Muthiah.

According to Bizapedia, the address of Cemex is 1501 BELVEDERE ROAD WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406.

But a search finds 186 companies using the exact same address. ([Source](#).)

See our previous coverage regarding VOP and their patrols of child trafficking cartel corridors coming across the border into Arizona:

[BREAKING: Vet Group Finds Pedophile Child Sex Camp Near Tucson – Local Law Enforcement Refuses to Help as Tensions Rise](#)

[Arizona Veterans Group Calls Out Local Law Enforcement and Mayor for Covering Up Pedophile Trafficking](#)

[Veteran's Group in Arizona Confronts Police on Inaction – Finds Child's Dead Body While Authorities Stand By](#)



[Image from Facebook.](#)

Arthur and his group of veterans have been joined by many people from around the world who saw his original reports live-streamed on their Facebook Page, but Facebook has since taken down the page, and VOP and Arthur face much opposition from local authorities and the corporate-

sponsored media as they try to discredit him and stop his patrols, which he states is having an effect in driving out the “coyotes” from their backyard.

They now blog at [Walking for the Forgotten](#).

Will Anything Change in Arizona?



Arizona Governor Doug Ducey. [Image source](#).

What *Health Impact News* has attempted to do with this report is present factual data, and now it is up to others to connect the dots and continue investigating the problems in Arizona, where children are taken away from their families and put into the custody of the state at a higher rate than anywhere else in the U.S.

Some tough questions must be asked.

Besides the questions we posted above regarding the office

of Director of the Arizona Legislative Office of Family Advocacy and Maria Hoffman, we must ask the question: why is this problem allowed to continue in the state of Arizona?

Why did it take federal law enforcement to arrest David Frodsham and bust up his pedophile child pornographic operation in his state-approved foster home?

Why did it take federal law enforcement to arrest Lacey and Larkin and finally shut down backpage.com?

Where is Governor Doug Ducey in all this, or his Attorney General, Mark Brnovich? Are they part of the problem, or a hope for the solution?

What will you do with this information, citizens of Arizona? Will anyone take a stand like Lewis Arthur and his group of veterans are and try to protect the most helpless members of our society? Or will their voices, and the news in this article, just fade away?

References

1. "Runaway flees, but hurt stays," by Catherine Retzlaff Creno, *The Arizona Republic*, Sunday, August 13, 1989.
2. *Runaway Youth Program Directory*, August 1979, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Law Enforcement Assistance Administration U.S. Department of Justice
3. "Runaway flees, but hurt stays," by Catherine Retzlaff Creno, *The Arizona Republic*, Sunday, August 13, 1989.

Other articles exposing the corruption in Arizona:

Arizona: Battleground for State-sponsored Child Kidnappings – Highest in the Nation

Arizona CPS Uses Police-State Tactics to Kidnap Safe Children

Why is the Arizona “Family Advocate” Threatening People Asking About Children in State Custody?

CPS Caseworker in Arizona Turns Whistleblower – Reports on Abuse of Power

Medical Kidnapping: Billion Dollar Adoption Business

15,000 Cases of Arizona Child Porn: Huge Child Sex Trafficking Ring in Arizona

A History of Medical Kidnapping at Phoenix Children’s Hospital

Health Impact News family stories on Medical Kidnappings in Arizona:



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



[Corruption and Medical Malpractice Coverup involving Arizona CPS? How One Family was Destroyed](#)



[Phoenix Children's Hospital Seizes 8 Year Old Boy Because Mother Seeks Second Opinion](#)



[Mom of 2 Year Old Special-Needs Child Asked for Help: Arizona CPS Took Him Away Instead](#)



[Arizona Mother Loses 5 Children Over Incident Family Doctor Calls an Accident](#)



[Another Arizona Medical Kidnapping: 4 Children Removed from Family after Booster Seat Accident](#)

Police Break Down Door of Arizona Family at 1 AM to Medically Kidnap 3 Children Because Parents Refused to Take Child to Emergency Room with Fever



In a military SWAT-like operation Arizona police break down the door of a family at 1 AM because the parents did not take one of their children who had a fever to an emergency room at the request of a doctor. The child was reportedly sleeping soundly and only had a fever of 100 degrees when the police and social workers arrived in the early morning hours. [Image Source](#).

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

Local news media in Arizona have reported that a family had their three children forcibly removed from their home in the early morning hours after armed police forces broke down their door.

The military SWAT-like actions of these armed police forces were captured on video by the family's security cameras.

Local social workers had reportedly obtained a court order from a judge to temporarily remove one of the children for medical reasons after they visited their family doctor due to the child having a fever. The doctor measured the fever at 105 degrees, and instructed the parents to take him to the emergency room.

However, on the way to the emergency room, the 2-year-old child started acting normally, and the mother took his temperature and it was only 102.

"He's acting normal. He's dancing with his sisters in his car seat. And I take his temperature and it's 102," said Beck.

"And so I called the doctor back and said 'Hey, I'm not sure how you got this 105 reading, my son's acting fine. This doesn't really seem like a medical emergency,'" Beck said.

So they went home. She says by then the fever had dropped even more.

"We love our children, we love them. If our children needed help, we would absolutely help them," said Beck.

"I told the doctor that I'd bring my son back for her to check and make sure that his fever was lower, and she said she wouldn't see him, and I had to take him in."

So instead of re-examining the child, apparently the doctor and the clinic called Child Protective Services (Department of Child Safety – DCS – in Arizona) because the family did not bring the child to the emergency room.

Based on the report of a single doctor who apparently did not like the fact that the parents did not take her advice, DCS reportedly obtained a court order to take the child into protective custody, and then contacted local law enforcement to do a “welfare check.”

Up until this point, it appears that everything was done legally. But as we have reported many times at *Health Impact News* and on our MedicalKidnap.com website, these laws are often not family-friendly and can violate parents’ constitutional rights to due process.

Doctors, for example, are “mandated reporters” and will turn families into Child Protective Service agencies when their patients do not follow their advice based on fear for themselves, that they might be blamed if a patient does not take their advice and that action results in a negative health outcome.

What is usually not considered in these situations is how the trauma of children being forcibly removed from their parents can cause far more harm, not to mention the danger children are put into within the foster care system, where in most states sexual abuse is common in foster care.

But what happened next, according to local reports and interviews with the parents, raises serious legal concerns.

First of all, if there was imminent danger to the child, why did social workers and police wait until after midnight to go

to the family's home?

Secondly, if there was only a court order for the removal of one child, why did they take all three?

The mother reports that she had offered to return to the family doctor so the doctor could see for herself that the child was doing better.

The father reports that an emergency room visit would have cost them over \$2500.

“For me to take my healthy son to the emergency room would have cost \$2500. We don't have \$2500 sitting around to take our healthy son to the hospital.”

As we have seen so often in past medical kidnapping stories we have covered, once social workers and law enforcement enter a family's home, it usually becomes a fishing expedition to find reasons to take the children away.

According to Sarah Beck and Brooks Bryce, the parents of this story, that is exactly what happened.

After refusing to let police and social workers come into their home to take away their children, since the children were asleep and the child in question only had a temperature of 100 at the time, police armed with weapons and shields broke down the door and entered the home.

“Guns drawn, flashlights shining on me.. they saw me and asked me to put my hands up,” Bryce said.

He was handcuffed, while police and a social worker allegedly interrogated the children.

The police report stated the house was “cluttered,” with vomit in the children’s beds, and an “unsecured” firearm in the parents’ bedroom.

“The clutter was laundry on our couch,” said Bryce.

He says the children had been vomiting, but they were moved from their beds to sleep with their parents after messing their own beds.

As for the shotgun, he said, “it actually is inert. It does not work.”

All three children were taken away from their parents in the middle of the night, and two of them were admitted to the hospital.

“I mean, they treated us like criminals, busting in our door. I mean, I don’t know what kind of trauma that did to my kids. Where are my kids right now is what I want to know,” Beck said.

The parents report that none of the children are vaccinated, but they do not believe that is the reason the children were taken away.

No charges were filed against the parents.

They still do not know where their children are located.

When they showed up at a meeting with DCS, they were reportedly told that the agency “had to cancel the meeting.”

Based on the numerous other stories we have written about Arizona DCS and foster care, these parents have legitimate reasons to be concerned about the welfare of their children.

A few of the previous stories about Arizona by *Health Impact News*:

[Is Arizona a Hub of Child Sex Trafficking? Why does Arizona Take the Highest Percentage of Children from their Homes?](#)

[Arizona Foster Care System Revealed as Pedophile Ring: Former Foster Child Tortured for Years Sues for \\$15 Million](#)

[Children Taken by Arizona CPS for 2.5 Years Return Home with Horrible Accounts of Abuse in Foster Care](#)

[Former Nurse at Phoenix Children’s Hospital Speaks Out Against Medical Kidnapping of Children](#)

[Arizona’s Double Standards: Requirements Higher for Biological Parents to Keep Their Children at Home than for Foster Parents to Take Other People’s Children into Their Home](#)

Sources for this report:

Chandler police remove kids from home after sick child not taken to hospital - AZFamily.com

Police bust into Chandler home, remove kids after clinic reports medical emergency - 12 News

<https://youtu.be/UoTtdYsHrHM>

<https://media.12news.com/embeds/video/75-256b3af5-5749-4c6c-8c71-0a84b095f279/iframe>

Was Arizona Family that had Police Break Down Their Door at 1 A.M. Targeted by Medical Community Because They Don't Vaccinate Their Children?



In a military SWAT-like operation Arizona police break down the door of a family at 1 AM because the parents did not take one of their children who had a fever to an emergency room at the request of a doctor. The child was reportedly sleeping soundly and only had a fever of 100 degrees when the police and social workers arrived in the early morning hours. [Image Source](#).

by Brian Shilhavy
Editor, Health Impact News

A story out of Arizona that we [first reported at the beginning](#)

of March has received national attention, due to video footage of police breaking down the family's door in the middle of the night because the parents did not take one of their children who had a fever to the local hospital at the request of a doctor.

The police and social workers removed all 3 children from the home. See:

Police Break Down Door of Arizona Family at 1 AM to Medically Kidnap 3 Children Because Parents Refused to Take Child to Emergency Room with Fever

In our original coverage of this story, we mentioned a quote from the parents that they did not vaccinate their children, but the parents did not, at the time, think this was a factor in their removal.



Arizona Representative Kelly Townsend. [Image source.](#)

In a follow up report published in the [Arizona Republic](#) by

Dianna M. Náñez after the parents' first court hearing, Arizona Representative Kelly Townsend, who attended the court hearing, stated:

“It was brought to my attention that these parents may have been targeted by the medical community because they hadn't vaccinated their children.”

Arizona law allows for parents to opt out of vaccines for their children for religious or medical reasons.

Townsend said parents who don't vaccinate their children because of medical concerns aren't criminals and shouldn't be treated as such. She worried physicians were using it as a reason to refer parents to DCS.

“I think if DCS decides to use this as a factor they would be violating a parent's right to have a personal exemption, a religious exemption and perhaps a medical exemption,” she said. ([Source](#).)

Townsend, who helped pass legislation in Arizona that requires DCS to obtain a warrant before removing a child from their parents when there isn't “imminent danger” to the child's life, was outraged at the response of law enforcement.

“It was not the intent (of the law) that the level of force after obtaining a warrant was to bring in a SWAT team,” Townsend said. “The imagery is horrifying. What has our country become that we can tear down the doorway of a

family who has a child with a high fever that disagrees with their doctor?”

The fact that DCS obtained a court-approved warrant shows this wasn't an emergency that threatened the child's life or safety so there wasn't time to file with the court, she said.

“What about parents' rights to decide what's best for their child?” Townsend said. “Parents felt the child was fine. Next thing we know, the Gestapo is at their door.” ([Source.](#))

To make matters worse, when the children were removed from the home, they were all placed in separate foster-care homes.

Not only were the children separated from their parents, but this was also the first time they'd been separated from each other. ([Source.](#))

The judge ordered that the children be placed with the grandparents while the parents worked with DCS on reunification plans.

Read the full article at the [Arizona Republic](#).

Time to Change Mandatory Reporter Laws?

Every state in the U.S. has [Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect](#) laws. Doctors and medical professionals are among those mandated by law to report suspicions of child abuse.

As we have reported numerous times here at *Health Impact News*, doctors fear reprisal if a patient fails to take their advice, and are therefore quick to report parents to Child Protective Services (CPS) if their advice is not followed.

In most of the cases that do NOT involve a diagnosis of “Shaken Baby Syndrome” by a pediatric *Child Abuse Specialist*, parents end up losing their children to CPS due to charges of “medical neglect.”

But disagreeing with a doctor or seeking a second opinion is not a criminal offense, and in cases like this one in Arizona, parents are not even arrested or charged with a crime.

But they end up losing their children to the system anyway, causing great emotional trauma that can affect the lives of the children forever.

One potential solution to slow down the rate at which children are removed from their families, against their will and against the will of their parents, is to stop including medical professionals as “mandatory reporters.”

A physician’s responsibility should end with giving the parent advice. If the parent chooses not to follow the doctor’s advice, the parent should be liable should anything seriously happen to their child, not the medical professional. If the medical professional feels there is imminent danger to the child’s life, then it should be *at their discretion* to report the parents to CPS.

And in these situations, parents should be able to communicate their perspective on the health of their own children *prior to their* removal. Police are still able to do “welfare checks” to determine if the child is in danger of

death, by simply asking the parents to bring their child to the door, without violating their rights by unlawful entry into the home and basically medically kidnapping the children.

This would take away the “fear” factor that medical professionals may have for their careers, should they be held liable for not reporting any and every situation where a parent chooses not to follow their advice simply because of “mandatory reporting” laws.

The nature of our Constitutional rights here in the United States is that everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty, and due process of the law, under the guidelines of the Constitution, protects citizens from the over-reach of government intrusion.

However, with current mandatory reporter laws, a parent can lose immediate custody of their child based simply on an anonymous call, or an angry doctor who didn't like the fact that the parents went elsewhere for medical care.

This results in medical tyranny, and is not the hallmark of a free society where civil rights are supposedly protected.

Arizona Judge Orders Lawmaker and Media Out of Courtroom in Case Where Police Kicked Down Door Because Feverish Child was not Taken to Hospital



[Image Source.](#)

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

An Arizona Judge recently ordered state Representative Kelly Townsend and the local media to leave the courtroom during the trial of the Chandler Arizona family who lost all 3 of their children for failing to take one of them to the hospital regarding a fever. Police broke down their door at 1 a.m. in the morning and forcibly removed all three children.

See our previous coverage of this story:

[Police Break Down Door of Arizona Family at 1 AM to Medically Kidnap 3 Children Because Parents Refused to Take Child to Emergency Room with Fever](#)

[Was Arizona Family that had Police Break Down Their Door at 1 A.M. Targeted by Medical Community Because They Don't Vaccinate Their Children?](#)

According to the *Arizona Republic*, Judge Timothy J. Ryan ordered one of their reporters and Rep. Townsend to “immediately” leave an April 10 pretrial hearing in the case.

The judge was apparently upset over the media coverage this trial was receiving. This is consistent with how Arizona judges have acted in cases involving the State of Arizona removing children from their homes unjustly, as *Health Impact News* has been ordered several times in the past few years to take down our stories representing the families and victims of such actions.

However, *Health Impact News* has never complied with such orders, as they violate the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

The [Arizona Republic reports](#) about Representative Townsend:

Ryan also barred state lawmaker Rep. Kelly Townsend, R-Mesa, who has publicly criticized the state's handling of the case and had helped craft legislation requiring DCS to obtain

a warrant before removing a child from their parents.

When she entered the courtroom April 10, the judge told her to leave.

“He said according to the recent news articles, it was their opinion that I had violated the confidentiality of the previous court hearing,” she said. “I was stunned.”

Townsend said she asked the judge for the court’s reasons for removing an elected state lawmaker from a public court hearing, asking which statute or policy she violated.

“I said, ‘Could I have it in writing?’” she said. “He said it would be entered into the meeting (record).”

Townsend said she’s concerned about how she can determine what violation she is accused of, because court filings in the child-welfare hearings are often private.

Townsend stated that she was concerned about the parents being treated fairly, because they chose not to vaccinate their children:

Townsend had previously said she worried the parents in the Chandler case were unfairly targeted because they had not vaccinated their children. In Arizona, a parent may decline vaccinations for their child based on personal, religious or medical exemptions.

She called on DCS to “immediately return the children who are also being traumatized” and said the case was “a complete miscarriage of justice and a shame to the state of

Arizona.”

Townsend said state lawmakers have required a presumption of open child-welfare court hearings “to protect everyone — children, parents, the entire process.”

Barring lawmakers from a courtroom doesn’t serve the public’s interest, she said.

The judge allowed other attendees to remain in the hearing. ([Source.](#))

The Arizona Republic reports that state social services still have custody of the children, and they also interviewed the attorney representing the parents:

In a March 29 interview with The Republic, Nicholas Boca, a family-law attorney for the pregnant mother, said his client faced officers with guns drawn for refusing to take her feverish toddler to the hospital. He criticized DCS for removing the woman’s three children and claimed police are trying to justify the use of excessive force.

The attorney’s criticism followed police releasing edited video of the incident and recommending criminal child-abuse charges against the parents.

Boca believes the charges and edited police video are payback for the parents publicly criticizing police, DCS caseworkers and the child-welfare system.

“Chandler police ... absolutely made a mistake by using well beyond reasonable force to enter these parents’ home,” Boca

said on Friday. “And instead of doing the right thing, instead of standing up and saying, ‘We made a mistake, let’s get these kids back to their home’ ... they’re going the opposite direction with it and recommending child-abuse charges.”

Read the [full article at The Arizona Republic](#).

Judge Orders Children Returned to Parents Who Did not Take Child with Fever to Emergency Room



In a military SWAT-like operation Arizona police break down the door of a family at 1 AM because the parents did not take one of their children who had a fever to an emergency room at the request of a doctor. The child was reportedly sleeping soundly and only had a fever of 100 degrees when the police and social workers arrived in the early morning hours. [Image Source](#).

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

In a story out of Arizona that has received national attention, Judge Timothy J. Ryan ordered the children of a Chandler, Arizona couple returned home more than two months after

police broke down their door at 1 a.m. to remove the children simply because the mother did not take one of them to an emergency room to check on a fever.

See our original report:

[Police Break Down Door of Arizona Family at 1 AM to Medically Kidnap 3 Children Because Parents Refused to Take Child to Emergency Room with Fever](#)

In a turn of events that might be due to the public outrage over this case, Judge Ryan reportedly went against the recommendation of the assistant attorney general representing the Arizona Department of Child Safety who wanted the children to remain in state custody.

The [Arizona Republic reports](#):

An attorney for the mother argued the parents had followed the judge's orders to regain physical custody, including meeting with a family reunification team and agreeing to counseling.

An assistant attorney general representing the Arizona Department of Child Safety objected to returning physical custody of the children, arguing the parents were still scheduling individual counseling and providing DCS with forms authorizing the release of the parents' medical information to the state.

"I appreciate the department's caution," said Maricopa County Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Timothy Ryan. But, he added, the parents were following steps toward family

reunification.

He ordered the children immediately returned to the parents' physical custody. Court proceedings related to the child-welfare case and legal custody are slated to continue.

Judge lifts Ban on Reporters in Courtroom

The [Arizona Republic](#) is also reporting that the judge has reversed his decision on a courtroom ban that previously did not allow their own reporter into the courtroom:

This is the first time since immediately after an April 19 hearing that The Republic has reported on court proceedings in the child-welfare case without relying on second-hand information. Ryan kept open to the public the April 19 hearing but issued sweeping restrictions on the news media and public reporting on the proceedings.

At Tuesday's hearing, Ryan clarified his earlier orders and allowed a Republic reporter he'd previously booted from a public hearing to remain in the open court proceeding.

Ryan's loosening of unusual restrictions came after attorneys representing The Republic, filed a motion to intervene in the hearing to secure access to court transcripts and proceedings, an order vacating restrictions on news media's First Amendment publication rights and an expedited hearing to address the alleged constitutional violations. ([Source.](#))

Retaliation Against Those Who Do Not Vaccinate?



Arizona Representative Kelly Townsend. [Image source](#).

Arizona Representative Kelly Townsend was also banned from an earlier court hearing involving this family, after she suggested that the State of Arizona was retaliating against the parents because of their stance on mandatory vaccinations.

Townsend has publicly criticized police and DCS officials in the case.

She previously called on DCS to “immediately return the children who are also being traumatized” and said the case was “a complete miscarriage of justice and a shame to the state of Arizona.”

She worried the parents were unfairly targeted because they had not vaccinated their children. ([Source](#).)

New Baby Born – Safe for Now



[Image source.](#)

Since the original incident in March, the mother has now given birth to the couple's fourth child.

The judge asked how the baby was doing:

Tuesday's hearing was the first since the mother gave birth to the couple's fourth child, a baby girl.

The parents had been concerned that if the custody case with the state lingered past the mother's May due date, DCS would remove their newborn, too.

Ryan started Tuesday's hearing asking about the infant.

“First off, how’s the baby?” Ryan said.

The father said their 10-pound baby girl was healthy and home. ([Source](#).)

State Retains Custody in Spite of No Charges Filed Against Parents

While the children are all home for now by court order, the State of Arizona still retains custody of the children, and the legal battle continues for the children, even though there are no charges against the parents due to a lack of evidence.

Ryan set a pre-trial hearing for May 21 in preparation for a dependency trial to address legal custody of the three children, which the state still maintains.

Chandler police have recommended criminal child-abuse charges against the parents. The mother’s attorney said the charges and edited video released by police are payback for the parents’ public criticism of police, DCS caseworkers and the child-welfare system.

Amanda Steele, a spokeswoman for the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office told The Republic Tuesday that officials have declined to prosecute the parents based on “no reasonable likelihood of conviction.” ([Source](#).)

[More Medical Kidnapping Stories Regarding the State of Arizona](#)

Court: Arizona DCS Errors and Lies Caused a Father to Lose Rights to his Child



Arizona Judge Paul McMurdie. [Image source.](#)

Health Impact News

by [Mary Jo Pitzl](#)
[Arizona Republic](#)

Excerpts:

Sloppy work, lack of evidence and outright lies caused a father to lose parental rights to his daughter, the Court of Appeals argued in an opinion that criticizes the work of nearly everyone involved in the four-year-long case.

The Department of Child Safety, not the father, is to blame for circumstances that led to a juvenile-court decision last year to sever the father's parental rights, the appeals court wrote.

“(A)ny perceived lack of a bond between Melody and Father was not because of Father’s lack of effort, but because of DCS’s delay, contact restrictions and substantial failure to try to unify Melody with Father,” the three-judge panel wrote.

The unanimous opinion overturned the July 2018 decision and sent the case back to juvenile court.

Parent attorneys hailed the opinion as a much-needed blow for accountability in a system that often is cloaked in privacy.

Judge Paul J. McMurdie dissected the case that started in January 2015, when the father contacted DCS after learning a woman with whom he had had a brief relationship had given birth to a child in Arizona. Donald heard the child had been promptly taken into DCS custody. He offered to take a paternity test, as he rightly suspected he was the father.

From there, everything went downhill, according to the appeals court's account. DCS added the father to the case that put the child in DCS custody, writing that he was unable

to parent the child due to neglect, an inability to care for her basic needs, and abandonment. The juvenile court accepted DCS' filing and directed the child to be placed in foster care.

But, McMurdie wrote, DCS' allegations of neglect and abandonment were done "without any investigation," and were not backed up by any facts. He called the allegations "generic assertions" that started a long process that denied the father the ability to establish a bond with his child.

"The record is devoid of any evidence supporting the unfitness allegations in the petition, a fact DCS acknowledged at oral argument before this (appeals) court," McMurdie wrote.

Read the full article at [The Arizona Republic](#).

[More on Child Kidnapping Corruption in Arizona.](#)

Arizona DCS Arrests Melissa Diegel as "Fugitive from Justice" While Living in Florida



Melissa Diegel with her two daughters before they were medically kidnapped by the State of Arizona.

Health Impact News

Melissa Diegel is an Arizona mother who had her two daughters medically kidnapped back in 2014 for disagreeing with their doctors.

Her story was covered by *Health Impact News* and inspired the beginning of our MedicalKidnap.com website.

The original story from 2014:

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

[The Daily Caller](#) is reporting that Diegel is being [charged in an eight count indictment](#), and has been extradited from Florida, where she has lived since 2017, and is now incarcerated in an Arizona jail.

Diegel lost her long battle with the State of Arizona and never had her two daughters returned. But apparently Arizona was not content to let Diegel move on with her life, and is now charging her with “child abuse” for seeking medical treatment for her daughters from 2011 through 2014, and prosecuting her as a “fugitive from justice.”

According to [The Daily Caller](#), Diegel faced a Marion County judge on May 21, 2019, but Arizona failed to produce a warrant and the judge dismissed the charges allowing Diegel to go free.

“I went to my extradition hearing this morning and Governor Ducey did not sign the governor’s warrant to bring me back to Arizona so as of right now I am free,” Diegel [reported on Facebook](#).

But later that same day a sheriff’s officer reportedly arrived at her home with a new warrant and took her back into custody.

Diegel stated that she suspects Arizona may be worried about a lawsuit, since her oldest daughter is about to turn 18.

According to [The Daily Caller](#):

Diegel said she is not sure why these charges are being brought now but believes Arizona may be worried about a lawsuit.

“The only thing I can think is that [her oldest daughter] will turn eighteen in December and then she can sue,” Diegel said.

“When the staff at Phoenix Children’s Hospital make mistakes, they have a convenient way of escaping the ire of parents and legal culpability,” says Malinda Sherwyn, who is part of the watchdog group [Arizona DCS Oversight Group \(ADOG\)](#). “They call in the Department of Child Safety and shift blame for their own wrongdoing to parents it’s called Medical Kidnapping and too often non offending parents never see their children again. AZ DCS picked on the wrong mother in Melissa Diegel.”

“They could not silence her regarding the harm done to her children in foster care. Six years later, as her oldest child ages out of this horrible system, a grand jury was convened based on the ridiculous fabricated evidence provided by the Department of Child Safety,” Sherwyn added.

Arizona may well have reason to worry about a lawsuit. An affidavit shared with The Daily Caller suggests that her two daughters were abused in foster care after being removed from her care.

Read the full story at [The Daily Caller](#).

[MedicalKidnap.com Articles on Arizona](#)

American Dad Escapes Arizona with Two Sons Only to Have them Medically Kidnapped in Switzerland



Swiss American Neal Sutz with his two sons, Cory and Skyler.

by **Health Impact News Staff**

An American father, Neal Sutz, with dual citizenship in the United States and in Switzerland, fled Arizona in 2017 with his wife and two sons to start a new life in Switzerland, after he claims his life was ruined and his two children were in danger in Arizona, due to his wife's family.

His wife is allegedly part of an influential family in the Mormon Church in Arizona. She claims, and has testified in court, that she and other members of her family were sexually abused as children, and she feared her own children were in danger. ([Link to her handwritten letter submitted in court.](#))

Both boys are special needs children needing medical care, and shortly after arriving in Switzerland, they were allegedly medically kidnapped under the authority of Swiss child protective services (SPMi) after their mother experienced a psychotic breakdown in Geneva.

SPMi brought in an American psychiatrist living in Geneva, Dr. Daniel Schechter, to handle the Sutz case.

One of Dr. Schechter's special interests is the effect of mothers with post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) on their children. He was the winner of an award for this work shortly after taking on the Sutz boys' case ([link](#)), and continues to win awards for his work on studying the effects of mothers with PTSD on their children. ([2019 award link.](#))

Neal has been fighting the system for over 2 years to try and get his children back, and even took out a full page advertisement in the Washington Times to publish a [letter written to President Donald Trump](#) asking him to intervene in Switzerland. He does not believe President Trump or anyone in his administration ever saw it.

He believes there are powerful forces working against him to prevent his children from being returned to him, and he has written a book detailing this case, which can be purchased and downloaded here: [SOS – SCREAM OF SILENCE – A TRUE STORY! STILL HAPPENING NOW!](#)

Before his marriage into the Mormon Church, Neal Sutz was an accomplished author and film producer, being an expert and advocate regarding the rights of those diagnosed with mental health issues.

He received notoriety in 2004 when he attempted to be a guest on the popular Dr. Phil show, and claims he was discriminated against due to his past history with mental health. He ended up suing Dr. Phil and the producer, Oprah Winfrey, successfully under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Today, he is alone and almost penniless as he continues his efforts to regain custody of his two sons in Geneva, Switzerland, fighting a system he believes is too powerful for him alone to overcome, and he wants the world to know his story.

The Story Begins in Arizona

Neal Sutz was a best-selling author and business owner. He worked as a writer, producer, editor, actor and promoter of two films. His area of expertise was bipolar illness and the mental health system. The films were endorsed by some of the most influential psychiatrists in America. [1]

Neal met Cortnie, his wife to be, at the height of his career. At that time, she had a 5-week-old baby named Cory. She said that she had divorced the father and he was out of the picture. [1]

Neal fell in love with Cortnie and her young son. During the four months of courtship, Neal agreed to join her church (Mormon) and they were married. [1]

The SOS book states:

Imagine yourself – A best-selling author, climbing rapidly even further along your career. The writer, producer, editor, actor and promoter of two films, both receiving 99% audience approval ratings in 5 states and on their way to Hollywood, both films with endorsements from some of the most influential psychiatrists in America, as well as other best-selling authors and social and political powerhouses such as Waltraud Prechter of The Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund.

Imagine, just as all of this is happening, you meet, "The Woman of Your Dreams," court her, fall in love with her, marry her, agree to join her "church" as a contingency to her agreeing to marry you.

You have a beautiful home with a pool, a young son of 5 weeks who you raised as your own son from the day you met him when he was 5 weeks old and, let us remind you, not a worry in the world that your world, in its entirety, would soon start being taken down, piece by piece, dollar by dollar, and eventually, son by next son, by the atrocities that were occurring in the family in which you married, all of which you were completely kept from – until it was too late.

Now, imagine finding out, less than 3 months into your marriage that your lovely new bride had kept some rather serious secrets from you. ...

The first night you made love to her, that night being the first night you saw her naked, you view countless scars covering her body from head to toe. You came to discover that she has more than 4 distinct personalities, ranging from 3 to 12 years old and one of them, called "Fawn," the most vicious of

characters an author could possibly describe.

You discover that this lovely lady did not simply suffer from depression, as she indicated to you when you first met, rather psychotic depression, PTSD, unsuccessfully treated Borderline Personality Disorder, on-and-of, heavy prescription drug abuse and, let us recall once again, more than 4, significantly distinct personalities, each of whom who would show themselves, depending on which was this woman's emotional wind was blowing on a particular day or what happened to "trigger" your bride into another personality with whom you had to live for hours or days.

You discover, through her recounting to you, that her biological father, her oldest brother and his friends and countless other "friends of the family and church," had systematically and satanically tortured, beat and raped your new wife since she was a very young child.... [SOS book P-5]

In spite of the serious problems Neal saw in his new wife's family, he is quoted in the book explaining the reason why he stayed part of the family as long as he did, as he recalls his first meeting with Cortnie and her mother, and Cortnie's 5-week-old baby:

Neal, having been mysteriously captivated by the young baby, looked again down at him and asked Cortnie if she needed help carrying the baby chair. Cortnie immediately replied, "Yes, that would be nice of you."

And then, just as Neal went to take the baby chair with the little one in it, into his hand, the little baby reached his tiny arm up, stretched out his tiny hand and grabbed one of Neal's fingers. Odd thing was that, upon taking Neal's finger

into his little hand, the little baby, Cory, did it with the strength of a baby much older and much stronger.

At that very moment, a curious impression overcame Neal – A feeling of which there are not words with which to apply to the situation.

Only one thought, non-audibly, came to Neal's mind – “This little baby is asking to be saved.” [SOS book P-15-16]

Cortnie's baby stole Neal's heart, and from that point forward he cared for the baby as if he were his own son.

Eventually Neal filed for divorce from Cortnie, and she did not object. However, his affection and desire to protect Cory did not wane with the divorce. He was the only father Cory had known and he continued to treat him as his natural son. [1]

Neal's life remained entwined with both Cortnie and Cory. In a moment of passion, he and Cortnie conceived another son they named Skyler. [1]

They spent the next nearly 4 years trying to make the family situation work out. There was great turmoil on many fronts related to the mental illness of Cortnie and her enmeshment with her family. [1]

The alleged physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of Cortnie by her family, the stress this history put on the marriage between Neal and Cortnie, the stress this put on their young special needs sons, the twisted and interconnected corruption of the Mormon Church, the child protective service system in Geneva, and the even more corrupt judicial

system are all explained in the book: [SOS – Scream of Silence – The Unfathomable Story of a Father Trying to Save His Sons](#), published in May of 2019.

In addition to the book, *Health Impact News* has obtained court documents, police reports (including body-cam video footage), and other government agency documents that corroborates the allegations Neal Sutz makes in his book.

The February 2017 Incident that Changed Their Lives

On February 20, 2017, Cortnie saw a video that broke her fragile reality to bits given her history of psychiatric, emotional and addiction struggles.

The SOS book states:

On February 20, 2017, Cortnie discovered a video on her mother's cellphone. It was a short film of [her stepfather], Robert Grant Bradford, sexually abusing Cortnie's eight-year-old nephew [Austin] ... in a bathtub. This child pornography video was filmed by Cortnie's mother, Helen, who, ... had adopted Austin...

Upon coming home that night, Cortnie sank to the ground, in a doorway between two rooms of their apartment, and showed Neal [a copy of] the video. She was somewhere between paralyzed, heartbroken and dead in her soul.

Immediately, Neal insisted that they give the video to the Police, so that Austin would finally be placed somewhere safe and her parents would be arrested.

Not wishing to put her lovely family in trouble, Cortnie refused. She first told Neal that it was best if she gave the video to a Bishop in The Mormon Church, so that her parents could get “Straight From Heavenly Father Counsel” on how to abstain from such behavior.

After this monstrous discovery, Cortnie began to drink hard alcohol in an abusive way to forget the situation, which she later admitted to numerous third parties, multiple times in the many coming months that followed. Now, mix Adderall, Valium, Effexor XR and, yes, a liter or more of Vodka every day – the perfect storm!

Cortnie ended up giving the video to a friend named Jenny who worked for DDD – Department of Developmental Disabilities. DDD is the division of the Arizona Government which dealt with the respite and habilitation aspects of Austin’s daily life.

Jenny was also married, Cortnie said, to a police officer in the city of Gilbert [Arizona]. This policeman relayed the information to his colleagues to begin an investigation. The police went to Grandpa and Grandma’s house and a “supposed” investigation began. At that point, Neal and Cortnie were out of the loop.

... Brad and Helen were NOT EVEN ARRESTED, DESPITE ON-VIDEO EVIDENCE OF CHILD MOLESTATION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY...[SOS book P-46]

The clip of the video that Neal still has in his possession today, backed up in several places, is allegedly not the entire video. But it allegedly clearly shows that the young boy Austin is in the bathtub with his grandfather naked.

Neal has told *Health Impact News* that he passed a copy on to the FBI office in Bern, Switzerland, and that a copy was sent to local authorities in Arizona, but those authorities have allegedly concluded that there is nothing serious going on in the video just because the two of them are sitting naked in a bathtub.

He is not sure if anyone at the federal level, such as at the Department of Justice, has looked into this incident.

Cortnie, however, must have seen the entire video, as her emotional and mental state began to deteriorate rapidly after this event.

Neal's Career is Intentionally Destroyed through Identity Theft

Strangely and inexplicably, Neal says he lost his high-income status shortly after this event.

He says that he didn't realize that his identity had been stolen and someone had a deliberate plan to financially destroy him.

His books and films stopped selling, and the clients for his domain names business drifted away.

The little money he made working as a driver for Uber was not enough to support their family. Every time Neal tried to restart his companies in Arizona, he found nothing but dead ends. [See SOS book P-49 for details]

The Plan to Move to Geneva, Switzerland

Neal wanted Cortnie to live the rest of her life in a stable country. He wanted Cory and Skyler to benefit from the excellent Special Needs schools and the exemplary medical system.

For himself, Neal wanted to participate in the Swiss mentality of working hard and being well compensated, so he could support his family in the way they started off years ago. [1]

A close friend bought him four plane tickets so his family could go to Geneva. [1]

A few days before they were scheduled to fly to Geneva, Cortnie had another psychotic break down. She decided that she would leave their hotel room and go and kill herself. Neal could not stop her and take care of their children at the same time.

Before she left the hotel room, Cortnie wrote the following letter which gave over full parental responsibility to Neal for both children.

This is the letter Cortnie wrote, dated June 15, 2017: [SOS book P-52]

June 15th 2017

DOB 3-9-81 I, Cortnie Helen Creamer,
give Neal David Satz DOB

9-16-70 Permission to

take Cory Grant Creamer DOB

1-11-10 to Switzerland and Any
place he sees is Happy and
Healthy and SAFE with him
as a legal Guardian and Father.

Cortnie Creamer
Cortnie Creamer

The SOS book states:

Cortnie repeated that she wanted to die because she could not bear to have seen Austin being molested by her step-father on a child porn video that her own mom made and that, "Cory and Skyler deserve a good, safe, loving life, and Hun, that is only with you. I know you'll always take care of

our boys and keep them safe.” [SOS book P-52]

After several hours of wandering the streets, Cortnie return to the hotel in a better frame of mind and eventually they were able to board the flight to Geneva. [1]

Cortnie willingly went to Geneva with Neal and their boys in the summer of 2017. They made a plan to remarry when they arrived in Geneva. They intended to start a new life together, far from the influence of her family. [1]

Cortnie’s history of psychotic illness, multiple personalities, post-traumatic stress disorder, borderline personality disorder, prescription drug abuse, and alcoholism hampered their plans. The alleged meddling of her Mormon family and the hierarchy of the Mormon Church in both the United States and Switzerland further crushed their plans. [1]

Disaster in Geneva

Things did not go well for Neal and Cortnie in Geneva.

Neal and Cortnie arrived in Geneva without financial resources. When they got to Geneva, they met with Swiss officials who started the process of getting them settled in an apartment and provided them with financial aid. [1]

Neal and Cortnie were told that they should remarry in order to move the process forward more quickly. They agreed, but Cortnie started drinking even more heavily and began having an affair with another man in their apartment building. [1]

Not too long after arriving, Cortnie tried to commit suicide by jumping out of a window with her younger son in her

arms. Consequently, their sons were taken into custody by child protective services. [1]

(We will refer to the Swiss version of child protective services as “SPMi” and not use the French name of the organization. French is the language spoken in Geneva, Switzerland.)

The SOS book states:

In the middle of the night between July 15th and 16th of 2017, completely drunk, drugged out and yes, in an alter personality, Cortnie threatened Neal with committing a double suicide with Skyler [their 3 year old son] by jumping out of the window of their 8th story apartment. ...

Eventually, when he [Neal] was finally able to assure Skyler’s safety and get his cellphone which had been in the next room, Neal called an ambulance.

The medical team then took Cortnie, by that time completely catatonic but still able to be guided on her feet, to HUG (Hopitals Universitaire Geneve), psychiatric unit. HUG, in view of the severe psychiatric state of Cortnie, called Neal a day later and told him that Cortnie was to be psychiatrically hospitalized at Belle-Idée, the Psychiatric Hospital of The Canton of Geneva, for, “...long and intensive treatment.”

At the same time, unbeknownst to Neal, one of the paramedics called and requested the intervention of the UMUS (Mobile Social Emergency Unit) to check that Cory and Skyler were alright. They arrived at the family’s apartment less than three hours after Cortnie was taken to HUG, at approximately 8am. [SOS book P-57]

Cortnie was taken to a mental hospital and committed for long-term treatment. [1]

Cortnie Blames Neal for Family Problems – Children Removed from Neal’s Care

Cortnie was reportedly not happy to be confined to a hospital in a psychiatric ward, and took out her anger on Neal.

The SOS book states:

Cortnie, who had just threatened the jump out of an 8th story window with their 3 1/2 year old son, who had just been Court Ordered to a psychiatric hospital for two months of INTENSIVE PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT, “somehow convinced” psychiatrists, Swiss and American, and SPMi [Swiss version of child protective services], who then “somehow convinced a Court,” the TPAE (Tribunal de la Protection d’adulte et de l’Enfant) that Neal, in fact, was the REAL danger in the family and that Cory and Skyler were in serious danger in their father’s custody.

She also said that Neal had raped her for years and that he molested and beat her and their children continuously throughout their lives. [SOS book P-59]

Nine days after Cortnie was institutionalized, Cory and Skyler were taken from the care of their father. Neal willingly cooperated with several interviews by SPMi and doctors. He was completely unaware that there were allegations against him. His children were taken, he was told to hire a lawyer, and then two security guards escorted him from the hospital. The children would spend the next 3 1/2

months in the hospital waiting for a placement in a group home. [1]

An Award Winning American Psychiatrist Takes Charge



Dr. Daniel Schechter. [Image Source](#).

As we stated in the introduction, SPMi brought in an American psychiatrist living in Geneva, Dr. Daniel Schechter, to handle the Sutz case.

The first thing he reportedly did, was to go visit Cortnie at Belle-Idée, the Psychiatric Hospital of The Canton of Geneva.

Dr. Schechter's is world-renowned for studying the effect of mothers with post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) on their children. He was the winner of an award for this work shortly after taking on the Sutz boys' case ([link](#)), and continues to win awards for his work on studying the effects of mothers with PTSD on their children. ([2019 award link.](#))

The SOS book states:

Subsequently, Neal learned that an order had been given to the children's hospital of Geneva [where the two boys were being held], by the American Child Psychiatrist, Dr. Daniel S. Schechter, M.D., who was "put in charge" of every aspect of his sons lives, including who could come and see them at the hospital, that it was strictly forbidden for Neal to enter the hospital building and approach his sons under penalty of being arrested by the police.

His name and description were in the entire hospital computer system and every hospital employee was put on alert. [SOS book P-63]

After Cortnie's 60-day confinement was over, Dr. Schechter reportedly advised SPMi to allow her to have almost unlimited visitation rights to the two boys, while advising that Neal have very limited contact with them, and requiring Neal to get psychiatric treatment.

So the mother, who had just spent 60 days in a psych ward for an attempted double suicide, was granted more visitation rights than the father, who was previously a successful writer and film producer for mental health advocacy work.

Unbeknown to Neal at this time, Cortnie's family back in

Arizona had filed an international missing persons report, claiming Neal had kidnapped his ex-wife and children.

So the U.S. Embassy got involved, and one of the assistant U.S. Counselors, Chris Del Monico, began to work with Dr. Schechter to help him bring the children and mother (but not Neal) back to the U.S., either to University Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona, or Duke Medical Center in North Carolina.

A copy of the correspondence between Dr. Schechter and Chris Del Monico, discussing the medical records of the two children, [can be found here](#).

Neal Tries to Clear Himself from the Allegations of Abuse

As Neal tried to clear himself of the false charges being made against him, he requested a letter of support from Dr. Schenkein from Phoenix Children's Hospital in the United States who knew Neal and the boys very well.

This doctor has also worked with child protective services in Arizona, and is both trained and obligated to contact CPS in the case of any potential neglect or abuse of one of her patients.

Her letter spoke very positively about Neal and the care of his sons. [SOS book P-64]



**PHOENIX
CHILDREN'S
Hospital**



Gastroenterology Department

O. Pinar Bulut, MD
Shahan Fernando, MD
Kristy R. Ingebo, MD
Mark McOmber, MD
Ramon Montes, MD

Brad Pasternak, MD
Sylvie Lebel, MD
Jacqueline P. Schenkein, MD
Shauna Schroeder, MD
Mitchell D. Shub, MD

Emmanuel, Siaw, MD
Gary H. Silber, MD
Dana Williams, MD
Kimberly Demchak, CPNP
Tetry Dorf, CPNP

07-31-2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Sutz asked me to write a letter regarding my interactions/observations regarding his parenting competence.

Skyler Creamer-Sutz is a 3-yr boy who has been under my care for nutrition management/gastrostomy feedings necessitated by an undefined neuromuscular disorder that causes dysphagia and inability to maintain nutrition through oral feedings. I saw Skyler 7 times from March 30, 2015 to February 8, 2017. Mom and Dad attended the first visit; Skyler was brought to the other 6 visits by Dad, sometimes accompanied by brother Cory.

Skyler has an undefined neuromuscular syndrome manifested by global development delay, minor abnormalities in his muscle biopsy including small type I fibers along with abnormal EMG and minimally elevated plasma CPK. The family describes paroxysmal stiffness, pain, cramp-like symptoms for which he has been treated in the past with medication trials including Diamox, Tegretol and clonazepam. When he missed one dose of clonazepam, he developed muscle stiffness. Whole exome sequencing on a research basis has revealed an amyotonia-related gene of unclear significance that segregated in the family. Per Dad, the NIH is pursuing research on a genetic cause of Skyler's, Mom's and their extended family's neuromuscular disorder (MGM and maternal uncle are also affected).

Skyler has a history of cow milk protein intolerance and when I last saw him, he was on Nutramigen, a casein hydrolysate formula. By history, he is a restless sleeper.

At all of my visits with Skyler and with Mr. Sutz, Dad was attentive and loving to his sons. Skyler was always clean, appropriately dressed, and appeared to be comfortable and playful with Dad. There were no "red flags" regarding Mr. Sutz's parenting or my interactions with him.

I understand that the family has recently experienced a very emotionally challenging time; I hope that this letter is helpful. If additional information is needed, please be advised that I am on vacation and will be back in the office on Monday, August 7th.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline P. Schenkein, MD
Pediatric Gastroenterologist
Phoenix Children's Hospital

1919 E Thomas Road • Phoenix, AZ 85016 • (602) 933-0940 • Fax: (602) 933-0373

Neal says he presented this letter to Dr. Schechter just 6 days after the boys were taken from him and admitted to the hospital, but neither Dr. Schechter nor SPMi gave it any credibility, apparently.

Attempt to Kidnap the Boys and Bring Them Back to the U.S. is Stopped by the Swiss Government

While the boys were under the control of Dr. Schechter, plans were being made to send them to Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina. The alleged plan took further shape as the Mormon Church got more and more involved.

The SOS book describes the plan starting on page 115. The mention of sending the boys to Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina is mentioned on pages 93-94.

The plan involved Cortnie taking the boys to a Christmas party without SPMi supervision. The party was with a Mormon family from Texas, who at that time, were allegedly among those who directed the Mormon Church in Geneva.

The boys and their mother would then allegedly use the opportunity to leave Swiss soil and return to the United States. [See SOS book P-115 for details.]

Neal obtained documentation of the plan and he and his attorney petitioned a Swiss judge to interfere with this plan. The judge immediately sealed the Swiss border for any movement of the boys out of the country.

Current Status of Boys and Their Mother Cortnie



Neal visiting the two boys currently confined at a group home in Switzerland.

After 3 1/2 months the boys were moved from the hospital where they and their mother had been studied by Dr. Daniel S. Schechter.

The boys were placed in a Geneva group home (foyer) for very young children. After a few months they aged out of that foyer and were transferred to another group home for older children. They have been living in that facility with 19 other children since February 2018.

Their father can see them at the foyer with supervision for 8 hours per week, divided into 2-hour blocks.

Their mother abandoned the situation in April of 2018 and returned to Arizona without saying goodbye to her sons.

Cortnie has been institutionalized several more times in Arizona – most recently by a petition filed in court by her

mother, Helen Creamer Bradford, on February 6, 2019. [see the SOS book P-228 for more details.]

A copy of the order as well as police body cam videos from the day they took Cortnie from the home of her mother and step father are available.

Neal tells *Health Impact News* that nobody in Geneva has heard from her since that day.

What is Going on in Arizona?

Anyone who has been following MedicalKidnap.com since its inception in 2014 will know that this website started as a result of families contacting *Health Impact News* because their children were being medically kidnapped in the State of Arizona.

Arizona has the [highest percentage](#) of children being taken away from their families and placed into foster care than any other state in the U.S., and the U.S. foster care system is known to be the pipeline for child sex trafficking. See:

Is Arizona a Hub of Child Sex Trafficking? Why does Arizona Take the Highest Percentage of Children from their Homes?

What part, if any, does the Mormon family of Neal's ex-wife have in what goes on in Arizona regarding child welfare?

Neal's ex-wife, Cortnie Helen Creamer Sutz, is a member of the Creamer/Bradford family that lives in Arizona.

Her mother is Helen Creamer Bradford, who is married to her step-father, Robert Grant Bradford.

Robert Grant Bradford is reported to be the Great Grandson of Heber J. Grant, former Prophet of The Mormon Church. He was arrested in 2002 for an alleged plot to kill Arizona Governor Jane Hull and sheriff Joe Arpaio, while serving as a Mormon prison chaplain. ([Source.](#)) According to the SOS book, he pleaded “No Contest” to a charge of “Unsworn Falsification” and served a probation term.

David Benjamin Creamer is Cortnie’s cousin, and is on the United States Marshals Service “15 Most Wanted” fugitive list and is charged with “distribution of child pornography, transportation of obscene materials, firearms violations, money laundering and income tax evasion.” ([Source.](#))

Damian P. Creamer is Cortnie’s brother, the CEO and Founder of Primavera Online High School and Strongmind, and reportedly one of the wealthiest men in Arizona.

The Creamer/Bradford family reportedly live in the affluent town of Paradise Valley, the wealthiest municipality in Arizona, and home to the rich and powerful, including Backpage founders Michael Lacey and Jim Larkin, Governor Doug Ducey, and many other politicians.

Call to Action

Neal Sutz just wanted to escape to Switzerland and start over in raising his family away from all the troubles in Arizona.

Today, more than 2 years later, his two sons are still suffering and being held locked up in a Group Home in Geneva by the Swiss Government.

Neal is being branded as a “nut case” who just “made this all up” and having no parental rights in the care of his

American children.

Please [visit Neal's website](#) and purchase his book, SOS – SCREAM OF SILENCE – A TRUE STORY! STILL HAPPENING NOW!, which documents in far more details what is happening with his family, much more than we could possibly cover in this article.

After you read the book (or this article), documenting how Mr. Sutz's two special needs sons were taken from him in Geneva, Switzerland, 2 years ago, immediately call your Congressman, Senator, The White House, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and demand them to contact the Swiss Federal Government in Berne, Switzerland, specifically the Conseil Federal who runs all of the Cantons of Switzerland, including Geneva, and for them to demand the immediate return of Mr. Sutz's sons to him in Geneva, Switzerland.

Contact every news outlet in your city and in your country and ask they carry and syndicate this story.

Neal stands ready to provide interviews, as long as he is still free. Contact him at [his book's website](#).

Reference

[1] SOS – *Scream of Silence – The Unfathomable Story of a Father Trying to Save His Sons*, Published May 9, 2019, as an e-Book available here. <http://www.sosbook.is/> Wherever you see reference [1] noted in the text of this article, this means that we have made summary statements that were formed from the general reading of this book. Specific summaries or exact quotations will indicate page numbers.

Arizona Dad Fighting for His Two Sons Sues Mormon Business Leader and Alleged Child Sex Abusers for \$200 Million



Neal Sutz with his two special needs sons during a visitation at the group home where they are being held against their will.

UPDATE 10/29/19

Arizona Judge Rosa Mroz dismissed this case, with prejudice, on 10/29/19 based on defendants Motion to Dismiss.

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

Neal Sutz, an Arizona father who left the U.S. to try and

protect his sons whom he claims were in danger of being sexually abused by his former Mormon in-laws, has filed a [\\$200 million defamation lawsuit](#) in Arizona against his former brother-in-law Damian Creamer, whom Sutz claims is “one of the richest, most politically influential men in the state of Arizona.”

The lawsuit names other defendants among Sutz’s former in-laws that he claims slandered him, resulting in the loss of custody of his two sons just after they fled the U.S. and arrived in Switzerland, where Neal Sutz holds a dual citizenship due to his family being from Switzerland.

His two special needs sons have been in captivity for over 2 years in Switzerland group homes, and Sutz claims that their health and well-being are deteriorating quickly, and he fears that without U.S. intervention for these American citizens suffering in Switzerland, his sons may not survive much longer.

See our previous coverage of Neal Sutz’s story:

[**American Dad Escapes Arizona with Two Sons Only to Have them Medically Kidnapped in Switzerland**](#)

Cover-up For Child Sex Trafficking in the Mormon Church?

[According to the lawsuit](#), filed with the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County, Neal Sutz found out that his former wife, Cortnie Helen Creamer Sutz, along with “her numerous siblings,” were sexually abused as a children “for decades” by Damian Parnell Creamer and others, whom Sutz attempted to have reported to authorities for their alleged

crimes against minors:

Following Plaintiff's meeting of Defendants, Cortnie Helen Creamer Sutz and Helen Mai Bradford, and further discovering and being given direct victim testimony from his soon-to-be-wife, Defendant, Cortnie Helen Creamer Sutz and Ms. Creamer-Sutz's next-oldest sister, Donelle Creamer Hahn, regarding decades of sexual, physical, emotional and psychological abuse of said Defendant and her numerous siblings, perpetrated by Defendant, Cortnie Helen Creamer Sutz's brother, Defendant, Damian Parnell Creamer, Damian's best childhood friend, Don Vivier, Defendant's now-deceased biological father, Donald Parnell Creamer, Plaintiff immediately insisted to his soon-to-be-wife, Defendant, Cortnie Helen Creamer Sutz, that her brother, Defendant, Damian Parnell Creamer, as well as all still-living perpetrators of said horrific crimes against children should be turned into the Arizona Authorities for investigation, arrest, trial and prosecution.

*Defendant, Cortnie Helen Creamer Sutz, further testified in Geneva, Switzerland, in writing and then confirmed verbally multiple times by 3rd parties to the Geneva Court Case, as seen in (Attachment 12) that Defendants, Robert and Helen Bradford, **"...are members of a cult of Mormons who believe that sex with minors is permissible."***

(Editor's note: As we have previously reported about documented sexual child abuse in other religious organizations, such as the [Roman Catholic Church](#), the [Independent Baptists](#), and the [Southern Baptists](#), these alleged crimes are not meant to be an indictment against all members of this religious group. Child sex abuse is found in all parts of the American culture, both religious and non-

religious.)

It was Sutz's insistence to his wife that they turn in the members of her family committing sexual crimes against children to the authorities that Sutz claims resulted in the beginning of her family defaming his character and ruining his reputation:

Defendant, Cortnie Helen Creamer Sutz, immediately began communicating, to her mother and stepfather, Defendants, Robert Grant Bradford and Helen Mai Bradford, as well as to brother, Defendant, Damian Parnell Creamer, Plaintiff's insistence on turning evidence of said crimes against children over the Arizona Authorities.

Following Ms. Creamer-Sutz's communications of Plaintiff's intentions to her family, including the all three other Individual Defendants in this Complaint, a structured, highly-organized, malicious, systematic process of libel and slander against Plaintiff, by All Individual Defendants named in this Complaint, began without hesitation, and have not ceased to the present day of the filing of this Complaint.

Plaintiff had during all the time, prior to his insisting that said crimes against children by members of Plaintiff's family-in-law be turned over the Arizona Authorities, enjoyed an excellent local, Arizona and National public and personal reputation, both generally in his life and in his public profession, as proven in Attachment 1 of this Complaint.

According to the book Neal Sutz published, [SOS – SCREAM OF SILENCE – A TRUE STORY! STILL HAPPENING NOW!](#), before his marriage into the Mormon Church, Neal Sutz was

an accomplished author and film producer, being an expert and advocate regarding the rights of those diagnosed with mental health issues.

He received notoriety in 2004 when he attempted to be a guest on the popular Dr. Phil show, and claims he was discriminated against due to his past history with mental health. He ended up suing Dr. Phil and the producer, Oprah Winfrey, successfully under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

But Sutz claims his identity was stolen, based on false accusations against him by his ex-wife's powerful Mormon family, including recorded statements made to the Gilbert, Arizona police.

Collusion with U.S. Embassy?

As we reported in our [initial story about the Sutz family](#), since Neal's reputation and ability to earn a living to support his family was allegedly destroyed in Arizona, he convinced his ex-wife to go to Switzerland with him and the two boys to start their lives over, because Neal was a dual citizen with the U.S. and Switzerland.

But the problems with his wife and in-laws followed him to Switzerland. His wife tried to commit a double suicide along with their son, and she was committed to a psychiatric facility where she claimed that Neal was the one who was abusing their children. In addition, her family back in Arizona was reporting that he had kidnapped them, in spite of the fact that his wife supplied a [written statement](#) that she was giving her full permission to have the boys relocate to Switzerland.

In the [lawsuit filed in Arizona](#), Sutz claims that the American Consul in Bern, Switzerland participated with his Mormon in-laws in Arizona, allegedly illegally according to Swiss law by participating in a “Swiss Judicial Matter,” leading to the abduction of his two children by Swiss child protective services (SPMi).

It was Defendants’ Slanderous Allegations in this False Missing Persons Report, when transferred, in urgency and with the help of ACTIC and INTERPOL, to the U.S. Consul, Mr. Jeremias Dirk and his Senior Assistant, Chris Del Monico, both of whom work in the U.S. Embassy in Berne, Switzerland, (both Parties who blatantly broke Swiss Federal Code 271, punishable by at least three (3) years in Swiss Federal Prison and the removal of Mr. Dirk and Mr. Del Monico’s diplomatic immunity in Switzerland) by involving themselves in a Swiss Judicial Matter, with the full, proven intent to organize and commit International Child Kidnapping, for which these two parties have not yet been charged or convicted) without written, authorized permission from the Swiss Federal Police and/or the Conseil Federal, that being the Federal Governing Board of the country of Switzerland) as well as the Geneva, Switzerland Police, the SPMi (Geneva equivalent of DCS, and the TPAE (The Child and Adult Protection Court of Geneva, Switzerland who is deciding the legal fate of the two subject children and Plaintiff for the remainder of their lives) that Plaintiff’s loss of custody and daily life, existence with, caretaker of and parent of and with his son and stepson began to be aggressively put into place, 11 days later being the date, on July 25th, 2017, when the Geneva Court (TPAE) removed Plaintiff’s son and stepson from his presence, from his custody and, to this date, Plaintiff has never recovered his son and stepson.

Who is Damian Creamer?



Damian Creamer – Strong Mind. [Image Source](#).

Neal Sutz names several businesses owned by his former brother-in-law, Damian Creamer, as defendants also in his lawsuit, claiming that he used his influence through these businesses to defame and silence him. [From the lawsuit](#):

All Incorporated Defendants, are subject to being liable

Defendants due to the Defendant, Damian P. Creamer, President, Founder, CEO and, Manager and/or Member, respectively of aforementioned Corporations, being simultaneously an Individual Defendant in this Complaint and assets, as well as profits, from All Incorporated Defendants being shared and benefitted by Defendant, Damian P. Creamer, Primary Defendant in this matter.

- STRONGMIND, INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION
- THE AMERICAN VIRTUAL ACADEMY, INC, AN ARIZONA CORPORATION
- PRIMAVERA ONLINE, INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION
- PRIMAVERA TECHNICAL LEARNING CENTER, AN ARIZONA CORPORATION
- DAMIAN P. CREMER REVOCABLE TRUST AN ARIZONA TRUST (LAST NAME ..CREMER” SPELLED AS LISTED ON MARICOPA COUNTY ASSESSOR’S DATABASE FOR REAL ESTATE LISTINGS, A POSSIBLE INTENTIONAL MISSPELLING OF DAMIAN P. CREAMER, BY SELF, IN THE CREATION AND FILING OF SAID TRUST)
- NORTHERN LIGHTS STUDENT TUITION ORGANIZATION, AN ARIZONA CORPORATION

Reporter Craig Harris, writing for the Arizona Republic, [published an investigative report](#) in November of 2018 regarding Damian Creamer’s Arizona Charter School, Primavera. Creamer allegedly funneled millions of dollars through his school, which is a recipient of taxpayer funding.

The CEO of Primavera, whose multimillion-dollar payments to himself spurred calls for more oversight of Arizona charter schools, received another \$1.3 million from the online charter this past school year, records show.

Damian Creamer, the sole owner of the for-profit Primavera, also paid \$27.6 million from the school's state education funding to another company he owns, Strongmind.

Meanwhile, the school, which reported it had the third-worst dropout rate in Arizona, gave its 95 teachers a 1 percent pay raise last school year.

The audits provide a snapshot of how lightly regulated charter operators use tax dollars. Charter schools are not subject to the same financial or governance oversight as traditional district public schools, and The Republic has found that some operators, like Creamer, have become charter school millionaires by operating the public schools.

After The Republic reported this year that Creamer had paid himself \$8.8 million despite operating a school with the state's third-highest dropout rate, Attorney General Mark Brnovich called for the law to be changed to allow his office to investigate charter schools more broadly.

Creamer has said the \$8.8 million payment was for tax purposes but has not provided documents to support that claim.

"When you see public money go to line the pockets of someone who is supposed to help students become a millionaire, I can't believe it's not a crime," Brnovich said at the time.

Since then, a Republican state senator and Gov. Doug Ducey have said they, too, will push to overhaul Arizona's charter-school laws to require more transparency and compliance with the same procurement and conflict-of-interest laws that govern district schools. ([Source](#).)

Neal Sutz writes:

Damian Creamer controls the political landscape in Arizona by circumventing campaign financing laws and making contributions through family members and friends.

Damian, along with his family and his companies, have contributed enormous amounts of money in political contributions to Governor Doug Ducey and numerous other politicians involved in "slanting" in Damian's favor the legislation of the Arizona Charter School Industry, of which Damian's Primavera Online High School, is the dominant, FOR PROFIT, semi-online educational leader.

He owns property in Paradise Valley, along with other family members, and their neighbors include such notable public figures such as Governor Ducey, and Backpage founders Michael Lacey and Jim Larkin. Before they were shut down, Backpage was reportedly running up to 75% of the U.S. sex trafficking through its website.

Given Damian's past actions to try to silence me and destroy my reputation to hide his family secrets of child sex abuse, using the massive resources he has through his businesses, I think a federal investigation is warranted. Who knows, maybe even the current federal investigation into Jeffrey Epstein will reveal associations to pedophile networks in Arizona as well. ([Source](#).)

Health Impact News has reached out to Damian Creamer and his attorney, but we have not yet received a comment back regarding the lawsuit.

Neal Sutz's Sons May be Running Out of Time



Neal Sutz has watched his two special needs sons deteriorate over the past two plus years that they have been held captive in a Swiss Group home. Neal gets to visit them, but the Swiss authorities will not allow him to take them home, where they desperately want to be.

Video no longer available.

Here are some comments the “Educators” reported from the group home where both boys are confined (supplied to *Health Impact News* by Neal Sutz):

“We observe that the current framework (Living at the Foyer) is not beneficial to the good development of children. It is essential that they can leave the institutional framework, live outside (of the Foyer) moments and go to their father’s apartment so that this place is more concrete for them and that they can live with family time in a family, more ‘ordinary’ context.”

“I’m writing to you because Cory is NOT well. Last night, during the video call with Mr. Sutz (who reads us in copy), Cory got very angry because of an incomprehension on our part and started to want to break everything in the room and got into a state of crisis. This was worrisome and we needed to calm him down and reassure him. Once more calm, Cory was able to express his sadness by saying with his own words that his heart is broken because he does not see the apartment (that Daddy got and made for Skyler, Cory and their Daddy), nor the cats, (Neal adopted twin cats, one for each of the boys) and that he wants to be with his Papa (That is French for Daddy). He was really touched, crying and sobbing.”

“We find that Skyler is crying much more frequently and always asking us when his father will come to visit, using his minimal language, and is always saying, ‘Moi triste.’ which means ‘Me sad.’ when we have to tell him that it is not a day that his father is allowed to come and visit him and Cory.”

Sutz told *Health Impact News* that he often finds his sons needing medical or personal care when visiting them, due to their special needs. He often has to clean up his youngest son, such as changing his diaper, since he is still not able to take care of his own personal hygiene. He has also found them at times with bruises and other injuries, as these photos show:



Skyler With Smashed In Face After Having Escaped The Group Home and Running Away – He was allegedly not taken to a doctor.



Infection on back legs of Skyler from not caring for him properly.



Cory's Ankle and Foot Bruised and Swollen – 2 Weeks After Arriving at 2nd Group Home – Smashed with a metal scooter by another boy.

Will Neal Sutz See Justice?

As we reported in our original coverage of Neal Sutz, he has [written a letter to President Trump](#) asking for justice in his case. He still has in his possession a video clip from an alleged child pornography filming of his wife's nephew while the young boy was with his former father and mother-in-laws that to his knowledge has never been investigated at the federal level. He believes that all the complaints and evidence he has provided have been squelched in the state of Arizona.

Neither has there apparently been any investigation into the roles the American Consuls in Switzerland may have played in Sutz's case.

Given the volume of stories *Health Impact News* has done on the State of Arizona and their involvement in child trafficking, it would certainly seem that a federal investigation is needed. See:

[Is Arizona a Hub of Child Sex Trafficking? Why does Arizona Take the Highest Percentage of Children from their Homes?](#)

Defying Gag Order, Woman Who Drove Arizona Girl Raped and Burned in Foster Care to Supervised Visits with Parents Speaks Out on Arizona Corruption



Devani before entering foster care.

Health Impact News

Beth Breen, the driver contracted by Arizona DCS to drive young Devani from the foster home where it was later learned she was repeatedly raped by her foster parent who was arrested for running a child pornographic and child sex

trafficking ring out of his state-approved foster home, to her parents home 90 miles away each week for a 2-hour supervised visitation, was recently interviewed by Jim White at [Northwest Liberty News](#).

Breen states that she is under a gag order and not supposed to speak about the case, but she “doesn’t care” because the gag order is unconstitutional.

This is one of the most horrific cases *Health Impact News* has ever covered. See our previous coverage:

[Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned](#)

[Arizona Girl Raped and Burned in Foster Care Still Represented by Same Attorney – Kept Away from Family](#)

[Trial Begins for Little Arizona Girl Placed with Pedophiles in Foster Care and Burned by Adoptive Mom](#)

Beth Breen explains how she thought it was strange that they would place this little girl in a foster home so far away from the parents, 90 miles away, and that due to the fact that she drove her once a week 180 miles total, that she actually spent more time with Devani than her parents did.



David Frodsham, mug shot from Sierra Vista Police.

When David Frodsham was arrested, and then later convicted, for child sex abuse in Sierra Vista, Beth Breen went to the court to examine the court documents, trying to figure out how Frodsham and his wife could be approved as foster parents for 13 years.

Breen states that there were 36 police reports made to the foster home, but that they were never investigated. David Frodsham was the deputy commander of the Fort Huachuca Army base, a position he held after being kicked out of Afghanistan for deviant sexual behavior.

Breen states during the interview that it is hard to believe that only 3 people were arrested in connection with this child sex trafficking ring being operated out of an Arizona-approved foster home.

Another foster child victim from the Frodsham home has aged out of foster care and filed a \$15 million lawsuit for allegedly being pimped out for over ten years, since he was 8 years old, and now allegedly fears for his life. See:

Arizona Foster Care System Revealed as Pedophile Ring: Former Foster Child Tortured for Years Sues for \$15 Million

Breen gives an update on the current situation in the interview, and states that Devani has still not been returned to her parents, or to her grandmother who has allegedly taken her petition all the way to the Arizona Supreme Court.

One of the most incredible statements that Breen gives during the interview (around the 42 minute mark), is when she recalls her time in jail with Merissa Hamilton because they were peacefully protesting in Phoenix against the abuses committed against Devani in this case, and she said they talked to the other women who were in jail to find out why they there:

While we were in jail, we interviewed a lot of women in jail and asked them why they were there. When we told them what we were doing, they stood up and applauded us, because out of every women that we interviewed, their charges were drugs, and the reason they turned to drugs was (because) their children were taken away. And they fought and they fought, and they finally just gave up. Because you

can't win in this system.

Watch the entire interview:

Video no longer available.

Listen to an interview below with Beth Breen on the Medical Kidnap Show:

<https://youtu.be/AN2BML9mbcg>

Arizona Mom Melissa Diegel Suffering in Jail



Melissa Diegel

Malinda Sherwyn, who has been a court watcher and child advocate for 26 years, was interviewed on Northwest Liberty News to give the public an update on Melissa Diegel, who is

currently confined to a jail cell in Arizona where her health problems are allegedly not being addressed.

See this previous story on her arrest:

Arizona DCS Arrests Melissa Diegel as “Fugitive from Justice” While Living in Florida



Kayla and Hannah before they were medically kidnapped.

The medical kidnapping of Melissa Diegel’s two girls is the story that launched MedicalKidnap.com back in 2014. Her two daughters had special medical needs, and when Melissa started questioning doctors and seeking a second opinion, she was charged with Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy.

After losing custody of her two children, she moved to Florida, but was recently arrested and brought back to Arizona as a “fugitive from justice” and now resides in a jail cell in Arizona, as her health deteriorates.

Watch the interview with Malinda Sherwyn to get the latest updates on this sad story.

Video no longer available.

Listen to Melissa speak in her own words:

<https://youtu.be/ltvHV9KyD9Y>

The MedicalKidnap.com website was started in 2014 due to the volume of stories we were discovering of families losing their children to Child Protective Services in Arizona. Arizona has the highest rate of removing children from their parents in the U.S.

We discussed some of these stories on the show, and explained what exactly “medical kidnapping” means.

**Maria Hoffman: Director of the Arizona
Legislative Office of Family Advocacy**



Maria Hoffman

Image from [Arizona State University website](#). (Page has now been removed apparently.)

The first guest to appear on the Medical Kidnap show was Steve Isham, who is a life-long resident of Arizona, and has worked for years as an advocate for children and families.

We discussed the role of Maria Hoffman in Arizona, who is the “Director of the Arizona Legislative Office of Family Advocacy.”

Hoffman is not an elected official, but a contractor for the State of Arizona who reports directly to the President of the Senate. It is reported that all lawmakers in Arizona, whether in the House or the Senate, are told to not deal with any of their constituents’ concerns about their children being removed from their home and placed into State custody, but to refer all of these matters to her only.

If a parent or anyone else tries to contact Hoffman about a case, we have been told that she refuses to discuss the case and uses threats and intimidation to try and silence anyone questioning a child welfare case.

To our knowledge, Maria Hoffman has never been investigated and exposed in the local media in Arizona.

Details about Maria Hoffman and how she came into this consultant position are sketchy, but *Health Impact News* has been able to find a few details about her.

Tumbleweed – Home for Runaway Teens

In 1975, Hoffman was one of the founders of “Tumbleweed,” a Phoenix shelter for runaway teens. [1]

By 1979, it housed up to nine females and four males in a 55-year-old inner city house. It had six full-time and five part-time staff, and housed 250 youth and counseled an additional 300 in 1978.

Tumbleweed received funding from “YDB, LEAA, the City of

Phoenix and the United Way.” [2]

Funding to start Tumbleweed was “with tremendous support” from the Soroptimists. [3]

The *Soroptimist International of Phoenix Collection*, which was donated to the Arizona Historical Foundation on November 6, 2009, and was then donated to the Arizona Historical Society in 2012 where it currently resides, states this about the Phoenix Soroptimists:

Soroptimist International of Phoenix is currently one of the largest Soroptimist clubs in the world.

Its members represent the downtown and central Phoenix communities of executive and professional women.

The club was chartered in 1936, and membership is by invitation.

Each member is “classified” according to the principal activity of the company, institution for which she works or spends occupational time.

It is a charitable organization which focuses on numerous service projects to benefit women and children. Its program areas are economic and social development, health, education, environment, human rights/status of women, and international goodwill and understanding.

*The club was a co-founder and principal supporter of Girls Ranch and **Tumbleweed**.*

Over the decades club membership has included Arizona

leaders, such as Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justices Lorna Lockwood and Ruth McGregor; Secretary of State and Governor Rose Mofford; Secretary of State Betsy Bayless, and other prominent Phoenix professional women such as Jana Bommersbach, Dorothy McLaughlin, Anne Lindeman, and Margaret Rockwell.

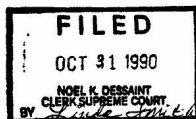
So the group behind the founding of Tumbleweed was a group of rich and powerful people where membership is by invitation only.

Executive Director Arizona Council of Centers for Children and Adolescents

By 1990, Maria Hoffman had attained the position of *Executive Director Arizona Council of Centers for Children and Adolescents* in Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1990, the Arizona Supreme Court appointed her to a task force that apparently created her current position as *Director of the Arizona Legislative Office of Family Advocacy*.

SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA



MEMBERSHIP OF THE
COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE TASK FORCE

Administrative Order No. 90- 49

In accordance with Administrative Order 90- 48, the Chief Justice is responsible for appointing members to the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Task Force of the Committee on Juvenile Courts. Now, therefore,

IT IS ORDERED THAT the following persons are appointed as members of the Task Force until completion of the task force's work:

Barbara Polk
CASA Volunteer/Governor's Office for Children Advisory
Council Co-Chair
Prescott, Arizona

Honorable James McDougall
Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Carol Kamin
Executive Director
Children's Action Alliance
Phoenix, Arizona

Marsha Porter
Program Administrator
Department of Economic Security
Administration For Children, Youth and Families
Phoenix, Arizona

Maria Hoffman
Executive Director
Arizona Council of Centers for Children
and Adolescents
Phoenix, Arizona

Honorable Douglas W. Keddie
Presiding Judge
Superior Court in Yuma County

Honorable William F. Garbarino
Presiding Judge
Superior Court in Coconino County

Jackie Flowers
CASA Volunteer
Phoenix, Arizona

Mary Margaret Chapman
VOCAL
Gilbert, Arizona

Rachel Radoy
Foster Care Review Board
Tucson, Arizona

Kathy Ford
Early Childhood Development Specialist/Former Foster Parent
Pima County Health Department
Tucson, Arizona

Cindy Donaldson
National Council of Jewish Women
Phoenix, Arizona

Debby Gaffney
Junior League of Phoenix
Phoenix, Arizona

Glenn Davis
Attorney-at-Law
Maricopa County Juvenile Practice Committee
Phoenix, Arizona

Wanda Marts
CASA Volunteer
Tucson, Arizona

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Barbara Polk shall serve as
chairperson of the Task Force.

DATED AND ENTERED this 31st day of October, 1990, at
the State Capitol in Phoenix, Arizona.

FRANK X. GORDON, JR.
Chief Justice

JL:edg

24.038

In 1999, the Arizona Council of Centers for Children and Adults (ACCCA) merged with the Arizona Association of Behavioral Health Programs to form the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers and the Arizona Foundation for Human Service Providers. ([Source](#))

Steve Isham has allegedly known Ms. Hoffman since 1968, and provides additional details about her.

Listen to the show and the interview with Steve Isham to learn more:

<https://youtu.be/MyKIg4OJ20c>

The Medical Kidnap Show is scheduled to air every Thursday night at 9 p.m. local Phoenix time on KFNX radio, and is also live-streamed on the [Medical Kidnap Facebook Page](#).

The shows are archived on the Medical Kidnap YouTube channel, and are also available as podcasts.

[Here is the Medical Kidnap Show page](#).

If you would like to listen to the Medical Kidnap Show over the radio in your city, contact the station where you listen to talk radio and request that they [contact us](#).

Join us next week, Thursday October 10th at 9 p.m. (midnight Eastern time), as we look at the question: [Is Arizona a Hub of Child Sex Trafficking?](#)

References

1. “Runaway flees, but hurt stays,” by Catherine Retzlaff Creno, *The Arizona Republic*, Sunday, August 13, 1989.

2. *Runaway Youth Program Directory*, August 1979, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Law Enforcement Assistance Administration U.S. Department of Justice

3. "Runaway flees, but hurt stays," by Catherine Retzlaff Creno, *The Arizona Republic*, Sunday, August 13, 1989.

4-Month-Old Arizona Baby Dies After Being Taken from Mother and Put into Home with Two Foster Dads Who Adopted 18 Kids



Samora Lesley Cousin with her mother, Jennifer Haley.
[Image source.](#)

Comments by Brian Shilhavy
Editor, Health Impact News

Reporter Dianna M. Náñez brings us the tragic story of a 4-month-old baby girl who was loved by her parents, but taken away by Arizona CPS and given to a foster home where two gay men lived, and who have adopted 15 kids.

The little baby girl died last week when one of the foster dads left baby Samora in a hot car for hours, allegedly forgetting that she was still in the car.

According to the report in the Arizona Republic, the foster dad has not been arrested. In fact, the Arizona Republic has written very positive articles about the gay couple describing how they are wonderful parents.

In all the years I have been covering medical kidnapping stories out of Arizona, I don't recall another case where a child died in foster care and the local media decided to write positive articles about the foster parents who had custody of the child and neglected to keep the child safe.

The mother claims the baby was taken away because the baby allegedly tested positive for drugs, even though she herself tested negative for any drugs.

And like many other medical kidnapping stories we have covered, this mother had other children in the foster care system that had also been removed from her home, and she was allegedly told that because of this fact, this little baby would be taken away from her also.

Baby died in care of foster father who adopted 15 kids; mother says ‘remember my daughter’

by [Dianna M. Náñez](#)
[Arizona Republic](#)

Excerpts:

The 4-month-old girl who died after being forgotten in a hot vehicle by her foster parent had a name.

Her mother wants people to remember that: Samora Lesley Cousin.

“I want her remembered,” said Jennifer Haley, weeping as she talked about her child, who had gone into foster care about three weeks after being born. “Samora was very sweet. She was a very sweet girl, she was amazing, she was full of spunk and she was always making me laugh. She didn’t deserve what happened to her.”

Haley remembers looking at her baby when she was born and just knowing that she had to name her Samora. The baby’s father, Wesley Cousin, picked her middle name.

“He picked Lesley,” she says. “I said that’s just Wesley with an L and we laughed.”



Samora Lesley Cousin with her mother, Jennifer Haley, and her father, Wesley Cousin. [Image source](#).

The infant was in the care of her foster father, Roger Ham, at the time of her death Tuesday, The Arizona Republic has confirmed. Phoenix police officials said they aren't releasing the identity of the foster father because he hasn't been arrested.

Police said the foster father, an administrator at a Washington Elementary School District transportation facility, arrived at work at about 7 a.m. after dropping off several children at day care.

He left work to pick up the infant girl for an appointment, then returned to work. When he returned to his vehicle again at about 3:30 p.m., he found the child still inside the vehicle.

He told police he had forgotten the child in his vehicle after the appointment.

Phoenix fire officials responding to the emergency call said they were unable to resuscitate the child, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

“They take our kids because they say we’re unfit, and when they take our kids a lot of bad things happen,” Haley said. “I want CPS to look at this, remember my daughter, and realize nobody is perfect and bad things happen.”

After Haley gave birth four months ago, DCS officials informed her that the baby had drugs in her system, something Haley disputes, saying she tested clean.

She said that because of the drug test and because four other children have previously been taken from her, she was told Samora would be taken too.

Haley said she knows accidents happen, but she can’t forgive the foster father.

“I feel like how could anybody leave a 4-month-old in a car and not even think twice about it,” she said. “It’s horrible knowing that she could not even defend herself. She had to sit there and suffer.”

Multiple people with knowledge of the event confirmed that the foster parents are Roger Ham and his husband.

In 2016, the Hams told The Republic that they had adopted their 15th child, a little girl named Amaya.

Read the Full Article at the [Arizona Republic](#).



system, and why alleged perpetrators are allowed to continue operating.

Names will be named in an investigative report no local media has ever dared to report.

You do NOT want to miss this explosive show!

[Medical Kidnap Show Page.](#)

Is the Mormon Church Behind a Worldwide Child Sex Trafficking Ring Operating out of Arizona?



Mormon Temple in Mesa, Arizona. [Image Source.](#)

Health Impact News

The second episode of the [Medical Kidnap Show](#) aired on [KFNX 1100 Radio](#) in Phoenix on October 10, 2019.

(Note: for those of you living in the Phoenix area listening on KFNX, the last part of the show was cut off due to a technical error, and will be replayed on Saturday, October 12th, at 5 p.m.)

Host Rick Wood and producer Brian Shilhavy started off the show discussing how most of the nation's child sex slaves that are trafficked in the U.S. come out of the nation's Foster

Care system.

See:

[State Department Report: U.S. #1 in Sex Trafficking – 60% American Child Sex Slaves Come Out of Foster Care](#)

[Attorney Reporting in Newsweek: Foster Care is a System Set Up to Sex Traffic American Children](#)

[Publicly Open Pedophile Running for Office in Virginia Reveals How Foster Care is a Pipeline to Adopt Children as “Sex Toys”](#)

[Pedophiles Continue to be Licensed as Foster Parents in the U.S. to Meet the Demand for Child Sex Slaves](#)



American film producer and author, Neal Sutz, visiting his two sons at a group foster home in Switzerland.

Next, Neal Sutz was interviewed on the show. Neal is a father who grew up and lived most of his life in Arizona, and married into the Mormon Church.

(Editor's note: As we have previously reported about documented sexual child abuse in other religious organizations, such as the [Roman Catholic Church](#), the [Independent Baptists](#), and the [Southern Baptists](#), these alleged crimes are not meant to be an indictment against all members of this religious group. Child sex abuse is found in all parts of the American culture, both religious and non-religious.)

See our previous articles on Neal Sutz:

[American Dad Escapes Arizona with Two Sons Only to Have them Medically Kidnapped in Switzerland](#)

[Is Geneva, Switzerland the Global Center for CPS and Child Trafficking?](#)

[Arizona Dad Fighting for His Two Sons Sues Mormon Business Leader and Alleged Child Sex Abusers for \\$200 Million](#)

Neal gained national fame back in 2004 when he attempted to be a guest on the popular Dr. Phil show, and claims he was discriminated against due to his past history with mental health. He ended up suing Dr. Phil and the producer, Oprah Winfrey, successfully under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Neal was trained as a paralegal, and he won his lawsuit against Dr. Phil as a pro-se litigant.

Now, he is suing his former Mormon in-laws in Arizona with a [\\$200 million defamation lawsuit](#), for what he claims has led to his two sons being medically kidnapped in Switzerland and held as political prisoners, as he attempted to become a whistleblower in Arizona to reveal child sex trafficking among the Mormon leadership there.

His former in-laws have responded to his pro-se lawsuit by hiring the former Solicitor General of Arizona, Dominic Draye, who is now practicing law at the [Greenberg Traurig](#) law firm, to defend them.

Mormons Reach Neal Sutz in Geneva Switzerland?

During the Medical Kidnap Show, Neal reveals how his powerful former Mormon in-laws allegedly used their influence to mastermind the medical kidnapping of his children in Switzerland, where he had moved to in order to try and escape them. Neal claims that they destroyed his career in Arizona because he tried to become a whistleblower and reveal decades of ritualistic sexual abuse in their family.

During the interview, Neal reveals how powerful the Mormon Church is politically, not only in Arizona and the U.S., but also in Switzerland. According to Neal, the Mormon Church has two seats in the United Nations, based out of Geneva.

Neal also claims that former U.S. presidential candidate and current Senator of Utah, Mitt Romney, received over \$1 million in campaign donations from two Swiss Banks, and how he believes Senator Romney is tied into the rich and powerful family of his former in-laws in Arizona.

Listen to the interview below (or [get the podcast version here](#)):

<https://youtu.be/6ykAevd7rrc>

[More on Neal Sutz.](#)

International Child Trafficking Ring Operating Out of Arizona?



Mormon Paul Petersen, an adoption lawyer and Maricopa County Assessor, was arrested Wednesday, October 9, 2019 for human smuggling and selling children. Photo from Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

About 24 hours before Episode 2 of the Medical Kidnap Show was aired on KFNX in Phoenix, Mormon Paul Petersen, an adoption lawyer and Maricopa County Assessor who is allegedly the head of a smuggling ring that recruited Marshallese women “and offered a significant amount of money to place their babies for adoption,” was arrested in Arizona after an 18-month investigation.

Petersen is also charged with 11 second and third-degree felonies in Utah, including human smuggling, sale of a child, communications fraud and pattern of unlawful activity.

Petersen allegedly began setting up his child trafficking operation in the Marshall Islands when serving there as a Mormon missionary.

Prosecutors say Petersen used associates in the Marshall

Islands, where he had served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to recruit pregnant women by offering many of them \$10,000 each to give up their babies for adoption. Petersen would pay for the women to travel to the U.S. days or months before giving birth and live in a home that he owned until delivering the baby, according to the court records.

Petersen charged families \$25,000–\$40,000 per adoption and brought about \$2.7 million into a bank account for adoption fees in less than two years, according to court documents. ([Source.](#))

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich reportedly has stated that he is not concerned about where these children went:

Brnovich said the Arizona investigation focuses solely on the alleged fraud to the state’s Medicaid system and stressed that his office was not pursuing families who adopted children through Petersen’s law office.

“It’s unfair to the adoptive parents, and it’s also unfair to the hard-working Arizona taxpayers,” he said. ([Source.](#))

Really? Given Arizona’s known problem of [licensing pedophiles as foster parents](#), should not every single baby who was trafficked to Arizona be tracked down to make sure they are in a safe environment?

Arizona Senator Threatened by Fellow Lawmaker for Stating That Foster Kids are Being Sold into Sexual Slavery



Health Impact News

Local media sources in Arizona have reported that State Senator David Farnsworth was threatened by a fellow lawmaker for stating his concern that the Arizona Department of Child Safety is facilitating the global sex trafficking of children from Arizona foster care.

Concerned for his safety, Senator Farnsworth reported her to the Department of Public Safety.

From [Jim Small of AZMirror](#):

A conservative Republican senator who is convinced that the Arizona Department of Child Safety is facilitating the global sex trafficking of children removed from negligent parents called the police on one of his GOP colleagues, alleging that she threatened his life.

Sen. David Farnsworth, a Republican from Mesa, filed a report with the Arizona Department of Public Safety this week accusing Sen. Kate Brophy McGee, R-Phoenix, of threatening him if he didn't stop investigating the outrageous claim. The news was first reported by Yellow Sheet Report, a high-priced insider newsletter aimed at lobbyists and government officials.

Farnsworth told Yellow Sheet that he has been looking into how DCS "lost" more than 550 children last year, roughly half of whom are categorized as either runaways or otherwise missing. The rest appear to be flagged for paperwork errors.

From [Andrew Oxford of the Arizona Republic](#):

An Arizona state senator called police alleging that a fellow senator threatened him to stop his regular meetings with critics of the state foster care system who believe it is playing a role in a broad sex-trafficking conspiracy.

Sen. David Farnsworth told officers this week that Sen. Kate Brophy McGee told him to stop holding meetings at the Capitol with people she has called "unbalanced."

Farnsworth said Brophy McGee told him: "I'm not asking you to stop. I'm telling you to stop."

“I asked her what that meant. She said, ‘My husband said that you would understand,’” Farnsworth recounted.

The Mesa Republican took that as a threat and reported it to the state Department of Public Safety.

Farnsworth said he fears children in foster care are being abducted by a worldwide trafficking network and sold into sexual slavery.

From the [Associated Press](#):

Farnsworth has been meeting every two weeks with a group of critics of the Arizona Department of Child Safety, including a group that has accused the foster-care agency of direct involvement in child trafficking.

Some on social media have claimed there’s a broad conspiracy involving judges, caseworkers, lawmakers, the governor and prosecutors to cover up sex trafficking.

Farnsworth told the Arizona Capitol Times that Brophy McGee told him to “lose the entourage” of conspiracy theorists and “crazy parents” whose children were taken by state child welfare authorities.

“I’m not asking you to stop. I’m telling you to stop. Stop or my husband will stop you,” Farnsworth recalled Brophy McGee telling him in a meeting on Tuesday.

How Many Politicians in Arizona Are Trafficking Children?

Join us Thursday night on KFNX 1100 Talk Radio at 9 p.m. local time (midnight ET) for [The Medical Kidnap Show](#) where this week we will discuss the question:

Is Paul Petersen the Only Arizona Politician Trafficking Children?

Is Paul Petersen the Only Arizona Politician Trafficking Children? The Marshall Islands Scandal



by Brian Shilhavy
Editor, Health Impact News

The residents of Arizona have been in shock for the past week, and the rest of the nation has looked on in horror as local mainstream news in Arizona has reported about a federal investigation that led to the arrest of Paul Petersen, the Maricopa County Assessor and a Mormon adoption attorney, who is being detained by federal officials for trafficking children from the Marshall Islands.

The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) was probably the first media source to expose the black market illegal adoption practices of Paul Petersen before his arrest last week, [reporting on it last year](#).

The [Civil Beat has reported](#) on how the women from the Marshall Islands were recruited to give up their babies for adoption in America based on false promises.

Civil Beat's investigation showed how, despite reforms two decades ago to give the Marshall Islands control over all international adoptions, U.S. attorneys such as Petersen were ignoring a treaty between the two nations to fly pregnant women to the U.S. to hand over their newborns to American couples.

Many Marshallese birth mothers said they did not know they'd be severing all connections to their children, a form of adoption largely unknown in their culture.

U.S. Attorney Dak Kees said Petersen told Marshallese women to lie to U.S. Customs officials about their reason for traveling to the U.S. Once here, the pregnant women lived in overcrowded conditions, sometimes four to a room or on the floor without a bed.

"Make no mistake, this is the purest form of human trafficking," he said.

Petersen charged adoptive couples \$35,000 to \$40,000, authorities said. But the Marshallese birth mothers only got about \$10,000 — sometimes less, after the costs of travel, health care and housing were siphoned off.

Earlier this week [ABC15 in Phoenix](#) visited some of the pregnant Marshallese women who were being housed in poor conditions in two east valley apartments.

“They were promised that it would be an open adoption, until they’re children are 18, that their kids will come here and grow up in the United States and be able to provide for their families back home,” said the women.

Words that couldn’t be further from the truth. As roaches crawl across the floor, the women talk about running out of food and money. Their thoughts constantly returning to their unborn children.

“They haven’t received any medical assistance since last month,” said the women.

All seven are due to give birth in the next four months. Their phones, passports, and other documents seized during Petersen’s arrest. They say they were never threatened by Petersen or his associates but at least three of the women have decided to keep their babies. ([Source](#).)

Using Political Influence to Increase Adoptions

As Maricopa County Assessor, Petersen used his influence to help get Doug Ducey elected as Governor of Arizona in 2014.





Petersen then pushed for legislation to make it easier for people to adopt children. On his private adoption website, privateadoptionlaw.com, which has been apparently shut down since his arrest, this message was written to prospective Arizona step-parents:

Paul has been instrumental in making the law in Arizona more accommodating for step-parents and other close intra-family adoptions. He assisted in the drafting and passage of a law, passed unanimously by the Arizona Legislature in 2012, that eliminated the need for step-parents to obtain a home study prior to adopting.

How interesting that here at MedicalKidnap.com we get stories all the time, especially from Arizona, testifying how

CPS will come into a home a remove a child from that home if they find things they do not like, such as too many dirty dishes, firearms, medical marijuana, and many other things that are used against parents to seize their children and put them into foster care.

But if you want to adopt one of those children, Petersen and his influential friends helped push legislation through where a home visit is not even necessary anymore, thereby increasing the number of eligible step-parents to adopt.

As County Assessor, Petersen also pushed for tax credits for people who wanted to adopt foster kids:



Petersen also tweeted his approval of Governor Doug Ducey's appointment of Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery to the State Supreme Court:



Paul D. Petersen

@PaulDPetersen

Follow



I agree whole-heartedly with what [@Steve_Chucri](#) said here 👉. Congrats to Justice Montgomery!

Steve Chucri @Steve_Chucri

I have known Bill Montgomery for more than a decade and worked with him as County Supervisor. I have trusted him to analyze complex legal issues, even at times when we have disagreed. He is an honorable man. Looking forward to his service and commend @dougducey on this selection.

With an apparent ally now on the State Supreme Court, who was going to replace Bill Montgomery as Maricopa County Attorney? Maricopa County is the 4th largest county in the U.S., and the place where most of Petersen's adoptions took place.

Not to worry. Governor Ducey appointed Allister Adel, the former general counsel for Arizona Department of Child Safety (CPS), the agency responsible for putting children into foster care, as the [new Maricopa County Attorney](#).



The Mormon Connection



Mormon Temple in Mesa, Arizona. [Image Source](#).

Paul Petersen did his Mormon missionary service in the Marshall Islands where he learned the local language. According to [Civil Beats](#):

As a young Mormon missionary in the Marshall Islands, Petersen learned to speak Marshallese, and made lasting contacts. An international adoption agency recruited him because of his fluency in Marshallese while he was still a college student, and he travelled to the islands to arrange adoptions.

Many of his current clients also are Mormon and learn of him through friends and relatives.

Paul Petersen has strong connections to the Arizona political scene, especially with his fellow Mormons. In 2013 he tweeted about Arizona Senator Jeff Flake visiting the Marshall Islands:



Jeff Flake is Mormon, and according to the [Brigham Young University Alumni News](#), he traveled to the Marshall Islands in 2015 with New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich, also a Mormon.

Marshall Islands



Arizona Senator Jeffrey L. Flake and New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich
Published 2015 BYU Magazine Alumni News

Some have criticized *Health Impact News* for attacking the Mormon religion, but it is not the Mormon religion we are exposing, but some of its leaders.

One Arizona Mormon lawmaker has recently come under fire, NOT for participating in child trafficking, but for trying to expose it, showing that there are Mormons who genuinely care for the welfare of Arizona children. See:

[Arizona Senator Threatened by Fellow Lawmaker for Stating That Foster Kids are Being Sold into Sexual Slavery](#)

What about Petersen and his political friends and their potential connection to child sex trafficking in Arizona, as has been revealed by whistleblower Neal Sutz, an Arizona father currently living in Switzerland and fighting to get his kids back?

We interviewed Mr. Sutz on the [Medical Kidnap Show](#) this week to get his insider perspective on child trafficking in

Arizona, and talk about any possible connections to his former in-laws and the current political leaders involved in the Petersen case. (If you missed Neal Sutz on last week's show, [listen to it here](#).)

[Podcast version is here](#).

<https://youtu.be/NPipoQgesnI>

2-Year-Old Arizona Child Raped and Burned in Foster Care: Where is the Justice for Devani?



Health Impact News

The [Medical Kidnap Show](#) Episode 4 aired on KFNX radio 1100 in Phoenix Thursday October 24th.

Host Rick Wood and show producer Brian Shilhavy welcomed guest Beth Breen on the show to talk about the Devani case, as Beth Breen was the contracted driver who transported young Devani from her foster home to visit her parents until David Frodsham, the foster father, was arrested for child pornography and child sex abuse.

Read our previous stories about this horrific case:

Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned

Arizona Girl Raped and Burned in Foster Care Still Represented by Same Attorney – Kept Away from Family

Arizona Foster Mother Found Guilty of Child Abuse after Scalding Young Devani

While David Frodsham has been convicted and is currently in prison for raping and sexually abusing Devani since she was 2 years old, and while Samantha Osteraas has also been convicted and is now in prison for scalding 80% of Devani's body to the point where she lost all of her toes, where is Devani today?

Why is her family not allowed any access to her?

Why has the lawsuit against the State and the State officials and agencies who are responsible for letting this happening been stagnant for over a year?

Listen to the show as we discuss these issues, and where Brian Shilhavy says that there is one major action that can be taken today to put a serious dent into the corrupt foster care industry that continues to traffick these children.

[Podcast version is here.](#)

<https://youtu.be/AN2BML9mbcg>

Is the Arizona Human Trafficking Council Preventing Child Trafficking, or Facilitating it?

Arizona Human Trafficking Council



Spotlight on the Arizona Citizen Volunteer DCS Oversight Group

by Brian Shilhavy
Editor, Health Impact News

Episode 5 of [The Medical Kidnap Show](#) aired on KFNX Talk Radio 1100 out of Phoenix on Sunday night, November 3, 2019.



Lori Ford

***Arizona Department of
Children Services
Oversight Group
@AZDCSWarriors***

Our guest for this show was Lori Ford, the head of the DCS Oversight Group, which is a group of volunteers who attend meetings regarding Department of Children Services issues in Arizona.

The group also has “court watchers” who attend Dependency Court hearings as parent advocates and to observe how these parents are being treated in Dependency Court.

Lori stated that the group did NOT want to become a non-profit 501 c3 corporation as they do not want to come under the “thumb of the government.”

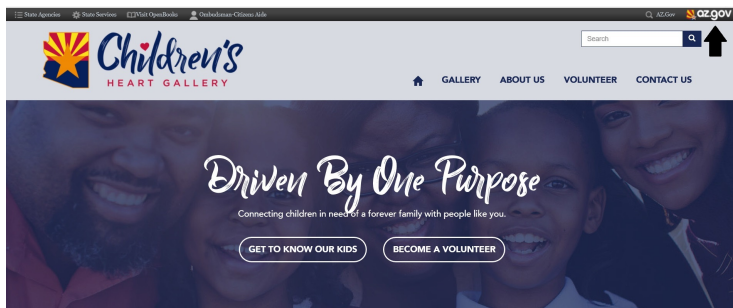
When asked why the members of the group provided their services to families and others free of charge, she replied:

The reason that we do this, is it's so important. This is the future of our country, the future of our nation. And family means everything to all of us.

So that's why we do it. We see so many rights being violated

in this dependency court system.

Arizona Human Trafficking Council Meeting



Discover Each Child's Unique Story and Spirit

This past week (Tuesday, October 29, 2019), the Arizona Human Trafficking Council conducted a meeting that was open to the public, and Lori Ford and other members of the DCS Oversight Group attended.

Lori addressed the Council, pointing out that while the Council had exposed websites that trafficked kids, such as BackPage.com, which was shut down by the FBI last year, that the Council had not addressed another website in Arizona that trafficks kids, the DCS .gov website: “[Children’s Heart Gallery](#).”

Filter By: All Boys Girls Siblings



Issac



Jessica & Tony



Esteban

The intent of this government taxpayer-funded website is to recruit adoptive parents, but it exposes these children to predators, by publishing photos and descriptions of children currently living in foster care.

Statistics bear out the fact that the majority of children trafficked in the U.S. today come out of our foster care system.

There are no precautions to enter this website. You don't need to register – it's just open to the world.

When asked if these children on the DCS website were from parents who had voluntarily given up their children for adoption, Lori replied:

The children who are on this Heart Gallery, which is part of the DCS website, are children that are in DCS custody. They're foster kids, they're kids in group homes.

This is a forced adoption, a forced re-homing if you will, website, of children who are in DCS custody.

They're pimping out kids online.

And yet, if a parent who is fighting the system to get their children back posts pictures of their children online while in foster care, Arizona Dependency Court judges routinely order them to take down their photos, and have even threatened MedicalKidnap.com for posting pictures that parents have supplied of their own children, putting pressure on the parents to make *Health Impact News* take down their stories and photos.



Arizona Maricopa County Assessor Paul Petersen was indicted on human trafficking charges recently.

Another question that Lori asked the Arizona Human Trafficking Council in her public comments was why wasn't the Council addressing the Paul Petersen case and his adoption fraud?

Arizona - Marshall Islands Adoption Scandal



Paul Petersen is currently facing federal criminal charges in three states, Arizona, Utah, and Arkansas, for illegally bringing pregnant women and children from the Marshall Islands into the U.S. illegally, and charging up to \$40,000.00 per child to adopt them out.

Lori pointed out that the Attorney General in Arizona was not even charging Petersen with “human trafficking” but the other two state Attorney Generals are.

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Vice Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer

EDUCATION:
B.A., University of Arizona, 1982
J.D., magna cum laude, Arizona State University College of Law, 1985
Masters in Judicial Studies, Duke University School of Law, 2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:
Justice, Arizona Supreme Court, 2012 – present
Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division I, 2000 – 2012
Chief Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division I, 2008 – 2011
Vice Chief Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division I, 2006 – 2008
Private practice with Phoenix law firms 1985 – 2000



Lori also mentioned the fact that every one of these alleged illegal adoptions that Paul Petersen arranged had to be signed off by a judge, so who is going to hold these judges accountable? She mentioned one case from years ago, where a Dependency Court judge refused to sign off on one of Petersen’s adoptions because it was illegal, but the case was appealed and Judge Ann Timmer over-ruled the Dependency Court judge’s decision.

And her reasoning for the over-ruling was: “It’s in the best interest of the child.”

Judge Ann Timmer was an Appellate Court judge at the time, but now she sits on the Arizona Supreme Court.

Our question is: Now, what is going to happen to those judges, every single judge signed off on those adoption papers for these Marhallese children that were human trafficked over here.

Do Victims of Human Trafficking Get Any Help from the Arizona Human Trafficking Council?

When asked just what the Arizona Human Trafficking Council has actually accomplished, Lori replied:

I don't know of anything they have accomplished, to tell you the truth.... It's a Council where there are presenters that talk about human trafficking... they talk about human trafficking.

From what I have seen from this Council, I don't believe they do anything to prevent human trafficking.

During the Arizona Human Trafficking Council meetings, there are opportunities for Public Comments. During these times, parents and advocates who are alleged victims or working with these victims of human trafficking get an opportunity to address the Council.

At the past meeting last week, there was a person who made a public comment who was not a parent or advocate, but a business leader in Arizona, who was concerned about one of his co-workers.



DeWitt Hoopes, President and CEO of Beatrice Companies, made a public comment to the Arizona Human Trafficking Commission.

Health Impact News has obtained a copy of Mr. Hoopes comments that he read to the Council on October 29, 2019:

My name is DeWitt Hoopes, President and CEO of Beatrice Companies, a food and technology business.

Eugene Hoopes Sr. or Gene Hoopes was my paternal grandfathers father, and he was the charter founding member of the American Legion, and a well known figure in Prescott, Arizona, and then DeWitt Page who was my paternal grandmothers father, and one of the original

founders of General Motors in its early years.

My parents were also friends with the late Senator McCain as my stepfather is a retired colonel in the USAF, and met with Senator John McCain on many occasions.

I am addressing the Council today on behalf of my friend and business colleague Neal David Sutz, who has been trying for over two years to blow the whistle on child sex abuse and trafficking in our state among powerful business leaders and members of the Mormon Church.

These people are his former in-laws, as he married into the Mormon Church. They include David Benjamin Creamer who is currently on the U.S. Marshall's 15 most wanted list as a fugitive for child sex crimes, and there are apparent connections to this family and Paul Petersen who was recently indicted for human trafficking via illegal adoptions from the Marshall Islands.

Neal has in his possession a video clip of a pornographic child video of his step-nephew Austin Creamer Bradford that he has attempted numerous times to provide to law enforcement here in Arizona, and he has been continuously stonewalled by Arizona officials who have not as yet investigated these alleged crimes. The little boy Austin was supposedly removed from his grandparents home by DCS, but nobody seems to know where he is today and whether or not he is continuing to be sexually abused.

Mr. Sutz currently has a \$200 million lawsuit against these alleged perpetrators filed in Maricopa Superior Court, naming Damian Creamer and his Charter Schools, and others as defendants in what appears to be a massive cover-up, and attempt to silence Mr. Sutz by defaming him. The defendants

have even hired Dominic Draye, the former Solicitor General of the State of Arizona as their lead counsel, so serious are these charges.

I appeal to the Governor's office to immediately investigate these serious crimes of child sex trafficking occurring right here in our own State, and bring to justice the alleged perpetrators. Because Mr. Sutz's own children are now in imminent danger of being trafficked as well.

Mr. Hoopes was apparently hoping to discuss his friend's situation personally with Cindy McCain, given their families' previous relationship, but Mrs. McCain abruptly left the meeting during the public comments, just prior to Lori Ford speaking, and never returned. Hence, she did not hear Lori or DeWitt's comments, nor the comments of anyone else who followed.

To learn more about Neal Sutz's case, see our previous coverage:

[American Dad Escapes Arizona with Two Sons Only to Have them Medically Kidnapped in Switzerland](#)

[Arizona Dad Fighting for His Two Sons Sues Mormon Business Leader and Alleged Child Sex Abusers for \\$200 Million](#)

[Is the Mormon Church Behind a Worldwide Child Sex Trafficking Ring Operating out of Arizona?](#)

Is Paul Petersen the Only Arizona Politician Trafficking Children? The Marshall Islands Scandal

When asked if the Council had ever addressed any concerns raised by her group, Lori Ford responded by relating how the Director of DCS had sent a letter to Cindy McCain and the Council denying all of the issues the DCS Oversight Group had addressed, and that this letter from Greg McKay was published on the Human Trafficking Council website, and to date is the only response the Council has given to the issues addressed.

Here is a copy of the letter, which Lori points out was not even signed by Greg McKay:



Arizona Department of Child Safety
MEMORANDUM

To: Mrs. Cindy McCain
Co-Chair, Arizona Human Trafficking Council

Mr. Gil Orrantia
Co-Chair, Arizona Human Trafficking Council

From: Greg McKay 
Director, Arizona Department of Child Safety

Date: May 28, 2019

Subject: Inaccurate data represented at May 28, 2019 Human Trafficking Council Meeting

I am writing to correct false statements and inaccurate data that were represented today during the public comment portion of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council meeting. Moreover, I want to apologize for the disruption, but mention that open meetings, especially those well attended, often bring critics of the Department of Child Safety (DCS) and myself.

The group signed in today calls themselves, "DCS Oversight Group," and are made up of some people whom have had unfortunate, life changing outcomes as a result of DCS intervention. The first allegation they leveled was that DCS has no oversight, therefore the "DCS Oversight Group" is required to seek accountability. The truth is, DCS has 27 different layers of oversight (local, state, and federal) and deeply appreciates accountability and an interested community.

The next allegation was that DCS is removing more children under my tenure, and it is done without due process. In 2015, Arizona was ranked the worst of fifty states in America for foster care growth. We had an all-time high of 19,044 kids in foster care (data as of March, 2016). Last year, Arizona was celebrated as the best state in America for safe foster care reduction of 25%. As of April, 2019, there were 13,380 children in foster care. More importantly, Arizona has not seen adverse outcomes from such a steep decline in the number of children in foster care. In short, the data doesn't suggest that we left children in harm's way in order to reduce the number of children in foster care. In the end, if children are endangered we take custody; regardless of numbers, costs, or theories on best interest. Moreover, last year we enacted legislation to require court authorization prior to removing children from their parent or guardian. Once children are removed, DCS must meet a multitude of conditions and prove those to judges repeatedly. There is due process.

May 28, 2019
2 | Page

The next allegation was that DCS takes people's children and makes a profit from federal funding streams. This is obvious nonsense, however, people come to this conclusion because the federal government does match funding for foster care and adoption related expenses. They also provide funding to share the cost with DCS to rehabilitate parents through services. DCS spends over \$970 million per year to support children and families in Arizona. That certainly is not a profit.

Finally, it was alleged that DCS has unlawfully taken people's children and then "lost" them. They had data, purportedly from a DCS website, that shows over 700 children are missing. This is categorically false. What is true, however, is that 213 children are listed as runaways, and 32 are listed as missing as of April, 2019. What constitutes these numbers are kids who run from their foster or kinship placement, delinquents placed with DCS who run and violate probation, and children whose parents absconded while an investigation was ongoing. Diligence goes into each of these categories. We have analysts searching and trying to track them down, each child has been reported to police and is listed in National Crimes Information Systems and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. We track social media, education systems, food stamps and other subsidy programs to find them. Oftentimes, we recover them, and they run away immediately thereafter. This is why our partnership with police has limited the AWOLs from group homes leading to human trafficking.

In closing, I know you and my colleagues on the council did not require an explanation. I am providing this because information is always helpful, and every child unaccounted for in the foster care system personally pains me. The dedicated staff at DCS do amazing work, and they do it under some of the most dreadful and thankless conditions imaginable. Talk is cheap from those who misshape the narrative. What's valuable, however, is the combined effort from all of us to share the responsibility for our children, fight for their justice and bring them peace and healing when the dust settles.

Health Impact News extends an invitation to former DCS Director Greg McKay, or anyone currently serving within DCS, to provide the data for the following claims Mr. McKay made in this letter.

1. You wrote: “*The truth is, DCS has 27 layers of oversight, and deeply appreciates accountability and an interested community.*” Could you please supply us with any reports regarding “oversight” from any of these 27 layers? What deficiencies or areas of improvement within DCS have been addressed in any of these reports, if they exist?
2. You admit that Arizona had the worst record in 2015 among all 50 states regarding Foster Care growth. Can you please supply a list of changes your department implemented that allegedly changed this ranking?
3. You state that DCS does not make money off of the Foster Care program. Can you please supply us a statement of accounts from a certified 3rd party showing all sources of revenue and expenditures for DCS?
4. Regarding your statement on runaways and missing children, can you supply statistics that support your claim, and can you supply statistics regarding how many foster children die each year?
5. You write: “Talk is cheap from those who misshape the narrative.” Indeed, talk, and writing letters like this one, are “cheap.” Please provide the data that support your claims, and please explain to us and the public why [Maria Hoffman](#) is employed at the taxpayer’s expense to handle all constituent complaints regarding DCS and child welfare, and why elected officials in the State Senate and House are not allowed to investigate complaints from their own

constituents? Does Maria Hoffman's position produce any reports or oversight?

Greg McKay was employed by the State of Arizona with taxpayer funds to oversee child safety, while members of the DCS Oversight Group are all volunteers spending their own time and resources to advocate for child safety, and one has to wonder how such work is based on "false statements and inaccurate data," while it is Greg McKay who has a responsibility to provide the sources for the claims he has made while categorically dismissing all of the efforts of the DCS Oversight Group.

As to the Arizona Human Trafficking Council, the citizens of Arizona should be demanding an accounting of public funds being used to fund this group, especially given the fact that evidence points to Arizona being a hub for child trafficking. See:

[Is Arizona a Hub of Child Sex Trafficking? Why does Arizona Take the Highest Percentage of Children from their Homes?](#)

Listen to the entire interview with Lori Ford on the [Medical Kidnap Show](#) that was aired on KFNX Talk Radio 1100 in Phoenix.

[Podcast version is here.](#)

<https://youtu.be/CcMwX4Dsalk>

Is There an Arizona and Mormon Connection to Child Trafficking in Arkansas and Senator Linda Collins-Smith's Murder?



Health Impact News

Episode 6 of [The Medical Kidnap Show](#) aired on November 10, 2019, on KFNX Talk Radio 1100 out of Phoenix at 9 p.m. Sunday night. (11 p.m. EST)

The guest interviewed on the show was Kathy Hall. Kathy is a grandmother who was living in Arkansas when her daughter was tragically killed by a hit-and-run vehicle being driven by

an illegal alien.



Kathy Hall with Arkansas Senator Linda Collins-Smith. Photo courtesy of Kathy Hall.

Her daughter left behind a young child, and Kathy has been fighting to get access to her granddaughter ever since. Getting no help from attorneys in Arkansas, Kathy turned to an Arkansas State Senator, Linda Collins-Smith, to help her get her granddaughter back.

The two became close friends until Linda Collins-Smith was murdered in Arkansas, within hours after returning for a week-long trip to Arizona, where she was reportedly

investigating child trafficking.

Kathy then found out through a Social Media post that her granddaughter had already been adopted out to a Mormon family who then left the State of Arkansas and moved to Wisconsin.



The attorney who allegedly arranged the adoption was Paul Petersen, an adoption attorney who was also the Maricopa County Assessor in Arizona, and who has since been indicted on federal charges in three states, including Arizona and Arkansas, for human trafficking.

Paul Petersen was allegedly running an illegal adoption ring smuggling in pregnant women from the Marshall Islands, where he had spent two years as a Mormon missionary learning the local language and customs.



Arkansas Judge Stacey Zimmerman. [Image Source](#).

Arkansas Judge Stacey Zimmerman is the judge that allegedly adopted out Kathy Hall's granddaughter to a Mormon family that had ties to Paul Petersen. She is also the judge that allegedly handled all of Paul Petersen's illegal adoptions.



Listen to the full interview that was aired on KFNX Talk Radio 1100. [Podcast version is here.](#)

<https://youtu.be/0Ccx18RJI0o>

Are Powerful Mormon Leaders Behind Child Sex Trafficking in the U.S.?

We have previously covered the story of Arizona father Neal Sutz, who married into the Mormon Church, and his effort to blow the whistle on powerful Mormon business leaders in Arizona where Mr. Sutz claims there are rampant child sex abuse happening.

For our previous coverage on Mr. Sutz and his interviews on the [Medical Kidnap Show](#), see:

Is the Mormon Church Behind a Worldwide Child Sex Trafficking Ring Operating out of Arizona?

Is Paul Petersen the Only Arizona Politician Trafficking Children? The Marshall Islands Scandal



We had Neal Sutz listen to the Kathy Hall interview, and asked him:

Neal, you just heard Kathy Hall talk about her case in Arkansas, and the connection to Arizona through Paul Petersen and Linda Collins-Smith. People are starting to connect the dots here, and the common thread in these child trafficking stories coming out of Arizona, Arkansas, and Utah, is the connection to these leaders of the Mormon Church.

And yet, so far no one is discussing the [defendants you named in your lawsuit](#) who are also leaders in the Mormon Church. Do you think it could be because your former in-laws are not involved in these illegal adoptions, but instead are invested in something else that involves children, namely Charter Schools?

We know, for example, that former presidential candidate Mitt Romney's Private Equity firm Bain Capital has invested heavily in Charter Schools. (See: [Why Is Mitt Romney's Bain Capital Spending Big On Charter Schools?](#))

Here is Mr. Sutz's reply:

With the evidence I have provided, not only to the Court here in Geneva, but moreover to the Department of Homeland Security, the F.B.I., the DOJ, the police in Arizona and journalists, in particular Medical Kidnap, the "Mormon Connection" to the worldwide child trafficking – pedophile – child pornography syndicate, and how it directly ties to recently-indicted Maricopa County Assessor, Paul Petersen, is totally and unequivocally proven.

On that note, when one takes an even mildly-investigative look at the Charter School industry, the CPS system, The Mormon Church, Paul Petersen, et al, it is as clear as day that my ex-family-in-law, the Creamer and the Bradfords, although not "on the surface" connected to the adoption industry in Arizona, they are deeply involved in facilitating the pedophile and sex trafficking industry based out of the Arizona.

It is very easy to look up and read numerous articles about how my ex-brother-in-law's charter school, Primavera, prides itself on serving students who are "at risk," in foster care and in group homes. Damian used to boast, at Thanksgiving, about how his school takes care of the kids who no one else "wants."

What Damian Creamer and the rest of his crew "take care of" is funneling in to the child trafficking business, via their Mormon Church and his government-funded charter school, the children/students who no one is actually Protecting.

In short, he and his colleagues, like Paul Petersen, have a great "front" for enticing, manipulating and then trafficking, i.e. selling innocent children while destroying innocent

parents and filling their personal and corporate bank accounts.

And all this using their friends, business associates, politicians and fellow Mormon Powerhouses to conduct this global business of buying and selling children.

Primavera has over 25,000 students per year and, despite it not being considered a brick-and-mortar charter school, is the largest online high school or middle school in Arizona.

I could keep submitting more and more PROOF that the ties are all there for the DOJ to jump in, arrest, charge and prosecute my ex-family-in-law, but that would be a waste of time at this point.

All one has to do is look at my ex-wife's 1st cousin, David Benjamin Creamer, who is on the U.S. Marshall's 15 Most Wanted List, add that to my ex-brother-in-law, Damian Creamer, who was multiple court-testified to as being a serial pedophile, and add that to my ex-father-in-law, Robert Grant Bradford, the "patriarch pedophile" of the Creamer/Bradford Family, the man who also tried to assassinate Sheriff Joe Arpaio and former AZ Governor, Jane Hull.

All one has to do is link together all the pieces together, combine the already indicted, Paul Petersen and his ties with The Mormon Church and my ex-family-in-law, and the DOJ will have all that they need to shut down, and then rebuild new, the Child Protective Services from ground zero.

Arizona is, by all the proof we see before us, nearly 100% corrupt on all levels, whether political, judicial or police.

If the DOJ does not come on, AND NOW, to stop my ex-family-in-law and their colleagues and fellow Mormon Church members, from selling, abusing and molesting children, we might as well accept the fact that DCS and it's counterparts, being both politicians and other AZ government entities, will totally and completely annihilate any chance any good parent has for saving their children from their Luciferian hands.

Come Now, President Trump, or there will be nothing to save in a short time from now. Come Now, AG Barr, or all the innocent families will be destroyed and their children will be sold into the clutches of unimaginable corruption and abuse for time immorial.

You have the proof, now please do something with it.

Neal Sutz tried to escape to Switzerland from Arizona to save his family, but his children were seized in Geneva, Switzerland where they have been in captivity for over 2 years. Mr. Sutz claims that the influence of his powerful former Mormon in-laws reached him even in Switzerland. (See: [American Dad Escapes Arizona with Two Sons Only to Have them Medically Kidnapped in Switzerland](#))

So we asked Neal to give us an update on his situation in Geneva, as his parental rights were supposed to be terminated at the end of October (2019), and this is his reply:

The latest with my case? A simple question with more complexity, corruption and knock-you-on-the-floor surprises than I could have ever thought possible.

A few highlights – As you know, I had my “DVs,” i.e. “The

Right To Visit My Sons,” mind you, ONLY 2 hours, 4 times per week and only at the Children’s Group Home while being observed by the “Educators” who work there, suspended back in September.

The CPS here, called the SPMi, and the Kangaroo Juvenile Court, called the TPAE, said that their “reasoning” for stopping me from seeing my sons was that I broke the law of the “right of the image.” In short, that means that once the Canton of Geneva “places,” i.e. kidnaps a child and takes the custody over that child, they, and only they, have the right to take or distribute any photos or videos of the child.

What had I done? I had taken a video of my oldest son, Cory, praying to Jesus to come home to Daddy, with his little brother, Skyler, and telling Jesus, in this video prayer, that he was very sad at the Group home away from Daddy, as well as not safe in the Group Home, and that he wants to come home, and have his little brother come home also, to Daddy.

What the SPMi and the Kangaroo Court were really PUNISHING ME for was the fact that I had posted videos and photos, and journalists had, as well, showing the abuse and negligence that my sons are being subject to at the Group Home.

Examples being bloody welts and sores on Skyler’s buttocks and legs, as well as videos I made when I found Skyler’s bed with huge stains of blood, urine, vomit and feces, in which he had been sleeping.

In short, the CPS of Geneva, and their Kangaroo Court, called the TPAE, attacked me by stopping my visits with my sons because I showed the world the kind of luciferian abuse, negligence and horrors that my sons have been subject to

since they were kidnapped on July 25, 2017 and are subject to every day.

Then, skipping ahead, the Juvenile Court schedules, after nearly 2.5 years, the “final hearing” to determine, based SOLELY on the infamous Psychiatric Family Expertise, what they are going to do with my sons.

The options on the table, according to this Administrative, NOT JUDICIAL, Court, were either a foster home in Switzerland, back to my ex-wife’s family and their pedophile, sex-trafficking family and friends in The Mormon Church in Arizona or keep them at the Group Home until there are 18 years old.

Then, in the 11th hour, with this “final hearing” scheduled for October 31st, I get my hands on the Official Audit on the “Psychiatric Expert” who had defamed me, lied, discredited me and conspired with dozens of parties in Geneva and the USA to falsify a psychiatric “diagnosis” against me as an excuse to keep me from ever getting the custody of my sons back, let alone even see them any more.

This “Audit,” ordered by a member of the Geneva Government, called the Conseil d’etat, proved, unequivocally that the “Expert,” Dr. Marina Walter-Menzinger, was not only NOT an adult psychiatrist, but also that she was, herself, clinically-speaking in the educated opinion of her boss, psychiatrist, Dr. Gerard Niveau, a “perverse narcissist,” with a militant, authoritarian power complex, totally anti-father and unquestionably pro-pedophile in her decisions of where and to whom children taken by the CPS of Geneva should spend the rest of their childhoods.

So, I had my lawyer turn into the Court the proof I had

acquired an Extract of this Audit showing that, since the Court is using as 100% of the “evidence” against me to keep my sons forever, or sell them to a foster family, the entire case against me was not only false, but totally fictional and the “Expert” who the Court hired to analyze me, my ex-wife and my sons, was, herself, not even an adult psychiatrist.

As it turns out, we turned this in to the Court on October 30, one day before the final hearing. Turns out the Judge cancelled the hearing and asked my sons’ lawyers to “resubmit” their “final conclusions” after reviewing what I had my lawyer give to the Court.

The hearing was delayed. All Parties were given until November 15 to resubmit their final conclusions and heads started spinning in circles.

In short, I called them on their lies, corruption and conspiracy.

So, with my ex-wife having been institutionalized in Arizona on February 6th of this year, with no one even having seen her face on WhatsApp or heard her voice by phone in nearly 1 year now since her return to Arizona to live with her pedophile, child-pornographer parents, in 4 days we will know what everyone thinks of this blatant truth which I have put in front of every one of the Parties to this case.

And in just over 4 days, we will know if the Court here is going to do the right thing and let me have my sons back or if we will “officially” enter World War 3.

UPDATE 10/29/19

Arizona Judge Rosa Mroz dismissed Neal Sutz's case, with prejudice, on 10/29/19 based on defendants Motion to Dismiss.

Read more on Geneva, CPS, and Neal Sutz here:

[Is Geneva, Switzerland the Global Center for CPS and Child Trafficking?](#)

Will Paul Petersen and His Accomplices in Child Trafficking Ever See Justice?



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

Arizona Maricopa County Assessor Paul Petersen, who was indicted in three different states for illegally trafficking children through his adoption agency, has requested that his trial in Arkansas be delayed for almost a year. He is currently free on bond.

Doug Thompson of the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* [reports](#):

The Arizona adoption attorney charged with 19 federal crimes involving illegally enticing women to give up their

babies asked for a 10-month delay in his trial date in a motion filed Monday.

“As this court is aware, defendant not only faces criminal allegations in this court, but he has also been indicted by the state of Arizona and the state of Utah,” says the motion filed in U.S. District Court in Fayetteville. The motion asked the trial be delayed from Dec. 9 to October.

Defendant Paul D. Petersen, 44, of Mesa, Ariz., faces a total of 62 charges: 19 federal counts in Arkansas, 32 state counts in Arizona and 11 state counts in Utah, all regarding his services as an adoption attorney in those states. He is free on separate bonds in the different states but, by order of the federal court in Arkansas, has to wear a GPS monitoring device.

The federal indictment accuses Petersen of paying pregnant women from the Marshall Islands, a small nation in the western Pacific, to give up their children for adoption. He paid their airfare to the United States for that purpose and then gave them airfare home, all in violation of a specific clause in a treaty with the islands’ government, his indictment says. ([Full article here.](#))

The hub of Petersen’s alleged illegal activities was Maricopa County, in Arizona, where he serves as the County Assessor, an elected official.

Authorities in Arizona have been unsuccessful in removing him from office so far, but they recently seized many of his assets.

Robert Anglen, writing for the *Arizona Republic*, [reports](#):

A Maricopa County Superior Court judge gave the green light for authorities to seize Petersen's office building. The judge also allowed them to seize Petersen's vehicles, his Mesa home, his family's vacation home, four properties he owned in Arizona, Utah and Arkansas and to freeze 11 personal and business bank accounts.

Authorities in the seizure warrant allege Petersen made at least \$1,459,578 as part of an illegal adoption scheme he operated in three states.

Petersen is the elected Maricopa County assessor and a Mesa attorney specializing in private adoptions. Federal and state authorities say his business was built on human trafficking.

Petersen is facing charges in Arizona, Utah and Arkansas on allegations that he illegally transported pregnant women from the Marshall Islands to the U.S., fraudulently enrolled them for Medicaid and orchestrated adoptions of their children to American families for up to \$40,000 each. ([Full article here.](#))



Who in Arizona Helped Petersen with his Child Trafficking Operation?

So far, no one in the mainstream corporate-sponsored media seems to be doing any investigative work on their own to try to uncover this scandal further. It is hard to believe that Paul Petersen could have accomplished this operation on his own, especially since he served in a public office as County Assessor for Maricopa County.

Health Impact News has conducted its own investigation, and if federal law enforcement is serious about stopping child trafficking flowing through Arizona, Mr. Petersen's connections should be investigated.

Doug Ducey is the governor of Arizona, and had strong ties to Petersen, as was seen on Petersen's Twitter feed, which has since been removed. Petersen endorsed his campaign to become the Governor of Arizona.



Paul D. Petersen
@PaulDPetersen

Follow

I'm proud to be on the @dougducey team! A proven leader in business and govmt, it's great someone of his caliber is running for @AZGOV2014

3:26 PM - 21 Aug 2014



Doug Ducey ✓
@dougducey

Follow

Honored to have the support of Maricopa County Assessor @PaulDPetersen!
#Ducey2014 #azgov #BroadCoalition

PAUL PETERSEN

MARICOPA COUNTY ASSESSOR

ENDORSES DUCEY FOR GOVERNOR



"It's time for a new perspective and vision for Arizona's future, and that's why I'm endorsing Doug Ducey. With his proven record in both the public and private sectors, Doug has the knowledge and ability needed to lead Arizona into the future. A leaner, more effective state government, less regulation,

He also apparently looked to Governor Ducey to help with legislation to make his adoptions easier.



Arizona foster care, of course, has been ripe with corruption as we have reported numerous times at *Health Impact News*, as have many other media outlets in the corporate media, so having connections with the agency overseeing foster care (Arizona Department of Child Safety, or CPS), the County Attorney, and judges who oversee adoptions would all help.

Bill Montgomery was the Maricopa County Attorney for much of the time Petersen was operating, and was then appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court as a judge by Doug Ducey.



Steve Chucri @Steve_Chucri

I have known Bill Montgomery for more than a decade and worked with him as County Supervisor. I have trusted him to analyze complex legal issues, even at times when we have disagreed. He is an honorable man. Looking forward to his service and commend @dougducey on this selection.

Governor Ducey then appointed Allister Adel, the former general counsel for Arizona Department of Child Safety (CPS), the agency responsible for putting children into foster care, as the [new Maricopa County Attorney](#).



Paul Petersen was able to establish connections in the Marshall Islands because he is Mormon, and did his Mormon missionary service there, learning the language and culture.

According to [Civil Beats](#):

As a young Mormon missionary in the Marshall Islands, Petersen learned to speak Marshallese, and made lasting contacts. An international adoption agency recruited him because of his fluency in Marshallese while he was still a college student, and he travelled to the islands to arrange adoptions.

Many of his current clients also are Mormon and learn of him through friends and relatives.

Paul Petersen has strong connections to the Arizona political scene, especially with his fellow Mormons. In 2013 he tweeted about Arizona Senator Jeff Flake visiting the

Marshall Islands:



Jeff Flake is Mormon, and according to the [Brigham Young University Alumni News](#), he traveled to the Marshall Islands in 2015 with New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich, also a Mormon.

Marshall Islands



Published 2015 BYU Magazine Alumni News

Is anyone investigating these two U.S. Senators?

Arizona Human Trafficking Council



And what about the judges who approved all these illegal adoptions?

We interviewed Lori Ford, the head of the Arizona DCS Oversight Group, on [The Medical Kidnap Show](#) recently.

Lori and her group had just attended a quarterly meeting with Cindy McCain's Arizona Human Trafficking Council, which was setup originally by Governor Doug Ducey, and Lori lamented that the topic of Paul Petersen's arrest and illegal adoption scandal *was never addressed once* during the last meeting!

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Vice Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer

EDUCATION:
B.A., University of Arizona, 1982
J.D., magna cum laude, Arizona State University College of Law, 1985
Masters in Judicial Studies, Duke University School of Law, 2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:
Justice, Arizona Supreme Court, 2012 – present
Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division I, 2000 – 2012
Chief Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division I, 2008 – 2011
Vice Chief Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division I, 2006 – 2008
Private practice with Phoenix law firms 1985 – 2000



A portrait of Vice Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a red top, smiling. She is standing in front of a bookshelf filled with books.

Lori mentioned the fact that every one of these alleged illegal adoptions that Paul Petersen arranged had to be signed off by a judge, so who is going to hold these judges accountable?

She mentioned one case from years ago, where a Dependency Court judge refused to sign off on one of Petersen's adoptions because it was illegal, but the case was appealed and Judge Ann Timmer over-ruled the Dependency Court judge's decision.

And her reasoning for the over-ruling was: "It's in the best interest of the child."

Judge Ann Timmer was an Appellate Court judge at the time, but now she sits on the Arizona Supreme Court.

Our question is: Now, what is going to happen to those judges, every single judge signed off on those adoption

papers for these Marhallese children that were human trafficked over here.

Listen to the [entire interview with Lori Ford here](#).



Next, [we interviewed Kathy Hall](#), a grandmother who was living in Arkansas when her daughter was tragically killed by a hit-and-run vehicle being driven by an illegal alien.



Kathy Hall with Arkansas Senator Linda Collins-Smith. Photo courtesy of Kathy Hall.

Her daughter left behind a young child, and Kathy has been fighting to get access to her granddaughter ever since. Getting no help from attorneys in Arkansas, Kathy turned to an Arkansas State Senator, Linda Collins-Smith, to help her get her granddaughter back.

The two became close friends until Linda Collins-Smith was murdered in Arkansas, within hours after returning from a week-long trip to Arizona, where she was reportedly investigating child trafficking.

Kathy then found out through a Social Media post that her granddaughter had already been adopted out to a Mormon family who then left the State of Arkansas and moved to Wisconsin.

The attorney who allegedly arranged the adoption was Paul Petersen.



Arkansas Judge Stacey Zimmerman. [Image Source.](#)

Arkansas Judge Stacey Zimmerman is the judge that allegedly adopted out Kathy Hall's granddaughter to a Mormon family that had ties to Paul Petersen. She is also the judge that allegedly handled all of Paul Petersen's illegal adoptions.

Is anyone investigating Judge Stacey Zimmerman for her part in all of this? For those investigating Senator Linda Collins-Smith's murder, is anyone tying in her case to Paul Petersen?

Or are people too afraid of whoever is behind Senator Linda

Collins-Smith's death?

Lots of questions with few answers, and if Paul Petersen and his attorney have their way, his case will not even begin until next October.

Listen to the interview with [Kathy Hall here](#).

Arizona Foster Father Who Adopted 18 Kids with His Husband Will not Face Charges in Death of 4-Month-Old Baby Left in Hot Car



Foster parents Roger and Steve Ham. Photo by Michael Chow of The Arizona Republic. [Source](#).

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

This past August we covered the tragic story of 4-month-old Samora Lesley Cousin who died when one of her foster dads allegedly left her in a hot car for hours. See:

4-Month-Old Arizona Baby Dies After Being Taken from Mother and Put into Home with Two Foster Dads Who Adopted 18 Kids

Roger Ham, the foster parent who left the 4-month-old baby in his car, was not arrested at the time.

ABC 12 News in Phoenix is reporting that the Maricopa County District Attorney's Office will not move forward with criminal charges against Mr. Ham (who is not named in the article.)

The foster father of a 4-month-old baby girl who died in a hot car near 39th Avenue and Cactus Road in October will not face charges at this time.

The Maricopa County District Attorney's Office confirmed Tuesday it will not move forward with criminal charges after meeting with the family. ([Source.](#))



The current, newly appointed Maricopa County DA is Allister Adel, the former general counsel for the Arizona Department of Child Safety (CPS), the agency responsible for putting children into foster care.

The Arizona Republic has published multiple articles about foster dads Steve and Roger Ham over the past several years, portraying them as wonderful parents who have adopted 18 kids.

Reporter Karina Bland even [published an article](#) just after 4-month-old Samora Lesley Cousin died, casting the foster parents in a positive light.



Samora Lesley Cousin with her mother, Jennifer Haley.
[Image source.](#)

The baby was taken away from her mother Jennifer Haley due to her mother allegedly testing positive for drugs, something that Jennifer Haley denies.

“They take our kids because they say we’re unfit, and when they take our kids a lot of bad things happen,” Haley said. “I want CPS to look at this, remember my daughter, and realize nobody is perfect and bad things happen.” ([Source.](#))

So while baby Samora’s mother and father had to mourn the loss of their baby girl twice, once when the State of Arizona took her away from them, and then again when she died a few months later, the Hams are allowed to continue as foster parents.



This tragic situation just further highlights the disparity between how the State treats biological parents as opposed to foster and adoptive parents, and the apparent double

standard.

Of course understanding that the foster care system is a huge business of child trafficking that brings in BILLIONS of dollars of taxpayer funds when a child is removed from the home while there is very little assistance available to help disadvantaged parents keep their children is the first step to solving this problem.

False Child Abuse Charges Caused Couple to Lose their Home, Job, and two Children Before Being Cleared 2 Years Later



Sons of Lorina Troy.

Health Impact News

Parents fight for change after mistaken child abuse allegation

by [Elizabeth Ruiz](#)
[ABC 10 News San Diego](#)

Excerpts:

Lorina Troy is on a mission to make sure what happened to

her doesn't continue happening to others.

“My children were wrongfully taken from me for five months and placed into the foster care system,” Lorina Troy said.

Five years ago, in Austin, Texas, doctors found fluid inside the head of Troy's second-born son, JJ. She says they automatically assumed it was Shaken Baby Syndrome.

“I told the pediatric neurosurgeon, ‘My son has never been hurt in any way, could this be something else?’ And he told me, ‘Yes, but since he's a baby and can't talk, we're just going to go with abuse' and he just walked away,” Troy said.

Soon after, JJ, and the Troy's four-year-old son were taken away by Child Protective Services.

It took five months for Troy and her husband, Jason, to get their kids back. And two more years passed before JJ was properly diagnosed with Benign External Hydrocephalus. It's a rare condition where spinal fluid can build outside of the brain, leading to swelling.

To make matters even more complicated, The Troys also had to prove their innocence. They spent \$80,000 dollars in attorney fees, had to sell their house and Jason lost his job. It took more than two years and the accurate diagnosis for the couple to finally be cleared of all charges. Troy says the whole ordeal led her to action, and taught her there are other families in the same situation.

“Families are contacting me in Oregon, Arizona, California, Texas, Tennessee, just all over. Florida, New York, New Jersey... it’s crazy, like it’s everywhere,” Troy said.

Troy is now working with Texas lawmakers to pass a bill that would allow parents to get a second opinion from an independent medical expert before a child can be taken out of the home. But she’s not stopping with Texas. Troy is already meeting with representatives in California, and she plans to make her way around the country raising awareness about her family’s case.

Video no longer available.

Read the full story at [ABC 10 News San Diego](#)

Prostitution Camp in Marshall Islands Provided Teenage Mothers for Arizona Mormon Politician's Child Trafficking Business



Comments by Brian Shilhavy
Editor, Health Impact News

Last year (2019) *Health Impact News* reported on the arrest of Paul Petersen by federal agents in Arizona for illegally trafficking children from the Marshall Islands.

Paul Petersen was the Maricopa County Assessor and a Mormon adoption attorney who was arrested and indicted in three states for trafficking children through an illegal

adoption scheme.

See our previous coverage:

[Is Paul Petersen the Only Arizona Politician Trafficking Children? The Marshall Islands Scandal](#)

[Will Paul Petersen and His Accomplices in Child Trafficking Ever See Justice?](#)

[Is There an Arizona and Mormon Connection to Child Trafficking in Arkansas and Senator Linda Collins-Smith's Murder?](#)

[Is the Mormon Church Behind a Worldwide Child Sex Trafficking Ring Operating out of Arizona?](#)

[Dillon Rosenblatt](#) of the *Arizona Capital Times* reports that a prostitution camp in the Marshall Islands, where girls as young as 15 or 16 did sex work in exchange for food and housing, provided many of the birth mothers for the children that were trafficked through adoption to the U.S.

Prostitution camp provided women for Petersen adoptions

by [Dillon Rosenblatt](#)
[Arizona Capital Times](#)

Excerpts:

A prostitution camp in the Marshall Islands provided many of the birth mothers caught up in former Maricopa County

Assessor Paul Petersen's allegedly illegal adoption business, according to statements attributed to his co-defendant in a warrant to seize his assets.

When she was arrested in August, Lynwood Jennet, Petersen's co-defendant in his criminal case and his fixer in the Marshall Islands, told police that the majority of women she had recently helped Petersen recruit came from a prostitution camp where girls as young as 15 or 16 did sex work in exchange for food and housing.

Jennet said when the girls at the prostitution camp would get pregnant, she would receive a call (the name of the caller was redacted in the documents) and she would contact Petersen.

"Lynwood was asked who runs the camp, Lynwood said it was the government or businessmen," Department of Public Safety Detective Samuel Hunt, who interrogated Jennet following her arrest, said in the sworn affidavit, which was recently unsealed.

Jennet described the camp as a place where "young girls wait for fishermen to come and dock to do shopping and what not."

The camp was on the main island of the Marshall Islands, a small island country in the Pacific Ocean where Petersen did his Mormon mission and later ran his adoption business in violation of a treaty between the U.S. and the Marshall Islands that allows islanders to visit the U.S. for any reason without needing a visa, except they cannot come to the U.S. to offer a baby for adoption.

That provision of the treaty exists because of a long history

of exploitation of Marshallese women by American adoption agencies. Petersen charged upwards of \$35,000 for his adoption services, and paid the mothers, through a third party, around \$10,000 per baby, though he would often skim expenses out of the final payments, the affidavit stated.

Read the full article at the [Arizona Capital Times](#).

Horrific Details Emerge on Arizona Foster Care Pedophile Trafficking Ring where Children Were Raped and Sodomized

Sexually Abused and Trafficked while in Arizona Foster Care Pedophile Ring



Foster and adopted children abused by David Frodsham. Trevor Frodsham (left), Devani (center), and Ryan Frodsham (right).

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

We have exposed the deep corruption in the State of Arizona for years now, where historically they have a higher percentage of children taken away from their families and put into the foster care system than any other state in the U.S., as a state that is deeply entrenched in the child trafficking network with corruption reaching the highest

levels of government.

Statistics from 2015 showed that one out of every 100 children in the State of Arizona was in foster care.

See some of our previous coverage on this issue:

[Is Arizona a Hub of Child Sex Trafficking? Why does Arizona Take the Highest Percentage of Children from their Homes?](#)



David Frodsham / Photo: Sierra Vista PD

One of the most horrific stories we have covered from the State of Arizona was the case of the little girl named Devani, who was taken away from her mother against her will, and put into a foster care home in Sierra Vista with David Frodsham, who was running a pedophile pornographic and child sex trafficking ring.

David Frodsham worked with the U.S. military at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, and had previously worked in Afghanistan as a “top civilian commander,” but was kicked out of the country for sexual misconduct. His commanding officer wrote:

“I would not recommend placing him back into a position of authority but rather pursuing disciplinary actions at his home station.”

Nothing happened, however, and he continued as a licensed foster parent in the State of Arizona, where according to the lawsuit brought against him he repeatedly raped little Devani. He was convicted and is now behind bars.

Little Devani was not returned to her family, however, but put into another foster home in Arizona, where the foster mother burned 80% of her body with scalding water resulting in the loss of her toes. See:

[Arizona Child Removed from Loving Family and Placed into Foster Care Where She was Repeatedly Raped – then 80% of Body Burned](#)

Earlier this month (April, 2022), Michael Rezendes, [writing for the Associated Press](#), provided new details of this child

sex trafficking ring operating through the Arizona Foster Care system, as two adopted sons of David Frodsham have come forward to file lawsuits for the years they were sexually abused.

Now, the criminal investigation is spilling over into civil court, where two of Frodsham's adopted sons have filed separate lawsuits against the state for licensing David and Barbara Frodsham as foster parents in a home where they say they were physically and sexually abused throughout their lives.

A third adopted son filed suit Tuesday in Arizona state court in Cochise County, said attorney Lynne Cadigan, who represents all three.

These lawsuits provide further evidence that the State of Arizona has always known, and probably even participated in, the pedophile sex trafficking ring inside the Frodsham home, which is why they continued to allow the Frodshams to be licensed foster parents.

In the latest complaint, 19-year-old Trever Frodsham says case workers missed or overlooked numerous signs that David and Barbara Frodsham were unfit parents. These included a 2002 sex abuse complaint filed with local police by one of the Frodshams' biological daughters against an older biological brother, and the fact that David and Barbara Frodsham were themselves victims of child sex abuse.

Trever's allegations echo those featured in an earlier lawsuit filed by his older biological brother, Ryan Frodsham, and one filed by Neal Taylor, both of whom were also adopted into

the Frodsham household.

In an interview with the AP, Ryan Frodsham said his adoptive father began sexually abusing him when he was 9 or 10 years old and the abuse continued into his teens, when David Frodsham began offering his son's sexual services to other men. "Makes me throw up thinking about it," Ryan said.

In his lawsuit, Ryan Frodsham said the state was informed that David and Barbara Frodsham were physically abusing their children "by slapping them in the face, pinching them, hitting them with a wooden spoon, putting hot sauce in their mouths, pulling them by the hair, bending their fingers back to inflict pain, forcing them to hold cans with their arms extended for long periods time," and refusing to let them use the bathroom unless the door remained open.

In his AP interview, Ryan said Barbara never sexually abused him but walked into the room where David was abusing him at least twice.

"She knew what was going on," he said.

The lawsuits and related legal filings also say investigators with the Department of Child Safety and case workers with Catholic Community Services, which subcontracts foster and adoption work from the state, failed to effectively follow up on 19 complaints and attempted complaints regarding the Frodsham home spanning more than a decade.

The complaints began in 2002, when the Frodshams applied for their foster care license, and continued until 2015, when David Frodsham was charged with disorderly conduct and driving drunk with children in his car, prompting the state to

suspend their license indefinitely and remove all foster children from their home, although the charges were later dismissed.

The lawsuits say the Frodshams' adopted children attempted to report their own physical and sexual abuse without success.

For instance, Neal Taylor's lawsuit says he attempted to report that David Frodsham was sexually abusing him in two phone calls to his case manager, both of which he placed from school.

The first time, the case manager reported the call to Neal's adoptive mother, who "interrogated" him and "proceeded to punish" him, according to his lawsuit. The second time, the case manager refused to meet with him unless he disclosed the reason for his call over the phone, because he would have had to drive 90 minutes from Tucson to Sierra Vista for a private meeting.

Ryan Frodsham's lawsuit and the related legal filings say he reported repeated alleged physical abuse by Barbara Frodsham to Sierra Vista police when he was 12 years old after running away from home.

Police photographed several bruises, returned him to Barbara Frodsham, and reported the incident to the state Department of Child Safety. Despite the photographs and a police report, a case worker who met with Ryan five weeks later found his allegations "unsubstantiated." ([Source.](#))

There is no way that something as horrible as this could be allowed to exist without participation in almost every level of

government within the State of Arizona.

From social workers, to judges, to politicians and law enforcement, everyone has to either be complicit or too afraid to expose the corruption, in order for something like this to exist.

And it includes religious and private businesses as well, benefiting from the lucrative child trafficking system funded through foster care and adoption services.

In this AP story, they mention how this is happening at the border as well.

The Frodsham child sex abuse ring is part of a cluster of sex abuse cases that have come to light in Cochise County, Arizona, over the last several years, including several involving U.S. Border Patrol agents, two of whom worked at the Naco, Arizona, Border Crossing. Among them:

— *John Daly III. A year ago, authorities arrested the recently retired Border Patrol agent after DNA evidence led them to suspect him in at least eight rapes, and to consider whether he is the so-called East Valley rapist, who terrorized women outside Phoenix throughout the 1990s. Prosecutors in Maricopa and Cochise counties have charged him with multiple counts of sexual assault and kidnapping. Daly, who is being held without bail, has pleaded not guilty.*

— *Dana Thornhill. A year ago, Thornhill was sentenced to a 40-year prison term after pleading guilty to years of sexually abusing his two children. Thornhill was charged following a stand-off with police in which he holed up in a local church. At the time, Thornhill was the chaplain at the Naco Border Crossing.*

— Paul Adams. In 2017, Adams was charged with raping his two daughters, one of whom was just 6 weeks old; taking videos of the sexual assaults; and posting them on the Internet. Adams, who took his own life before standing trial, was also stationed at the Naco Border Crossing. ([Source.](#))

When the occasional arrest is made in this evil system, such as this one with Frodsham, or the [Mormon politician Paul Petersen](#), my guess is that the arrests probably involve “turf wars” where someone crossed a line in the evil child trafficking system and their competitors then used the law to put them away.

Law enforcement officials will then claim they are fighting this, all the while participating in it and protecting it.

The attorney for these victims of the Frodsam crimes, chose her words carefully, but you can easily read between the lines to see what she is probably implying.

Ransford believes the cluster of cases should be attributed to good police work and effective prosecution, which give victims and others the confidence to report child sex abuse. “People report because they know something’s going to be done about it,” he said.

But Cadigan, the attorney representing the Frodsham brothers and Neal Taylor, wonders whether child sex abuse in southern Arizona is on the rise. “Law enforcement has been very effective, and I appreciate their efforts, but I’ve been taking these cases for 30 years and I’ve never been so busy,” she said.

Read the [full article at AP](#).

Civilian Army leader led child porn ring, risked US security