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Kimberly Lawson
MR. McANDREW: That was Exhibit 22
to the motion in liminae.
The Court: Right.
MR. MCANDREW: And the point of Kimberly it, Ms. Lawson has been talking about the TPR
it, Ms. Lawson has been talking about the TPR $\int \alpha d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d $
litigation, the trial, this is the decision.
These are the factual findings of the Court.
The Court entered an order on the motion in
liminae saying that the findings of the Family
Court referenced in paragraph 16 of the
indictment, and these are the findings, this
decision are admissible but with a cautionary
instruction from the Court that the findings do
not definitively determine that abuse did or did
not take place, but rather are relative to the
defendants' state of mind and motive in
continuing to make allegations against
Ms. Belford, and as motive for the defendants'
stalking conduct. And as we argued in our
briefs, it's this decision that takes things to
the next level thereafter.
The Court: You have accurately
conveyed my ruling. I have the redacted 308.
Defense, is everyone clear on what the proper

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scope is? MS. CHAVAR: Yes, Your Honor. MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, sir. MR. EDELIN: Yes. MR. MCANDREW: With that I think we're prepared to proceed. The Court: The only thing I would say is keeping in mind the patience of the jury, rather than in too much detail covering all the nuances of the decision, to the extent we can move it forward, I am watching them, and I do think that in terms of painting a bigger
MR. IBRAHIM: Yes, sir. MR. EDELIN: Yes. MR. MCANDREW: With that I think we're prepared to proceed. The Court: The only thing I would say is keeping in mind the patience of the jury, rather than in too much detail covering all the nuances of the decision, to the extent we can move it forward, I am watching them, and I do
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move it forward, I am watching them, and I do
think that in terms of painting a bigger
picture, that's the most important thing to do.
MR. MCANDREW: I do not want to
wear out my welcome with them, so I'm sensitive
to that.
The Court: Why don't we bring in
Ms. Lawson while we're getting the jury and then
we'll be ready.
(Jury entering the courtroom at
9:25 a.m.)
The Court: Good morning, ladies
and gentlemen, please be seated, everyone. You
will have one important vote to take later today

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1	and that is whether the lunch the Court is going
2	to provide is any good. It doesn't need to be
3	unanimous, but by all means let us know. And
4	I'm glad we're able to do that on a rainy day.
5	Mr. McAndrew, we have Ms. Lawson
6	on the stand?
7	MR. McANDREW: We do, Your Honor.
8	And we're prepared to proceed.
9	The Court: Please.
10	MR. McANDREW: Good morning,
11	everyone.
12	BY MR. MCANDREW:
13	Q. Good morning, Ms. Lawson. Welcome
14	back. We left off yesterday talking about
15	various pieces of correspondence that you had
16	received from Tom and Lenore Matusiewicz. Do
17	you recall that?
18	A. Yes, I do.
19	Q. And we went through a number of
20	documents; correct?
21	A. Yes, we did.
22	Q. Now, just to be clear for the
23	jury, is that the sum total?
24	The Court: Mr. McAndrew, the
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	manually reportanty bering

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1	absence of the mics I think we're live.
2	BY MR. MCANDREW:
3	Q. Just to be clear, was that the sum
4	total of documentation you received from Tom or
5	Lenore Matusiewicz or any other member of the
6	Matusiewicz family?
7	A. No, I did receive other
8	correspondence from other members. I believe
9	that was everything I received. I mean, not
10	everything I received in the package was
11	included in these, but I believe these were all
12	of the mailings from Tom and Lenore Matusiewicz.
13	But I did get other correspondence from other
14	family members. There was Gloria, I remembered
15	her name in the shower, Gloria Kula and also
16	Melinda Kula sent me documents and
17	correspondence.
18	Q. Were they along the lines in terms
19	of subject matter the types of documents we
20	looked at yesterday?
21	A. Yes. The one from Gloria Kula was
22	the letters to Dr. Marsha Orlov, and it was just
23	I was asked to send these to you by Lenore
24	Matusiewicz.

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t me if I'm
ve were discussing
2011 time frame
also covered that
March 2nd, one
was in March as
rward now from
ring in June?
ast evidentiary
videntiary
about June
aring, Christine
Matusiewicz
Matusi

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	testified as well?
	A. I believe he did.
	Q. Okay. If you're not clear, that's
	fine.
	After that hearing, is there
	another court session at which evidence is
	presented?
	A. There is one more hearing where we
	did the closing arguments and also Don Roberts,
	who is the attorney for David Matusiewicz, in
NI	the interim had filed a motion to present
术	additional evidence after the close of trial so
	we considered that, but then it was just closing
	arguments, no witnesses.
	Q. Without getting too much in the
	weeds on the procedural details. After the
	Court hears argument, does it issue a decision?
	A. It takes it under advisement, not
	from the bench it did, then the Court issues an
	opinion in August.
	Q. I am pulling up what you should
	have there is Government Exhibit 308?
	A. Yes.
	Q. Can you take a look at that and

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1	tell me if you have seen it before?
2	A. Yes, this is the opinion of the
3	Court on the petition to terminate parental
4	rights.
5	Q. Is this the final decision that
6	the Court issues at the end of the case deciding
7	the issue?
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. And it is submitted on July 13,
10	2011, meaning what does submitted mean?
11	A. That means that the closing
12	argument was completed and the decision was
13	submitted to the Court. So we were done with
14	everything that was going to be given to the
15	Court and it's submitted and that's when the
16	Court considers.
17	Q. So the issue is under
18	consideration of the Court at that point?
19	A. Yes. The next one down.
20	Q. Says written decision signed.
21	What is that date?
22	A. August 18th of 2011.
23	Q. What does that mean, decision
24	signed?

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1	A. That means that the judge signed
2	the opinion on that day, so on the back there's
3	a signature of the judge and there's a line and
4	they will write the date that they sign the
5	opinion.
6	Q. When you say on the back, you're
7	referring to the last page of the decision?
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. All right. And just to be clear,
10	these were the attorneys who appeared in the
11	case listed here?
12	A. Yes.
13	Q. And that's the judge and how do
14	you pronounce the judge's name?
15	A. Judge Crowell.
16	Q. And she's a judge of the Family
17	Court of the State of Delaware?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. All right. Now, we're not going
20	to read this entire thing, but I do want to
21	orient the jury to what it contains.
22	A. Okay.
23	Q. It's a judicial decision, so we're
24	going to go rather quickly, but if you flip to
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1	the next page you see there's an introduction
2	and procedural background, right?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. That lays out that's exactly
5	what it sounds like, right?
6	A. Yes, it's what happened before we
7	got to her closing the case, everything that's
8	happened to date.
9	Q. If you proceed a few more pages
10	you get to the background facts; is that right?
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. And then there are subsections in
13	the background facts discussing different
14	portions of the factual history of the case; is
15	that right?
16	A. That's correct.
17	Q. If you go to page 8, I think it
18	is, and I'm just going to highlight a few, but
19	there are various aspects here, correct?
20	A. Yes.
21	Q. You'll see page 8 has a Subsection
22	E, the psychological effects of the kidnapping
23	of the children, correct?
24	A. Yes.
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1	Q. If you continue on, you will see
2	that Subsection F is entitled the children's
3	attitude toward father?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. If you continue onto page 14,
6	right above the section that begins mother's
7	mental health, you'll see there's, for example,
8	a discussion on March 2nd, 2011, you see that?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. Can you read just that line to
11	give the jury a sense of this?
12	A. Starting with on March 2nd?
13	Q. Yes.
14	A. On March 2nd, 2011, when father
15	was asked by the GAL in these proceedings
16	whether he still believes that mother is abusing
17	the children, he replied I can't answer whether
18	she is or not at this moment, I know that she
19	did. He told Doctor Romirowsky and Doctor Orlov
20	that he still believes that mother sexually
21	abused Laura.
22	Q. Okay. Now, these are the findings
23	of the Court, right? And then there's the
24	mother's mental health, another section on that.
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1	There's a section on that?
2	A. Yeah. And just in case, I don't
3	know, GAL is what the family court refers to in
4	shorthand as the attorney guardian ad litem.
5	Any time you see GAL, they are referring to the
6	position of attorney guardian ad litem.
7	Q. There's a section at the end of
8	the mother's mental health where the Court
9	describes the mother's demeanor; is that right?
10	A. Yes. Mother's demeanor in the
11	courtroom on seven different days and during her
12	extended testimony on two different days
13	reflected an extremely composed, very
14	reasonable, appropriately concerned parent with
15	surprisingly little anger or animosity toward
16	father and no apparent desire for any revenge,
17	especially admirable, the Court finds
18	considering all the trauma to which father's
19	actions have subjected her and her children.
20	Q. All right. Moving on, we get to a
21	portion of the opinion where the judge sort
22	of where the Court is discussing the
23	termination of parental rights and the standard
24	for such, right?

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2427

1	A. Yes.
2	Q. Those are the legal standards, so
3	to speak?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. We're going to skip over those.
6	And if you go to page 22 of the document, I'm
7	referring to the page when I say page 22, they
8	are these numbers down to the bottom right
9	corner?
10	A. Right.
11	Q. There's a section on best interest
12	of the children, of the child here, but
13	A. Yes.
14	Q. The actual language. And this
15	describes various factors that relate to that
16	analysis, correct?
17	A. Correct.
18	Q. All right. And including a
19	Subsection 2, do you see that on page 23?
20	A. Yes. And these are following the
21	best interest factors that I am required to
22	assess and present an opinion on to the Court.
23	They are in the statute set up directly.
24	Q. So this is the analysis these
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	2420	
1	were the judge's findings, but you had to look	
2	at these same factors and argue them to the	
3	Court, correct?	
4	A. Correct, these and other factors,	
5	but these are what are included in what they	
6	have to consider.	
7	Q. Subsection 20, page 23, is	
8	entitled what?	
9	A. The wishes of the child as to his	
10	or her custodian and residential arrangements.	
11	Q. All right. And if you could just	
12	read the first line.	
13	A. All three children are said by the	
14	therapist who talked with them to be very happy	
15	and feeling very safe and secure living with	
16	mother.	
17	Q. And then down below, what is	
18	clear?	
19	A. What is clear is that at least	
20	Laura and perhaps Leigh feared being removed	
21	again from mother by father and his family.	
22	Laura is particularly angry at him both for what	
23	he did and for his lies about going to Disney	
24	World and about her mother's alleged death. She	

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1 2	wrote in a letter to him that she wants an explanation from him and that she was scared to
Z	explanation from him and that she was scaled to And if Darie actually aid
3	see him but may want to see him when she is 18 when that explanation t
4	and in quotes, old enough to call the police. Laura want
5	She also stated in a letter that, quote, I'm have depinit
6	sorry that I don't have any good feelings for pavid.
7	you.
8	Q. Okay. There's a section on page
9	24, I'll read the subheading, the interaction
0	and interrelationship of the child with his or
1	her parents, grandparents, siblings, persons
2	cohabitating in the relationship of husband and
3	wife with a parent of the child, any other
4	residents of the household or persons who may
5	significantly effect the child's best interest.
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. May be the longest subheading I've
8	read. If you go to the next page, 25, there's a
9	section at the top?
0	A. Yes.
1	Q. And if you could read that first
2	sentence.
3	A. Laura is adamant about not wanting
4	to see any of her father's relatives, in

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1 parenthesis, his parents and sister. And Leigh, the autistic child, screams when she is shown a who + what 2 made these children go picture of her paternal grandmother whom she 3 loving from the.r father grandmother 4 last saw over two and a half years ago. to infeching them with 5 0. All right. And I'm going to read hatred Such them toward to acheally 6 these headings, but they continue on, the cause them to when Show & Richie 7 child's adjustment to his or her home, school 8 and community. Obviously that says his or her. Why did have Karen 9 That language is not tailored to the particular to hide 0of picture children in this case; is that right? 10 David in her drawer? would she 11 Right. That's just a direct Α. get in for trouble. 12 language from the statute. shill loving her dod? 13 That's right out of the statute. 0. Okay. Section 5 is mental and physical health 14 of all individuals involved and then it's broken 15 16 down between mother and father, right? 17 Α. Yes. 18 All right. There's a section 0. 19 entitled father, a subsection entitled father's 20 neglect attitude toward mother? 21 Α. Yes. 22 All right. And then another Q. 23 section 2 that begins father's accusation of 24 mother's sexual abuse; is that right? Hawkins Reporting Service

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7	Ves			1

1	A. Yes.
2	Q. And this recounts the accusations?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. And I'll just highlight quickly.
5	Including that Laura's hymen had been torn, that
6	she was wearing two pairs of underpants and I
7	believe there's a mention of the lollipop in
8	here, but I'm not sure.
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. Do you know?
11	A. I believe there is.
12	Q. All right. Well, this will
13	obviously the jurors will be able to read this.
14	On the second page the judge's report goes into
15	a bit of the rationale for her belief that or
16	her conclusions with regard to the allegation;
17	is that right?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. And the factual finding that the
20	Court makes is here; is that right?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. And if you could read that.
23	A. Yes. This judge does not find
24	father's accusations to be credible and believes
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	2432
1	they were made up to provide father and his
2	mother, once they were caught, with a defense in
3	their criminal proceedings. Even father's own Contrary t
4	expert, Doctor Orlov, stated in these of Peggy
5	proceedings, in quotes, it's almost like it, and morr's, mile
6	then in parentheticals, the sexual abuse Evans.
7	allegations came up after he was found. And
8	that's the part that I have a genuine concern
9	there, end quote. The sexual
10	Q. All right. And it continues on were told to
11	here? here? found, but the authorities after they were found, but
2	A Yes discussed with
13	Q. Could you read that?
4	A. So father is vague about exactly
.5	when he learned about the sexual abuse other
.6	than that it was in July or August, 2007, even
.7	though he also stated that it took two months to
L8	prepare to leave. Notwithstanding what he
9	claims was evidence horrible enough to justify
20	his kidnapping his children, to sell his home
21	and his practice and to flee to Central America,
22	he continued to let the children spend their
	usual time with mother in the interim before he
23	

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1	the earth to find a treatment for his daughter's
2	autism, he never sought out any therapy or
3	treatment for Laura. Most importantly he never
4	went to any of many possible resources in the
5	community for help for Laura. He did not call
6	the police, he did not contact the children's
7	doctor, A.I. Dupont
8	Q. And then we go over to the next
9	page, which is 29.
10	A Hospital for Children or the
11	Children's Advocacy Center. He did not take And the lawye
12	Laura to any counselor, nor did he contact his the ban's that
13	own counselor at the time. He did not contact Kis he would
14	Laura's school. He did not contact any of the tleave the
15	many experienced layers he had had during the you say about the mother in
16	course of his divorce proceedings. He did not they want take
17	contact the family nor file an emergency PFA, a
18	procedure with which he was familiar, nor
19	request an emergency order to suspend
20	visitation. This court can only conclude that
21	the contacts were not made, the help never
22	sought and the counseling never recREALLY? So why then
23	because father did not then really his loving friends +
24	mother had abused Laura at that tir thriving, successful optometric practice if
	Hawkins Reporting Service 715 North King Street - Wilmington, De: (302) 658-6697 FAX (302) 658-1 Last breath?

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0. And this just continues on. We're not going to read through the Court's entire findings, but there's another subsection, father's limited remorse; is that correct?

> Α. Yes.

0. Another subsection onto page 31 entitled father's deceit and manipulation; is that correct?

A. Yes.

With discussions about particular 0. things on page 32 that Laura had reported and if you could just read this to give the jury a sense of this.

A. When father was told that Laura reported that he had told her in Central America that her mother had committed suicide and was dead, he denied telling her that and said that if Laura said it, she was a liar.

Q. All right. And it continues on, there's another subsection called distrust of authority?

> Α. Yes.

And if we could just read the 0. eginning portion of that.

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Regarding David tellings Laura that christine was dead in central America David's email response when I asked him to explain this incident (as I've sent previous14):

"We were walking back up the hill from the town the hill from the town center (in Catarina) + Laura actually said, "I think mommy is dead." There was no prompting + I don't remember what we were talking about at the time. I was surprised - do not said in response. ..

previous transcripts also verify Lee saying that Laura was the one to say, " I think mommy is dead." Lee explained what being dead really means.

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1	A. Father's distrust of anyone but
2	his family is also a disturbing feature of his
3	personality. If he really did believe that his
4	daughter was sexually abused, it is scary to This is
5	think that he trusted no one outside his of Davis
6	immediate family, not the police, not the I'm sad
7	medical profession, not the child protective district all of the
8	system, not the educational system, not his with a g
9	counselor, not his attorneys and not the legal the people
0	system. The fact that he would intentionally
1	violate the family court.
2	A. The fact that he would
3	intentionally violate the Family Court order
4	also is very concerning, raising questions about
5	future compliance with court orders. His
6	violation was not a quick impulsive knee-jerk
7	reaction, but one that took at least several
8	months, if one believes his story, and most
9	likely longer to plan and
0	Q. We can stop there. This continues
1	on and the Court ultimately reaches the
2	conclusion. And if I can just get to that, this
3	is one statement, thus
4	A. Thus with great reluctance,

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1	considering all the factors of Section 722, the
2	GAL's position and the grave concerns expressed
3	above, the Court finds by clear and convincing
4	evidence that it is in the children's best
5	interest for the father's parental rights to be
6	terminated.
7	Q. Thank you.
8	The Court: Does that complete the
9	discussion of the findings, Mr. McAndrew?
10	MR. McANDREW: It does. I was
11	simply going to mention the appeal, but if Your
12	Honor prefers.
13	The Court: Ladies and gentlemen
14	of the jury, in terms of the admissibility of
15	some of the history of the case, I have told you
16	that from time to time we will hear about
17	different events.
18	So I have allowed you to hear the
19	findings of the Family Court with respect to the
20	termination of parental rights. All right. As
21	relevant background information. That does not
22	definitively conclude that no abuse took place
23	because that issue is in front of the Court
24	here, but what you just heard about what the

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	1	
1	Family Court held might be considered as	Don't you this
2	relevant to potentially a motive for future	probably swayed the
3	things that occurred including the stalking that	J .)
4	the Government alleges occurred.	previous opinions of
5	Remember, I said this before, when	- 1 9
6	a judge says this is admissible, what that	
7	means, it is something for you to consider. All	wh wiver
8	right? But you must consider it in light of all	that it did some people
9	the evidence that you hear and in light of the	believe if a Judge said
.0	arguments of down. All right? So you have now	then it must be true.
L1	heard this, I have told you why you heard it,	also Human . make mistakes
.2	these findings are not automatically binding on-	- 11.5) 4(6
.3	you, but they're part of the evidence for you to	(. ·
.4	consider in the case.	
.5	MR. McANDREW: Thank you, Your	
.6	Honor.	
7	BY MR. MCANDREW:	
.8	Q. Ms. Lawson, once the decision of	
.9	the Court is issued, was there an appeal?	
20	A. There was an appeal filed by David	
21	Matusiewicz.	
22	Q. And to what court is the decision	
23	appealed under Delaware law?	
24	A. The Supreme Court of the State of	
	Hawkins Reporting Service	

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1	Delaware.
2	Q. And the appeal goes all the way
3	through to the decision in the Supreme Court of
4	the State of Delaware?
5	A. Yes, it does.
6	Q. Without getting into the details,
7	did the Supreme Court of Delaware affirm or
8	uphold the decision of the Family Court?
9	A. The Supreme Court affirmed or because the
0	agreed with the opinions that it stand as in the state of DE affirms
1	written. of the lower
2	Q. And about when did that occur, if you Ever giv
3	you know? children?
4	A. I believe that happened around
5	February of 2012, somewhere in that range.
6	Q. The Supreme Court of Delaware is
7	the highest court in Delaware?
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. After the appeal is concluded and
D	the decision is affirmed, is that the end of the
1	TPR litigation?
2	A. That is the end of the TPR
3	litigation.
	MR. McANDREW: Thank you. Your

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1	Honor. I'll t	cender the witness. Thank you.
2		The Court: All right. Counsel,
3	who wishes to	go first?
4		MR. EDELIN: Your Honor, with the
5	Court's permis	ssion.
6		The Court: Of course.
7		CROSS-EXAMINATION
8	BY MR. EDELIN:	
9	Q.	Good morning, ma'am.
10	Α.	Good morning.
11	Q.	How are you?
12	А.	I'm good. How are you?
13	Q.	Wonderful. Thank you.
14		I'm going to ask your indulgence
15	for a minute k	because I want to go back to some
16	of what you sa	aid yesterday just to help remind
17	myself.	
18		You were appointed by the Court to
19	serve as the g	guardian ad litem; is that right?
20	Α.	Yeah, the attorney guardian ad
21	litem.	
22	Q.	Attorney guardian ad litem?
23	A.	Yes.
24	Q.	In that capacity, it is your role,

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1 your function to serve as the children's in this 2 case, or child if there is only one child, best 3 interest? 4 A. To represent their best interest, 5 yes. Q. Okay. And this is in an official 6 7 capacity, you have been appointed by the Court to do that? 8 9 Yes. Α. 10 And this is something that you do 0. on a fairly regular basis? 11 12 A. Yes. 13 And in your official capacity, you 0. reach out and you speak to the parties involved 14 15 in the matter? 16 A. I do. 17 Q. And in your official capacity, you 18 request and expect those parties to give you their side of the story? 19 20 A. I do. 21 Q. And part of their side of the 22 story could certainly include receiving 23 documents, and you asked them to send me 24 whatever documents you want to me to look at to Hawkins Reporting Service

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1	help me make my decision?
2	A. I do.
3	Q. You want as big and complete a
4	picture as you can possibly get because
5	naturally we want to get this right?
6	A. Correct.
7	Q. And in this case in particular,
8	you followed that protocol?
9	A. I do.
10	Q. You reached out, you asked them
11	for documents, you told them to tell you
12	whatever they wanted to tell you to help you
13	make your decision?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. And I believe you testified
16	yesterday and part of today about all of the
17	documents that you received in the mail from Tom
18	and Lenore?
19	A. Correct.
20	Q. And it was a significant stack of
21	documents?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. Okay. And just so we're clear,
24	those mailings came from Tom and Lenore, they

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1	didn't come from Amy and they didn't come from
2	David?
	A. I got an E-mail from David, but I
Ę	didn't get packages from David. And I know I
1	got a tape, but I'm not sure who gave me the
	tape, so I honestly can't remember who gave me
	the tape, but I know it was from, originally
	from O'Rourke Investigative Agency.
9	Q. But the packages that you
С	testified about yesterday, those are with the
1	packages you received from Tom and Lenore?
2	A. Correct.
3	Q. Not Amy and not David, just so
1	everybody is clear?
5	A. Yes.
5	Q. Now, contained in those packages
7	may have been letters or e-mails that either Amy
3	or David had written, but they didn't send them
)	to you, those were in the packets from Tom and
)	Lenore?
Ĺ	A. Yes. <u>David did tell me that</u> , you
2	know, his parents had his documents because he
3	was in prison at the time, and they're not
1	allowed to keep a lot of things. So I don't
	Hawkins Reporting Service

A2159

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know who was instructed to send what where. I 1 2 can tell you they came from Tom and Lenore, but I was told by David that they had information 3 from him on his behalf. 4 5 Q. Right. And again, I'm merely speaking about the mailing. Who mailed them to 6 7 you? Α. The envelopes were from Tom and 8 Lenore Matusiewicz. 9 Q. Fair enough. 10 And so as you're receiving -- as 11 you're receiving these packets, and again, it's 12 considerable, you're obviously reading through 13 them, and I believe you testified you read 14 through everything because again, you're trying 15 to figure out what's going on and you want to 16 17 get it right? Yes. 18 Α. I also believe I remember you 19 Q. saying that your initial reaction as you were 20 reading these packets was if this is true, this 21 is absolutely horrible what's happening to this 22 23 little girl? 24 Correct, Α. Hawkins Reporting Service

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1	Q. And so, ma'am, would it be fair to
2	say that if you believed, if you believed and
3	please let me know if you need a minute.
4	If you believed what was contained
5	in the packets, if you believed the allegations
6	about what was happening to Laura, your actions
7	would have been different than what they were;
8	is that fair to say?
9	A. If I had reasonable belief that
10	she was being abused, at the time I would have \star
11	taken different actions, yes.
12	Q. That makes sense; right?
13	A. I'm required to by law, so yes.
14	Q. If you believe the allegations
15	that were contained in the package, you
16	certainly your recommendation would have been
17	different to the Court?
18	A. My recommendation would have been
19	different to the Court and by law every person,
20	not just any person who has reasonable
21	suspicion of abuse has to report it to the state
22	hotline, so I would have called the state
23	hotline number and reported it as required by
24	law.

A2161

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1	Q. And if the state hotline received Gillian put
2	the information and they believed that the when the DFS staff
3	allegations about what was happening to Laura documented that some of the
4	were true, they would have acted upon it? allegations were concerning
5	A. Yes, they would have. they didn't act upon it.
6	Q. And if when you made your per their.
7	recommendation to the judge, she believed that
8	the allegations that were happening to Laura
9	were accurate, she would have acted upon it?
10	A. Yes, she would have.
11	Q. And if the attorney that was
12	appointed, I believe you called it a Fraser
13	attorney?
14	A. Correct.
15	Q. If the attorney that was appointed
16	to represent the child or children's interest
17	believed that the allegations were true about

A. Yeah. I just want to clarify one thing, she was not appointed to represent their interest, she was appointed solely to represent their wishes. It's a very limited, very limited scope. But if she had uncovered any information

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1	Q. And if the state hotline received Gillian put
2	the information and they believed that the when the
3	allegations about what was happening to Laura documented that
4	were true, they would have acted upon it? Some of the allegations were concerning
5	A. Yes, they would have. they didn't act upon it.
6	Q. And if when you made your pertucit.
7	recommendation to the judge, she believed that
8	the allegations that were happening to Laura
9	were accurate, she would have acted upon it?
10	A. Yes, she would have.
11	Q. And if the attorney that was
12	appointed, I believe you called it a Fraser
13	attorney?
14	A. Correct.
15	Q. If the attorney that was appointed
16	to represent the child or children's interest
17	believed that the allegations were true about
18	what was happening to Laura, they would have
19	acted, he or she would have acted differently?
20	A. Yeah. I just want to clarify one
21	thing, she was not appointed to represent their
22	interest, she was appointed solely to represent
23	their wishes. It's a very limited, very limited
24	scope. But if she had uncovered any information
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1	that gave her a reasonable suspicion that any of
2	the three children were being abused, as a
3	person, not as a court appointed fiduciary body,
4	but as a person she was required to report that
5	to the State of Delaware.
6	Q. And it would be fair to say that
7	had she believed that the allegations about what
8	was happening to Laura were true, she would have
9	acted differently than she did, her
10	recommendations may have been different and that
11	type of thing?
12	A. I can say that probably, but I'm
13	not her, I don't know what she was thinking, but
14	I can tell you that by law if she had reasonable
15	suspicions that any of the girls were being
16	abused, she was required by law to report it as
17	a person in the State of Delaware.
18	Q. Ma'am, would you also agree with
19	me that even if you believed the allegations
20	about what was happening to Laura were true, and
21	the judge believed the allegations about what
22	was happening to Laura were true, you could
23	disagree on what the remedy should be?
24	A. I don't know about if we could
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A2163

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1	disagree. I'm trying to figure out what you're
2	asking me. I mean, there is no disagreement
3	that all of us have under Delaware statute an
4	obligation to report it. So I don't think any
5	of us would disagree on that issue. The statute
6	is very clear. Any person, reasonable
7	suspicion, you shall report, done. So I don't
8	think any of us would have disagreed on that, as
9	anyone who has ever represented children or
10	parents or would know that you have an
11	obligation to report it. It's not debatable,
12	it's not questionable. You can't report it to
13	your supervisor and let them report it. It is
14	you who has the obligation as an individual in
15	the State of Delaware that must report it. So I
16	don't think we would differ on that.
17	If you're asking me
18	Q. Let me ask it this way. Maybe
19	this will be a little clearer. Let's step away
20	from this case just for a second. Let's say you
21	were representing you were appointed as an
22	attorney guardian ad litem, and you find X set
23	of facts to be true. You go before a court and
24	the Court agrees with you that X set of facts
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2	4	4	8	

1	are true.
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. You as the attorney guardian ad
4	litem can recommend Y as what you think the
5	course of action should be?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. The judge, although he or she
8	agrees with you that X set of facts are true,
9	could decide that Z course of action is what
10	they will take?
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. Okay.
13	A. The Court does not always agree
14	with my position, absolutely. And they don't
15	have to. It's an independent decision maker.
16	Q. And what I can promise you is they
17	don't follow my recommendations, either.
18	A. Exactly.
19	Q. So in that scenario, X is agreed
20	to by everybody. Everybody believes X to be
21	true, but you want Y to happen, and suggest Y to
22	happen. The Court decides to do Z.
23	A. Yes. That is possible, as a
24	hypothetical, yes.
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A2165

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1 Q. And you could be so convinced that 2 Y should happen that you could think the course 3 and conduct of Z is wrong? 4 A. Yes, I could. 5 Q. And, in fact, you could be so 6 convinced that Y should happen, when the judge 7 says let's do Z, you could be offended by that? 8 You could say Z, doing Z is a tragedy? 9 A. I mean, yes. Have I represented 10 particularly people in Family Court where I 11 thought I had a parent recently that I was 12 appointed to represent, which is not typically 13 the side I'm on. I always represent the 14 children. But I was appointed to represent a 15 parent who someone was trying to take their 16 child away from them, a relative. And I was 17 charged with representing the parent, and 18 advocating for the parent, which is the opposite 19 some of the allegations and am still able to 20 But I understood and acknowledged 21 some of the allegations and am still able to 22 upset by it? I think lawyers like to win. We <th></th> <th></th>		
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1	fight with each other and one side wins and one
2	side loses, sometimes there is a compromise. I
3	wasn't personally devastated or upset by the
4	decision, it just sort of is what it is. I
5	advised the client and I move on.
6	I will tell you with children, I
7	do try to do exactly what is in their best
8	interest because they don't really have a voice,
9	they're young, they're not capable of telling
10	people what their positions are in court. They
11	can't come in here, this scares them to death to
12	come into court like this, and they can't come
13	in and tell the judge all these things, so I
14	find that my role is extremely important to
15	present their best interest because in a lot of
16	these cases, the parents, the state, the parents
17	disagree with each other and they're all
18	fighting with each other and nobody is there to
19	be the neutral party who says hey, put your
20	stuff aside and let's look at what's best.
21	So I do take it seriously and if
22	the Court doesn't agree, the Court doesn't
23	agree. If other sides don't agree, then they
24	don't agree. And it just sort of comes out

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2	4	5	1		

1	where it is and you know you address it the way
2	you can. You appeal it, you challenge it or you
3	find other solutions, or you, you know, hope
4	I lost one of my first cases, I didn't get what
5	I wanted for the child, hoped for the best. I
6	don't know what I know, I learned
7	subsequently what happened to that child, but
8	it's a decision you just move on from.

Q. And you've learned to do that in your role as a professional and as an attorney?

This statement reminded me of christine not staying on her prescribed psychological medications which or. Richman testified was a problem With Chris.

9

10

A. I learned to do that in my role as a mental health professional because patients repeatedly, you know, come back and don't do what's recommended and you can't help everybody, but yes, you have to separate yourself and move forward.

Absolutely. And conceptually, you 17 0. would agree that there could be instances where 18 you felt so strongly that X was what was in the 19 best interest of the child, that if a judge 20 decided to do Z -- and let me use the same 21 22 letters I was using last time. If you decide Y is in the best interest of the child, and the 23 judge decided to do Z, that you thought was not 24

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1	in the best interest of the child and may, in
2	fact, put the child in harm's way, you would be
3	offended by that, you would view that as a
4	tragedy, just like any of us would?
5	A. I don't know if I would be
6	offended, but I would not be happy with the
7	decision.
8	Q. Fair enough. And so again,
9	conceptually you can agree with me that even
10	though both or all parties can agree that X set
11	of facts is accurate, you could decide Y is the
12	course of action, judge could decide Z is the
13	course of action, the Frasier attorney could
14	decide M is the course of action, the parties'
15	individual attorneys could also decide that
16	different course of actions are what are most
17	appropriate?
18	A. Yeah. I mean that's the whole
19	reason we all end up in court in pretty much
20	every case. If we all agreed or could work it
21	out, all of us would not be in court on a
22	regular basis, every day or every month. I mean
23	that's and that's one of the ways I explain
24	it to the kids, is one of your parents wants one
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thing for you, the other parent wants the other 1 thing for you, and they can't agree and so the 2 judge is going to decide. We take it to the 3 Court and the Court is going to make a decision. 4 We all argue our positions, but the judge gets 5 to do what the judge wants to do after 6 considering all of the information that we 7 provide to the Court. We may win, we may lose, 8 but it's ultimately the Court that makes the 9 decision. 10 And I guess the only slight 11 0. distinction I would make in your scenario is I 12 want it to be clear, that everybody could come 13 up with different opinions and different 14 strategies as to what should happen with the 15 children or what should -- how to best resolve 16 that scenario, even if they agree on the core X 17 set of facts? 18 A. I would agree with that, yes, that 19 everybody could agree on facts. I think in this 20 case I don't think there was any dispute that --21 like the different terms of ways to terminate 22

parental rights, one of them is that a parent has committed a felony against the children. No

23

24

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1	one was disputing that David had been convicted
2	and pled guilty of international parental difference
3	kidnapping, which is a felony under the statu Case - you
4	Nobody disagreed. quilty to a
5	Q. And I think you would agree with are not
6	me, we can even take it out of the context of committing.
7	this case and just speak, we can apply that same
8	theory, that same line of logic generally,
9	everybody could agree on X, but the different
10	parties involved could have different ways to
11	resolve it?
12	A. Suggestions to resolve it, yes.
13	Q. Okay.
14	A. The Court doesn't, unfortunately,
15	get the ability to, you know they consider
16	multiple ones, but in the end the judge has to
17	make a decision.
18	Q. Right. And I understand that.
19	And at the risk of beating a dead horse, you
20	could agree or disagree with the judge's
21	decision?
22	A. Yes, I can.
23	Q. As could all the other parties?
24	A. Yes.

A2171

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Q. So ma'am, and finally, would you
agree with me that in the course of receiving
all of this material from Tom and Lenore,
included in those several packets, was a report
that they took and passed a lie detector test
saying they believed these allegations to be
true about what was happening with Laura?
A. Well, actually I never received
the lie detector tests from Lenore, Tom
Matusiewicz, Amy Gonzalez or David Matusiewicz.
Q. That was not included in any of
the packets?
A. Never.
Q. Okay.
A. I received that from somewhere
else.
Q. Okay. Then I apologize. You are
aware that it existed at some point. You did
see it?
A. It was sent to me by the girls'
school and it was sent, North Star Elementary
and it was sent to me by Doctor Bocanegra.
Q. Okay.
MR. EDELIN: Thank you, Your
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1 Honor. Nothing else. 2 MR. IBRAHIM: May I, sir? 3 The Court: Yes. BY MR. IBRAHIM: 4 5 Good morning, Ms. Lawson. How are Q. 6 you? 7 Good morning. How are you. Α. I'm good. Thank you. I just have 8 0. 9 really one brief area I'd like to talk to you 10 about. In Delaware, correct me if I'm wrong, there is a statutory provision that allows for 11 12 third-party visitation after parental rights are terminated, correct? 13 That is correct. 14 A. MR. IBRAHIM: How do I turn this 15 16 Elmo on? Thank you. 17 BY MR. IBRAHIM: Q. Attorney Lawson, I'm just going to 18 first put up the first page of this document. 19 Do you recognize the statute and the provision? 20 A. Yes. It's Title 13 of the 21 22 Delaware Code. Excellent. I'm going to turn to 23 Q. 24 or at least direct you to a specific provision Hawkins Reporting Service 715 North King Street - Wilmington, Delaware 19801

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which I'm presuming you anticipate I'm going to. 1 2 Α. Possibly. All right. Section D, it talks 3 Q. about if a parents' rights have been terminated? 4 Yes. 5 Α. In the child with whom a party 6 0. Dad + I both motioned seeks third-party visitation, the terminated for 3rd party visitation parent and the terminated parents relatives are through our attorney prohibited from filing third-party visitation Amy putler. unless. Unless. Α. So it's possible so long as 12 0. 13 certain conditions apply? 14 Correct. Α. 15 The first one is three years have 0. to pass? 16 17 Correct. Α. Since the termination. So in this 18 Q. 19 case if my memory serves me correctly, the termination was August 18th, 2011? 20 21 Right. Α. So it would have been August 22 0. 23 18th -24 2014. Α. Hawkins Reporting Service

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Q. 2014. Okay. And before I turn 1 2 the page, let me just highlight. And then 3 there's an or? 4 A. Correct. Q. It's not that both of these have 5 6 to apply, one of these has to apply? 7 A. Right. Q. And then there's a second part 8 9 talking about if, if there was a situation of an 10 adoption and the parents or the person that 11 adopted the child had made an agreement that 12 hey, listen at some time later on I'll allow visitation, is that a fair paraphrase of that? 13 A. I don't know, I think it's the top 14 15 section. I know there's something about the 16 age, a certain age, but so can you move it so I 17 can see it? I don't read these every single 18 day. Sorry. 19 Q. Okay. I'll give you an 20 opportunity to read it, just lift your head when 21 you're prepared. 22 A. I see what it says. I will be 23 honest with you. I'm not sure how the word 24 adoptive parent is interpreted, because I know

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t an adoptive parent is. If you're looking this in term of this case with these parents, n it says the adoptive parent, if there was y one adoptive parent, I believe and I may be ng, I haven't reserved it, but I believe this referring to when a child is adopted.

Q. Right.

A. By one parent, so the other ents don't have rights or are deceased or ething happens and they are adopted by a gle person. Or, you know, if their rights e terminated as of both parents and a single ents adopts them. So I'm not sure.

Q. I think we can agree that it's the st section that would apply in this situation someone such as a relative or even if David usiewicz wanted to, that after three years he

ld fall u	nder that provision to have the	So according to the Delaware code statutory
lity to a	pply for visitation?	provision when a parents
Α.	I believe that's correct.	terminated that pot
Q.	Okay.	seek and party visitation after 3 yrs since the
Α.	That they would have three years	termination or adoption of the children
petition,	yes.	(This adoption portion is unclear even to the
Q.	They would have to wait for three	So part of
North King	Hawkins Reporting Service 9 Street - Wilmington, Delaware 19801 658-6697 FAX (302) 658-8418	to stay a idren's lives be considered stalling in any way?

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1	years to pass?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. Okay. And then there is a section
4	that provides the contents of the third-party
5	visitation provision?
6	A. Yes.
7	MR. IBRAHIM: Your Honor, I'm
8	going to ask that this be marked AG Defense
9	Exhibit 1.
10	The Court: Any objection,
11	Government?
12	MR. McANDREWS: It's a statute,
13	Your Honor, so I don't want it to become
14	confusing, Your Honor.
15	The Court: Purpose of
16	identification is fine. I'll accept that.
17	MR. IBRAHIM: May I approach the

witness with the document?

20 BY MR. IBRAHIM:

18

19

Q. And you're doing -- I was going to ask you to take a look at it. Let me know if those three pages are a complete reproduction of that statute.

The Court: You may.

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1	A. Well, I have to be honest, I'm not
2	sure. I can tell you that this is a complete
3	Chapter 24, but I don't know I don't memorize
4	how many parts of this are, so I'm not sure.
5	Q. Okay.
6	A. I mean, it looks like the Delaware
7	Code, you know, this is the way it would appear
8	in our computer. The sections are, you know, in
9	the right order. I just can't tell you this is
10	the entire section or, you know, if there's
11	more.
12	The Court: And counsel, any
13	relevance to this will be covered by the Court's
14	instructions.
15	MR. IBRAHIM: Yes. Okay.
16	BY MR. IBRAHIM:
17	Q. Let me put it to you this way and
18	I appreciate your sense of accuracy. It's fair
19	to say that third-party visitation would permit
20	a relative to apply for visitation after three
21	years have passed since the termination of
22	parental rights?
23	A. I believe that is correct.
24	However, what I can't find in here is I
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1	believe I don't know if there's some
2	limitation if the child is adopted. I'm not
3	but this is what this provision does say. I'm
4	just not sure if there's another section that
5	limits that in certain circumstances.
6	Q. And as an attorney, you would do
7	legal research to determine whether or not, if I
8	were a client asking you that, whether or not
9	that were possible?
10	A. Correct. I mean, on the facts of
11	this case, I didn't have it was going to
12	solely be Christine and no second adoptive
13	parent, so that wasn't researched or argued or
14	considered.
15	Q. All right.
16	MR. IBRAHIM: Thank you very much,
17	ma'am.
18	The Court: Ms. Chavar?
19	MS. CHAVAR: We have no questions
20	for this witness, Your Honor.
21	The Court: Any redirect for this
22	witness?
23	MR. McANDREW: Yes, Your Honor.
24	BY MR. MCANDREW:
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	1

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1	Q. Ms. Lawson, I just want to clarify
2	a few things. Mr. Ibrahim was just asking you
3	about third-party visitation, correct?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. What is visitation and third-party
6	visitation as you understand it?
7	A. Well, third-party visitation can
8	be sort of all over the place. It could be with
9	the State in what the Hudson Center or some
10	other state center where it's monitored by state
11	employees through two-way mirrors and
12	microphones. It could be with a state employee
13	in the room, it could be it could be limited
14	to solely letter writing, it could be limited
15	just to phone calls, it can be visitation going
16	to the child's house or meeting at a mutual
17	location and seeing the child. It could be to
18	taking them on overnights. It ranges from every
19	possible thing of contact between a child and
20	someone who is seeking visitation.
21	Q. Okay. So it's some sort of
22	contact with the child and the person who is
23	petitioning for visitation; is that right?
24	A. That's correct.

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1	Q. But it's not custody?
2	A. It is absolutely not custody. And
3	I believe that there's also and maybe it's
4	not in here, maybe it's somewhere else, but a
5	lot of times there's provisions where it has to
6	be in the best interests of the child, so for
7	example, if you terminate someone's parental
8	rights
9	Q. Go ahead.
10	A. You know, they could seek
11	something later, but the Court would have to
12	consider if it's in the best interest of the
13	child.
14	Q. In determining whether visitation
15	is appropriate?
16	A. I believe, yes. I believe that
17	Q. There's some legal standard that
18	needs to be met?
19	A. Yes, almost every time somebody
20	wants access to a child in Delaware, the Court
21	will consider the best interests of the child.
22	Q. Very well. Now, Mr. Edelin asked
23	you a few questions and I just want to go back
24	over them, because he was asking you about if
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case .	2465
1	you had believed the allegations, would your
2	actions be any different. Do you remember him
3	asking you that?
4	A. Repeat your question. I'm sorry.
5	Q. Mr. Edelin had asked you about if
6	you believed the allegations that were being
7	made of the sexual abuse, would your actions
8	have been different in this case.
9	A. Yes, they would have.
10	Q. And you remember him asking you
11	that and you said that?
12	A. Yes.
13	Q. You talked about reporting,
14	correct?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. I just want to be clear for the
17	jury to whom or to where are allegations of
18	sexual abuse required to be reported because you

said they were required to be reported.

19

A. Well, there is a statute which most people don't read the Delaware Code, it's fairly boring and most people don't know where to look or what it is. But the state has a website and there is an 800 number. The statute

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that's on their website that's published, you can look anywhere on the state website and find it. It's called the Child Abuse Hotline. It's an 800 number and you have to call that number.

Q. So there is a hotline?A. Yes.

Q. When you're talking about reporting something, you're talking about reporting it to a hotline run by the state?

10 tha did the only that th.ng Was None was DFS contacted effrey Shriner Venfied interview Laura done of in march regarding the kidnapping

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Α. Yes, even as an attorney guardian ad litem, I had concerns with one child who was in a foster home and I thought they were being treated poorly and there was abusive language and other things going on in the home, even though I am an attorney the first thing I did was call the hotline. I didn't call the Division of Family Services worker, I didn't go to the Court, I did later, but my obligation is to call the hotline, so I call the hotline and I make a report at the moment that I know this is going on and then I deal with it in the Family Court through the proceeding separately. Q. Okay. So cases that you had,

then, have started as a report and ended up in

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1 Family Court? I have to report during a case. A. 2 The cases may have been reported and ended up in 3 court and then I get appointed, but for me 4 personally during a case, if I have known there 5 was abuse then you report it. In my mental 6 7 health days, if I had a suspicion a child was being abused in any way, I would call the 8 hotline and report them, yes. 9 Q. The Family Court has jurisdiction 10 over child abuse litigation? 11 Α. Yes. 12 Q. So these reports when they come in 13 can often end up in Family Court being dealt 14 15 with later on? A. Yes. In my mental health days I 16 was called as a witness in several of those 17 cases where I reported abuse. 18 All right. Now, you were also 19 0. asked -- I mean, just to be clear, you did not 20 believe the allegations that had been made with 21

22 regard to the abuse; is that right?
23 A. That's correct, I did not.
24 Q. I don't want you to repeat

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1	yourself, I think you have already told us why,
2	we looked at the court's decision. Was there
3	anything in the court's factual findings that
4	you disagree with on that point?
5	A. No, I do not.
6	Q. All right. You were also asked
7	about polygraphs, and whether you had received
8	polygraphs from Amy Gonzalez and Lenore
9	Matusiewicz?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Polygraphs taken of Amy Gonzalez
12	and Lenore Matusiewicz?
13	A. Correct.
14	Q. You do recall receiving them at
15	some point?
16	A. I do.
17	Q. Do you know when relative to the
18	end of the proceeding you received them?
19	A. I received them from
20	Dr. Bocanagra, so we had two hearings in
21	November, and they were like.
22	Q. 2010?
23	A. Of 2010, and I can look at the
24	opinion to make sure, but

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Q. Actually if you don't remember.

A. One was the 10th and one was the

I believe. I got the polygraphs from

ocanagra on the 11th, she sent me documents.

her files. And then I got them later in

ase and I don't remember, I know it's

d or after March.

Q. I don't want to tie you down to

A. But I got them from the school who d me and they had received them and they them to me.

Q. Did you review them?

A. Yes.

Q. Had you ever seen polygraph s before?

A. Maybe in law schools, but not lly.

Q. So you're not an expert on aphs?

A. No.

Q. Let me ask you, after you reviewed did it change your view at all?

A. No, it did not.

Hawkins Reporting Service th King Street - Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (302) 658-6697 FAX (302) 658-8418 Isn't it ironic how the government & the courts tied is down with the dates regarding when each of us had our 1st suspicions of child abuse, but they don't want to the MS. Lawson down to dates? I'll show you why. The polygraph couldn't possibly have EVER been sent to MS. Lawson by Dr. Branegra anytime in Now 2010 because the polygraphs weren't even taken until Jan. 8, 2011. Look for yourselves -

there are copies of this fact on the webpage.

Case 1:13-cr-00083-GAM Document 291 Filed 06/18/15 Page 68 of 325 PageID #: 5130 2470 1 MR. McANDREW: Thank you. Nothing 2 further, Your Honor. 3 MR. EDELIN: Nothing, Your Honor. 4 Thank you. 5 MR. IBRAHIM: May I? 6 RECROSS-EXAMINATION 7 BY MR. IBRAHIM: 8 0. Hello again. 9 Hello. Α. 10 Just some quick questions on this 0. 11 visitation definition. You're familiar with the 12 Family Court website; correct? 13 A. Yes. Q. And on the website, there is -- if 14 15 someone is interested in third-party visitation 16 or something of that nature, the Court sends 17 them a bunch of forms they can fill out; 18 correct? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. But somewhere on there, it tells 21 folks this is not legal advice, this is really 22 just telling you what the forms are? 23 A. That's correct. 24 MR. IBRAHIM: Thank you.

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1 The Court: All right. You may 2 step down. THE WITNESS: Thank you. 3 MR. McCALL: Your Honor, we would 4 call Victor Weedn. 5 The Court: All right. 6 7 THE CLERK: Please place your left 8 hand on the bible and raise your right hand. 9 State your full name for the record. THE WITNESS: My name is Victor 10 11 Walter Weedn. I spell my name W-E-E-D-N, five 12 letters. 13 VICTOR WALTER WEEDN, M.D. 14 15 the deponent herein, having first 16 been duly sworn on oath, was examined and testified as follows: 17 18 MR. McCALL: Your Honor, may I 19 proceed? 20 The Court: You may. 21 Mr. McCALL: Thank you. DIRECT EXAMINATION 22 23 BY MR. McCALL: 24 Q. Thank you. Good morning, sir. Hawkins Reporting Service 715 North King Street - Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (302) 658-6697 FAX (302) 658-8418

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