



March 18, 2020

Dana Nessel, Attorney General  
G. Mennen Williams Building  
525 West Ottawa Street  
Post Office Box 30212  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Attorney General Nessel,

On April 30, 2018, Dr. Bob Geffner recommended Dr. Kathleen Coulborn Faller at the Family Assessment Clinic (FAC) to Judge Nilon, Florida Family Court, as a potential evaluation resource for [REDACTED] MacMaster. On July 19, 2018, Johanna MacMaster, [REDACTED] mother contacted FAC seeking services for [REDACTED]. She stated she had sole custody of [REDACTED] and has been divorced from Sean MacMaster since 2012. Ms. MacMaster stated that [REDACTED], at age 4, disclosed to her she was sexually abused by her father. She indicated there was a parent reunification case regarding the child's father, Sean MacMaster in Florida and that Mr. MacMaster was exercising his visitation at that time in a home in which a convicted sexual offender was residing. Child Protective Services in Michigan was called, and a case was opened. There was no sexual abuse substantiation made and the case was rated Category 4, the low risk in Michigan.

Ms. MacMaster stated that in 2016, [REDACTED] also disclosed sexual abuse perpetrated by her father at Care House in Pontiac during a forensic interview. She stated [REDACTED] disclosed that she was penetrated with a "salami" anally and vaginally by her father and by the convicted sex offender living in the home. At the time she contacted FAC Ms. MacMaster reported several concerning behaviors manifested by [REDACTED] and requested an assessment to understand [REDACTED] current symptoms and then possible therapy recommendations.

FAC reviewed the information provided and proposed a plan to start with an extended assessment conducted by Dr. Robert M. Ortega and Mary B. Ortega, LMSW.

This assessment protocol is utilized in cases involving very young and/or traumatized children. During the initial informational meeting, Ms. MacMaster reported that [REDACTED] had decompensated and was dissociating. She stated [REDACTED] was extremely hypervigilant, saying she was afraid her mom will be killed and that she'd be taken. She said [REDACTED] insisted on sleeping with her so Ms. MacMaster worked at night and could not leave [REDACTED]. Ms. MacMaster reported that [REDACTED] symptoms increased and became increasingly problematic after she saw therapist Tracey Stulberg, a court-ordered reunification therapist. [REDACTED] told her mother the therapist asked her why she was there. [REDACTED] told her because her dad hurt her, and the therapist indicated that the abuse never happened. Ms. MacMaster stated that [REDACTED] began seeing Tracey Stulberg in January 2018 and began having nightmares, had trouble eating, talked about harming herself, and considered a need to bring a knife to therapy for self-protection.

Based on the severity of these reported trauma symptoms, an extended assessment was conducted. [REDACTED] was seen on August 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 and 23, 2018 for a total of six sessions, for an average of one hour

per session, and each session was videotaped. [REDACTED] provided a great deal of information and details regarding her past sexual abuse by her father and a convicted sex offender, during her father's visits with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] disclosures were consistent throughout the six sessions, and her affect during these disclosures appeared genuine. She clearly demonstrated symptoms of hypervigilance, hyperarousal, and post-trauma. For example, while at FAC, she repeatedly questioned the interviewers and her security; she sought assurance the doors were locked and pointed out noises in the hall. She described her fear she would be kidnapped during the night, and she demonstrated a heightened level of arousal reflecting fear and anxiety. When asked what she would like to have happen, she stated that she did not want to see her father because he is mean to her and does bad things. This is consistent with her fears of him, worries that others are not acting to protect her, and her confusion about why her father is a different person when he is alone with her.

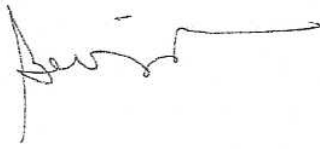
After the assessment, FAC was contacted by an officer from the Michigan State Police regarding [REDACTED] extended assessment. FAC was told that charges were being sought and a copy of the video-taped interviews were requested and provided. The Michigan Attorney General's office and Michigan State Police subsequently came to FAC to meet with [REDACTED] MacMaster. An Assistant Attorney General conducted an interview with [REDACTED] with Ms. Ortega present. [REDACTED] described being sexually abused by her father and the convicted sex offender. [REDACTED] provided details about what she saw in the room where the abuse occurred. Following this interview, the Attorney General's Office and Michigan State Police discussed moving forward with a search warrant of the alleged offenders' home. A different Assistant Attorney General contacted Ms. Ortega to arrange a meeting with [REDACTED] to prepare her for court testimony. [REDACTED] requested Ms. Ortega to be present to provide support. Shortly afterward, Ms. Ortega was informed that personnel concerns were raised within the Attorney General's Office and the MacMaster case was referred to a Florida court, where the alleged perpetrator resided. No further contact was made by the Attorney General or Michigan State Police.

Ms. MacMaster subsequently contacted FAC and indicated that a Florida court was once again ordering visits between [REDACTED] and her father. She said the case in Michigan was no longer being pursued. Based on the extended assessment, it is clear that [REDACTED] is displaying symptoms consistent with sexual abuse and the trauma of abuse. FAC holds the position that the safety, security and well-being of [REDACTED] is at risk given her disclosures and evidence in her mental health decompensation. FAC has received no formal indication that the pursuit of charges once considered by the Michigan Attorney General's Office or Michigan State Police were dismissed, despite the serious concerns raised at the time FAC was contacted. FAC is asking that you review this matter in order to keep this child safe from potential harm. FAC firmly believes that [REDACTED] deserves to have her voice heard.

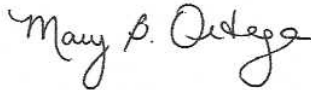
Respectfully,



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Co-Director, Family Assessment Clinic



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Clinic Administrator/Supervisor

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