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April 21, 2022

Honorable Jennings Jones, District Attorney General
320 W. Main Street, Suite 100
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Hello District Attorney Jones,

I, the undersigned, am writing to you today as a member of the Family Court Anti-Corruption Coalition (FCACC), a network of advocates dedicated to investigating and ensuring the honesty and integrity of family and juvenile courts everywhere. As a career prosecutor, with multiple decades of experience in handling criminal cases of all types, and being President of the Board of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Cannon and Rutherford Counties, we would like to bring a specific case to your attention.

This is our third communication regarding Juvenile Dependency Case # TC-459 involving three young children in Rutherford County, TN who have been continually ordered back into the custody of their abusive father, despite over 25 reports of sexual and excessive alcohol abuse over the past four years. As of December 6, 2021 new allegations were investigated by the Department of Children's Services (DCS), and a petition for dependency and neglect was filed in the Juvenile Court.

We are writing to you because we are concerned about how this case has been handled by your office up until now. We were informed that on the first Wednesday of every month, a team of designated personnel representing your office, a detective from the special victims unit, DCS, the Guidance Center, and the CAC meets to determine the next steps for cases that have been investigated and for which a forensic interview has been performed during the previous month. We assume that you, or someone from your office attended all of the monthly meetings involving all four of the forensic interviews of these children over the past four years. We are alarmed and dumbfounded that your office is fully aware that since a petition was filed regarding these most recent



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charges, **that these children are still forced to have visitation with their abuser, albeit supervised by paternal grandmother who the children have also previously reported sexual abuse by!**

We have never heard of a case where the **accusations of child sexual abuse have been found to be probable in a DCS investigation and yet the children are still placed in the hands of a sexual predator.**

Additional concerns involve the investigation of this case assigned to Detective Kelvin Jones with the Murfreesboro Police Department. When Detective Jones performs his investigation, he no doubt will find that this is not the first time Father has been the subject of an investigation with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department or the Murfreesboro Police Department. Father was arrested for domestic violence in 2017, harassment in 2018 and 2019, and child endangerment in 2020. Interestingly, the second charge of harassment ended up being dismissed, and when the prosecutor from your office was asked why she changed her mind regarding seeking a pre-trial diversion, she replied, "Well, Brock East is just such a good attorney." The retirement of the first charge of harassment would not have been possible if the 2nd set of charges had not been dismissed prior to. Of note, Father invoked his civil right to refuse to provide the passcode for his cell phone when it was seized during his arrest. Admittedly this was his right, but if he had nothing to hide, why wouldn't he just share that information rather than cost local taxpayers thousands of dollars for the MPD to attempt "unsuccessfully" to break into his phone. For over four months now, your office has failed to intervene. You have allowed a child predator and paternal grandmother, who has also been accused by the children of sexually abusing them, to cover up their tracks and continue to have opportunities to abuse these children again and again.

On April 20, 2022 the Rutherford County Juvenile Court held an ex parte hearing in an attempt to protect these children from further abuse. A guardian ad litem has been assigned for the children, and DCS is requesting a change of custody of the children to their mother, and that the children not be in the care, custody or control of their father.



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Not long ago you announced you will be seeking reelection so you can continue serving as the DA for another 8 years. You also previously announced that you had hired two prosecutors for your Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse unit. We sincerely hope that you will finally assign one of these prosecutors to investigate this case and bring it to a grand jury.

We do expect your office to conduct a thorough investigation. This will require the expert assistance of federal law enforcement and any other law enforcement agency that is capable of investigating cyber crimes against children. This will require surveillance and several search warrants for the father's home, securing the father's phone, computer, and any other electronic devices, performing hair stand testing of the children for any type of sedatives, and to make sure that all evidence gathered during the forensic exams including swabs of body cavities be tested for the presence of father's DNA. We also request that every single witness from the May 2020 custody trial be subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury including the parents of the father, one of whom perjured themselves on the stand.

These three young children have no faith in law enforcement and have come to accept that no matter how often they cry out for help and go into detail about the horrific sexual abuse they are enduring, their bravery is futile because their father is above the law. We ask you, what is worse? The abuse from their father, or the fact that the testimony of over a dozen mandatory reporters, court ordered experts, and law enforcement officers is not enough to protect them because the justice system continues to put them in harm's way?

We are pleading that your office will halt the abuse of these children immediately and take the next right actions in the pursuit of justice. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

X _____
Member, Family Court Anti-Corruption Coalition



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SAVING THE SIBLINGS

cc d:

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