

Wendy

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Wendy M. Musielak – Guardian Ad Litem

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Dear Ms. Musielak,

I am writing to express my deep concern and frustration regarding your failure to fulfill your duties as a Guardian ad Litem in the case involving my three children, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. It is evident that your actions, or lack thereof, have fallen short of the expectations and responsibilities of a Guardian ad Litem. These failures are significant grounds for your removal from this case.

As the Guardian ad Litem, it is your responsibility to conduct a comprehensive investigation into allegations and provide the court with an accurate and unbiased recommendation. I am astonished that, despite several notifications, you have failed to initiate a thorough investigation into the allegations of child abuse. The recommendations made so far seem to be geared towards hindering the children from receiving the necessary therapy and essential support. Furthermore, the recommendations to confiscate their passports, unfounded claims about my mental health, and the suggestion that my nationality makes me prone to criminal behavior raise serious concerns about biases and the misuse of authority. In the past month alone, the children have approached me with serious allegations of child abuse. Despite notifying you, not a single one of these allegations has been investigated by you. Your duty is to investigate and ensure a proper recommendation is given to the court.

Allow me to provide you with a recap of some of the recent and disturbing allegations that have been made:

On October 14th, [REDACTED] bravely disclosed a horrifying account of his father's violent outburst, which included being forcefully dragged by his arm, leaving a visible and lasting red mark. The excruciating pain inflicted upon [REDACTED] persisted long after the initial assault, casting a grim shadow over his well-being. Then, on November 13, 2023, at the distressing hour of 7:36 in the morning, I urgently reached out to you via email to relay the deeply unsettling allegations made by [REDACTED]. What makes this even more distressing is that this was not an isolated incident. [REDACTED] had previously confided in me about his father's explosive anger during bedtime, recounting how Thomas subjected him to a fit of rage, forcibly removing him from his room and dragging him downstairs to the living room. The appalling

incidents described by ██████ depict a pattern of chilling and calculated abuse. His father deliberately locked him out of his own room, callously plunging him into darkness by extinguishing all sources of light. In a chilling display of cruelty, Thomas switched off all the lights, leaving ██████ alone and terrified in the pitch-black room. ██████ desperate cries for help and his fervent pleas to be allowed back upstairs echoed through the house, causing his sisters to freeze in fear, unable to offer any comfort or assistance. ██████ terrified siblings, recounted the harrowing experience of hearing their brother's anguished screams, pleading to be let in and for the lights to be turned on. This traumatic event left the girls feeling utterly helpless, petrified, and unable to offer any solace or assistance to their sobbing and frightened brother.

On November 16th, at approximately 4:00 PM, I picked up the children from school after they had spent the weekend with Thomas Neal. Shockingly, the day before, ██████ confided in me that he had been brutally physically assaulted by Thomas. ██████ described a harrowing scene: while having dinner, Thomas flew into a rage, hurling verbal abuse before violently kicking ██████ causing him to cling desperately to his chair to avoid collapsing. The excruciating pain left him in tears, while his sisters looked on in terror, paralyzed by the sight of their brother suffering. This is an urgent and distressing situation that demands immediate action to ensure the safety and well-being of the children. Moreover, it is important to note that the children themselves are not the sole victims of Thomas's abuse; the innocent dog has also suffered greatly. The children have tearfully confessed to falling asleep each night, their pillows dampened by tears of sorrow for the dog's plight. ██████ in particular, has expressed her fervent wish for the dog to find a new home, where it will be spared the same suffering they endure.

These heart-wrenching revelations underscore the urgent need for intervention to protect both the children and the innocent animal caught in the crossfire of this abusive environment. The emotional toll on the children and their plea for the well-being of their beloved pet serves as a distressing reminder of the pervasive impact of this abuse. Furthermore, these allegations merely scratch the surface of the multitude of child abuse claims that have been brought to your attention. These include one child's disturbing allegations of potential sexual abuse, indicating a pattern of pervasive and severe mistreatment that demands immediate and comprehensive action to ensure the safety and well-being of the children involved. The severity and complexity of these allegations call for a prompt and thorough investigation. Your inaction and apparent incompetence in this matter are alarming and erode trust in your ability to fulfill your role impartially and in the best interest of the children involved.

The harm that this situation has inflicted on my children and myself is immeasurable and continues to escalate with each passing day. The children are living in constant fear, their mental and emotional well-being severely compromised. They are showing signs of severe stress, anxiety, and depression. They are unable to sleep properly due to nightmares and fear of the dark, a direct result of the traumatic experiences they have endured.

As for myself, the stress and anxiety of knowing my children are in danger and the frustration of not being able to protect them have taken a toll on my physical and mental health. I have lost weight, I am unable to sleep, and I am constantly worried about the safety of my children.

According to the American Psychological Association, children who experience abuse and neglect are about nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activity (APA, 2014). They are also more likely to suffer from mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (APA, 2014). The long-term effects of child abuse and neglect have been extensively studied

and documented, and it is clear that the harm inflicted on my children could have lifelong consequences if not addressed immediately and appropriately.

I implore you to consider the gravity of this situation and the potential long-term harm that could be inflicted on my children if immediate action is not taken. I urge you to remove yourself from Your duties as a Guardian ad Litem to ensure the safety and well-being of my children can be addressed.

One of the primary duties of a Guardian ad Litem is to conduct a thorough investigation into any allegations of abuse or neglect. According to the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC), a Guardian ad Litem is expected to "investigate the facts of the case, including interviewing the child, parents, and other relevant individuals, reviewing records, and gathering information from professionals involved in the child's life" (NACC, 2019). Despite multiple notifications and detailed accounts of abuse, you have failed to initiate a comprehensive investigation into these allegations. This failure to investigate undermines the integrity of your role and puts the children at further risk.

Furthermore, the NACC states that a Guardian ad Litem should "advocate for the child's best interests, including ensuring the child's safety, permanency, and well-being" (NACC, 2019). It is evident from the distressing incidents described by [REDACTED] and his siblings that their safety and well-being are at risk. Yet, you have not taken appropriate action to protect them or advocate for their best interests. This failure to advocate for the children's best interests is a clear violation of your responsibilities as a Guardian ad Litem.

Additionally, a Guardian ad Litem is expected to "make recommendations to the court based on the child's best interests" (NACC, 2019). Your recommendations, or lack thereof, have not reflected the gravity of the situation or the urgent need for intervention. Instead, your recommendations seem to hinder the children from receiving the necessary therapy and support they desperately need. This failure to make appropriate recommendations to the court further demonstrates your inability to fulfill your duties as a Guardian ad Litem.

Based on these failures, it is evident that your continued involvement in this case is not in the best interests of the children. Your failure to investigate the allegations of abuse, advocate for the children's safety and well-being, and make appropriate recommendations to the court are significant grounds for your removal as the Guardian ad Litem in this case. I respectfully request that you step down from your role and that a new Guardian ad Litem be appointed to ensure the proper investigation and protection of the children.

In light of the seriousness of the allegations and the potential harm that the children may continue to endure, I urge you to take immediate action. It is crucial that a thorough investigation is conducted to determine the veracity of these allegations and to ensure the safety and well-being of the children. I implore you to prioritize the best interests of the children and act swiftly to rectify the failures that have occurred thus far.

I will be filing a formal complaint with the appropriate authorities regarding your conduct in this case. It is my hope that this complaint will lead to a thorough review of your actions and the necessary steps to rectify the harm that has been done to the children.

I expect a prompt response to this letter and a clear plan of action to address the concerns raised. The well-being of my children is of utmost importance, and I will not rest until their safety and best