

AFFIDAVIT OF

FRANK VALENTICH

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

September 13, 1991

HISTORY OF TESTIMONY

What kind of legal system do we as a society have when honest, hardworking citizens of the community cannot receive a fair hearing from a body of our government whose mission is, to be a guardian for everybody's rights mandated by the Constitution of the United States of America.

The responsibility for fair treatment in our courts lies solely within the realm of our so-called Honorable Judges.

The greatest testament of our complaints is the fact that, if you took a random poll of people in the street and asked them:

- What do you think of attorneys?
- What do you think of judges?
- What do you think of the legal system?

WE KNOW WHAT THE ANSWERS WOULD BE!

We are the pillars of our society because we've taken on the extra burden to help correct the most basic element of any, THE LEGAL SYSTEM. There is in everybody's life more pleasurable and entertaining activities in which to engage. We chose to do our civic duty according to the dictates of our conscience.

PATRICK HENRY'S QUOTE TODAY SHOULD READ:

"GIVE ME JUSTICE OR GIVE ME DEATH"

The sole purpose of the Court ordered psychiatric evaluation conducted by Dr. Neil Rosenblum was designed to maliciously attack my character. This evaluation confirmed my wife's earlier accusations, the most damaging one being that I sexually molested by eldest son. This gave the Court a great advantage over me because as a non-custodial parent, I would be ordered to pay alimony and child support which is routed through the Family Court. Support and alimony payments generate a percentage of the matching funds from the state and federal governments.

FIRST HEARING
September 27, 1984

Nature of the hearing was alimony, child support and custody

A. Earning capacity was addressed by:

1. Primary job
2. Side line job with no guarantee of income
3. Rental property income - no guarantee of income
4. Avon sales (wife) - \$270 per month

The court never addressed wife's income but only husband's income and assigned \$1000 per month income to husband which was \$1400 of net income. All the economic burden was placed on me. The court never addressed the wife's ability to find reasonable employment. The court assumed that any jobs that the husband had were a guarantee income. My extra income was estimated by the court to be \$600 per month. Therefore, my total financial obligation was assessed at \$2000 per month income.

B. Custody was addressed

1. Fitness was never addressed. The court automatically gave the custody to the mother.
2. The best interest of the children was never addressed.
3. Parent of the residential property did not even get considered for primary custody.
4. The children were forced to leave their environment.
5. My parental rights were never addressed.

I continued to live in the marital residence to date. The children had to move out of their stable environment. No visitation was order to take place and the ex-spouse refused to allow normal visitation. I did see my children occasionally and overnights. I never received by full parental rights.

Three Months Later, December of 1984

Suit on my behalf was brought for full custody.

1. Lawyers with judge behind closed doors had a meeting.
2. My lawyer informed me that my wife has accused me of sexually molesting my eldest son who was twelve years old.
3. Instant custody, instant revenge, the wife receive full custody upon the allegations.
4. Visitation restrictions were put in place against me and my children.
5. No overnights orders, visitation every Sunday 12 to eight.
6. I could not take either child into a room alone.
7. I could not exhibit any guns.
8. No discussion of guns or violence.

9. Nothing was done to investigate the sexual molestation allegation made by wife. The court judged it to be true base solely on the wife's allegations.
10. The court order psychological evaluation of the family by Neil Rosenblum.
11. Home evaluation by Bernadette Bianchi.

Neil Rossenblum's report was not a psychological profile of the family but a report filled with bias, heresy and statements made by my wife. Note, elaboration of the details of this report within a criminal investigation and prosecution currently being done by the state which has sixty charges against Neil Rosenblum. Additional information should go through John Kelly, Prosecuting Attorney for the Occupational Licensing Board for Pennsylvania. This report violated my rights and the rights of my children because it was not objective in nature. No psychological test was performed except for the children. The report labeled me as a dangerous person which I am not. For example, some of the allegation are as follows for Rosenblum's report:

- Threaten wife with guns;
- Sexual abuse of my son;
- Hitler was my idol;
- I hated Jews and blacks;
- I am a member of the John Birch Society;
- Pre occupation with guns;
- A tendency toward violence;
- I discriminated against all sorts of people;
- Call my wife stupid in front of boys;
- Wives states that I need psychiatric help;
- Wives states that I may go off the deep end;

None of the above allegation are true not substantiate with anything other than hearsay by my ex-wife. Neil Rosenblum's report made the following conclusions:

- That I should not have overnight visitation with my sons;
- I should seek psychological therapy;

It should be noted that I did seek another psychologist for therapy.

Home Evaluation, February of 1985

1. Conducted by Bernedette Bianchi.
2. Evaluation went well.
3. Home evaluation report was never submitted to family court.

Psychological therapy with Herb Levit, August of 1985

1. Family was evaluated with psychological testing;
2. Conclusion was that the father showed no demonstrable psychopathology and there is not psychological reason to deny him his full parental rights.
3. Dr. Levit stated that there was no implied sexual abuse by me what so ever.
4. There was no indication for psychological treatment and no need to see him further for therapy.

Hearing to Review Evaluation, September of 1985

1. Home evaluation, by Bernedette Bianchi, was never filed with the family court.
2. Only Neil Rosenblum's evaluation was discussed.
3. The visitation time was extended from every Sunday to include every other Saturday.

Custody Hearing, January of 1987. Judge Kelly

1. Another home evaluation was ordered to be done by Ed Karyes. The first home evaluation as ordered in 1985 was never submitted to the court nor addressed by the judge why it was not done.
2. Another psychological evaluation by Neil Rosenblum was not needed due to the letter Neil Rosenblum wrote to the court stating Herb Levit has interceded. Neil Rosenblum excused himself from the case.
3. Court ordered continued consulting with Dr. Levit.
4. Child advocate was ordered, Vince Murovich.
5. Judge Kelly was appathetic to proceedings .

Final Summation

1. Home evaluator recommend no overnight visitation.
2. The child advocate concurred with home evaluator.
3. During my interview with child advocate, prior to the trial he stated to me "Frank, I know you did not sexually molest your son".
4. Judge Kelly Verdict one month later, revert back to 1985 court order.
5. Dr. Levit's report which absolve me of all allegation made in Rosenblum's first report had absolutely no value as a true psychological profile which stated that I should be given my full parental rights.
6. My empicably clean character references from prominent people were of no value.

Family Division Harassment

1. My first order from 1984 state that the collection and disbursement office does not keep finical record.
2. It is the payer's responsibility.

Harassment since June 1990 to date

1. The records states that you are delinquent on you account at least \$750 as of June 13, 1990.
2. My records shows that I am not in arrears.
3. I sent a registered letter to Judge Stassburger and Gary Stout. I have not received a response from either.

4. For one year I have received that same harassing letters.
5. Now they plan to attach my wages.
6. If the C & D office does not keep the finical records regarding my payments how can they blatant state that I am in arrears.
7. If arrearages exist why can they state the exact amount and date of the arrearages.

Harassment in 1985 Family Court

1. They said I was in arrears for \$4,500.
2. A wage attachment was issued.
3. I needed to hire an attorney.
4. Needless mental anguish.

Final Outcome

1. Judge Kaplan cancelled the hearing due to computer error and failed to reschedule.
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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
COLLECTING AND DISBURSING DIVISION

Plaintiff)
)
)
 vs.)
)
)
Frank Valentich)
Defendant)

Case No. 84-6694
File No. 4-114294
Amount of Order \$1000⁰⁰ / mo
Payts. due on 13th and 31st of every mon

To enable the court to help you, your wife, your former wife, or your children we look to all parties for their cooperation.

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO AND MAILED TO: FAMILY DIVISION
534 COURT HOUSE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

1) You must set forth the case number and file number on your money order, certified check, cashier check, treasurer's check.

Do not send cash through the mails.

2) Your payments must be received in our office on the due date.

3) You must keep your own records--we do not keep records for either party.

4) Do not make direct payments for if you do, you will not get court credit--your account will be in default.

5) If you do not strictly comply with the court order in all respects:

Your wages, salary, commissions, pension funds may be attached.

The court can attach all wages including persons in the military service and employees of city, county, state and federal government as well as those employed in the private segment.

Do not telephone this office to make inquiry about your check or any other thing. We do not have county funds, or welfare funds--we cannot make payment to you if we have not received it. We make payment one day after we receive the payment.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, INCLUDING CHANGE OF ADDRESS, YOU MUST WRITE TO THE COUNSELING OFFICE. NO INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN BY TELEPHONE.

We will not hand you your check. We will only mail it to you.

Please keep the enclosed card for identification purposes. Write the case number and file numbers on all payments to the court and all correspondence.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

FAMILY DIVISION

Jamie Valentich,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Frank Valentich,

Defendant.

No. FO 84-06094

Judge William L. Standish

O R D E R

AND NOW, this 30th day of September, 1985,

it is hereby ordered as follows with the consent of the parties:

- 1) Custody of the parties' children, Nick and Michael, (the children) is awarded to plaintiff, Jamie Valentich.
- 2) Temporary partial custody of the children is awarded to defendant, Frank Valentich, every 3rd Sunday from noon to 8:00 p.m. and every other Saturday from noon to 8:00 p.m. He shall also have such partial custody on Christmas Eve from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- 3) Defendant shall engage in such counseling with Dr. Herbert G. Leint as Dr. Leint shall direct.
- 4) Either party, on receipt to the calendar clerk, may schedule a conference/hearing for a partial custody modification (if) after January 1, 1986.

Consented to 9/30/85;

Frank Valentich
Jamie Valentich

BY THE COURT:

Standish

J.

4/27/85

PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

NAME: Mark Valentich
Michael Valentich

DATE OF BIRTH: 1/28/85

AGE: 12 Years
5 Years

REASON FOR REFERRAL

Mark and Michael Valentich were referred along with their parents, Janice and Frank Valentich for a Psychological Evaluation by Judge Standish of the Family Division, Common Pleas Court. Mr. and Mrs. Valentich were separated in September of 1984 and each parent is presently seeking custody of the two boys.

DATES OF EVALUATION

2/5/85 - Evaluation of the children with Mr. Frank Valentich
2/26/85 - Evaluation of the children with Mrs. Janice Valentich

INTERVIEW WITH MR. VALENTICH

Mr. Valentich was married to his wife for 13 years. He is 48 years old and married relatively late in life but had believed that he had finally met the right girl when he married her. He apparently was rather devoted to his mother prior to this helped to take care of her. Mr. Valentich works at the University of Pittsburgh where he runs a machine shop and has held this job for many years. His hobby is building instruments which he has done for the Pittsburgh Tambouritzans for many years. Mr. Valentich is a rather intelligent man who expresses himself well. He gave the impression that he was reasonably satisfied with his marriage and family life until problems arose a few years ago. During the course of the interview Mr. Valentich gave the impression of holding very traditional values about family life. For example he spoke about his wife being good at domestic activities such as cooking and cleaning and stated that problems arose when she tried to go out of the house too much which led to her neglecting her responsibilities in the home. There is little doubt that Mr. Valentich remains very angry and bitter about his separation from his wife. He spoke a great deal about how hard he worked to bring money into the family and how she never appreciated his efforts in this regard. For example in his own words, Mr. Valentich said that he would generally be "busting his hump" while his wife in the later years was always trying to party and "party and please her friends". Mr. Valentich is a very strongly opinionated person and also during the course of the evaluation his behavior suggested that he can become easily upset and angered when people disagree with him. It appears that he has been very stressed by the events of the last several months and he openly acknowledged being very dissatisfied with the limited amount of time in which he is allowed to see his children. Mr. Valentich insisted that there was no valid reason for his wife to leave with the boys and he still doesn't know exactly why she did or even where she is living. When questioned further Mr. Valentich acknowledged that his wife has claimed that he threatened her with guns but he consistently denied that this was true. He did admit that he does make guns as a hobby but states that he has never threatened her or the boys in any way. Another allegation that his wife has apparently made is that he has sexually abused his older son, Mark. Again Mr. Valentich strongly insisted that this was not true. He did acknowledge sleeping with Mark in the same bed for a couple of years because "there was no other place to sleep". Mark apparently began sleeping in his own bed but according to Mr. Valentich would still sneak in to sleep with him on occasion. When Mrs. Valentich left with the boys she

I NEVER SLEPT IN @ LONG

TOOK ALL BEDS

apparently took all of the family's furniture and so Mr. Valentich now only has one bed. However he states that if the boys came for an overnight visit that he would let them sleep in the bed and he would sleep on the couch. I should add that while discussing these allegations Mr. Valentich was very upset and even agitated at times. He insisted that "I'm the most stable man you ever met". However Mr. Valentich was observed to become easily angered about various court orders and things which his wife was trying to do to him. He insisted that she was trying to drive him to the poor house and frequently revealed the emotions of being devastated and victimized by all the horrible things which his wife was doing to him.

Mr. Valentich presented several reasons as to why he believes that he should have custody of the children. He believes that he can offer them a more stable home life, more financial security, a more structured environment, and teach them better values which will help them develop and work towards sound goals for their future life. Mr. Valentich adheres to more traditional values and states that he was always a family man who was either working or spending time with his children. He acknowledged that his work schedule would often be very demanding but added that this was always so that the family could have extra money. Nonetheless he states that he had been involved with many of Mark's activities such as Boy Scouts and soccer games. Mr. Valentich states that he has always been very responsible in managing the family's money whereas he believes that his wife is financially irresponsible and blows money at every opportunity. He added that his wife would always be running to stores with the children and buying junk for them. He cited as examples the "garbage and crap" items that she would buy the boys such as Michael Jackson and Boy George paraphernalia. Mr. Valentich acknowledged that he is not very actively involved in groups himself and prefers to stay within the privacy of his own family. His own hobbies do involve things such as making guns and shooting them and he is an expert marksman and won several trophies for his shooting in the Army. Although one cannot fault Mr. Valentich for holding to his traditional values, his opinions about appropriate activities for the boys did seem to be somewhat rigid and authoritarian in nature. He did not seem to have much tolerance for opinions other than his own and was very quick to label fairly common activities such as music, television, etc., as frivolous and essentially leading to bad habits and a lack of discipline in the children. Mr. Valentich also believes that his wife was too permissive with the boys and did not discipline them enough. He very much believes that he can teach the boys better values and improve their discipline. Similarly Mr. Valentich believes that while he never involved himself with domestic activities such as cooking and laundry that he can learn to do these things without any problem. Mr. Valentich states that probably his most primary concern however is the boys' education and he wants them to get a good start in this area so they can be prepared for sound careers once they get older. He is proud of his family's background and what they have accomplished since coming here as immigrants and recognizes how difficult it is to make a living without a formal and proper education.

MONEY TO LIVE ON
LITTLE CASH

PARENTAL
EDUCATION

During a brief joint evaluation period with the boys Mr. Valentich was able to talk with the boys about the various activities which they enjoy. He was comfortable with the boys but his style of interaction was somewhat formal and nonparticipatory in nature. Thus he characteristically allows them to play while he is working in his shop but he is aware of what they like to do and reasonably interested in their activities. Mark was a little self conscious during this period of time whereas Michael was very happy and smiling throughout the time that he was with his father. Although Mr. Valentich prefers that the boys engage in educational activities he seemed to be reasonably supportive of the fact that the boys need to play and enjoy themselves as

well and he certainly was not a dictator who ordered the children around. Mr. Valentich did express pride in some of the boys' accomplishments and one could observe that in his own way he is certainly invested in their development and finds his time with them to be rewarding.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. JANICE VALENTICH

IS SHE A PSYCHOLOGIST

Mrs. Valentich presented as a rather relaxed and congenial woman. Although she revealed many areas of concern about her husband, her comments did not appear to be forced or recited in a manner which would indicate that she was angry and seeking revenge at her husband. In fact her manner of presentation appeared to be credible in nature. Mrs. Valentich states that her husband was always very controlling of her and her parenting of the children. In fact she states that he would be prone to discipline her more than the boys and that she had to answer to him for everything including where she went, how far she drove, what she bought, etc. She believes that she was always under her husband's thumb throughout the marriage. According to her he objected to any hobbies or social activities as a waste of time. From an early age on (age 4) she was prevented by her husband from allowing Mark to sleep in his own room. This followed an operation for a ruptured appendix at Children's Hospital and from that time on Mark slept with his parents or later with his father. For the last few years Mark slept in a room alone with his father and according to Mrs. Valentich her husband would even lock the door or become very upset if anyone came into the room. She also began to notice kleenex that would be filled with semen in the bedroom. While she initially assumed that her husband was masturbating in the room she more recently began to suspect some form of sexual abuse. Mark has denied her questions about this but since the separation he has also lied about things such as whether he was still sleeping with his father and so Mrs. Valentich does not know if he is lying about anything else in this regard. Mrs. Valentich also reviewed several other areas of grave concern in regard to her husband's behavior and emotional adjustment. One such issue is her husband's preoccupation with guns and tendency towards violence. According to her he has often made comments about wanting to blow people's heads off and shooting them with a bullet between their eyes. She states that Mr. Valentich is very critical of various groups and minorities and Jews and blacks and has frequently made comments about how wonderful people like Hitler were. She also states that he is a member of the John Birch Society and tends to discriminate against all sorts of people by calling them dumb and stupid. This apparently takes place in front of the boys and of course was done in her presence as well. In fact Mrs. Valentich states that her husband would frequently talk about how stupid she was in front of the boys. Mrs. Valentich is particularly concerned about her son, Mark, in that he has had a history of emotional problems for several years. According to her Mark is very afraid to do anything on his own. For several years he has had problems with encopresis, which is a habit of soiling one's underpants. The couple sought professional help from a Kathy Hamm who is a family therapist and social worker. This eventually also led to some marital counseling for Mr. and Mrs. Valentich. This examiner did receive a letter from Ms. Hamm about the counseling which indicated many concerns about Mr. Valentich and his tendency toward violence and critical attitude toward other people, particularly his wife. Mrs. Valentich believes that Mark is very intimidated in the presence of his father and in her letter Ms. Hamm did express a similar opinion. Mark has apparently had some difficulties with his grades in school as well and Mrs. Valentich questions as to whether he has been preoccupied with many of the family difficulties. At the time of the evaluation Mark was starting to do better. Mrs. Valentich remains very concerned about her husband's involvement with guns and believes that he has continued a practice of taking the guns out in front of the boys and carrying them in his car.

*SEEKING REVENGE
SHE WENT TO INVEST MUM*

*MARK A PRIMER
FOLLOWER ACCORDING TO JAN
I WENT 3 TIMES
WIFE DIDNT ASK
ME TO GO ANY MORE CANDIDATE AS A*

1/2/68

NOT TR V8

TO PAT BILLS

5/20/77

According to Mrs. Valentich she has been the primary parent figure for the boys for a great deal of time and generally it is she and the boys who have done things together while her husband worked or made things in his shop. Mark has been involved in various recreational activities and scouts. Mrs. Valentich states that her husband was even against the Boy Scouts and criticized them and other organizations because they weren't strict enough. Because of her husband's lack of involvement with the boys Mrs. Valentich does not believe that they miss his presence or participation in activities subsequent to the separation. In essence she does not believe that Mr. Valentich spent much time with the boys before. Mark has been upset about several incidents including one in November when she took Mark and Michael to an activity and when they came out into the parking lot their car was gone. They shortly found out that Mr. Valentich had taken the car and left her and the boys stranded. Apparently Mr. Valentich did not even deny that he had done this. At the present time Mr. Valentich visits with the boys every Sunday and still lives in the marital residence while Mrs. Valentich resides in an apartment. It is necessary for her to drive the boys a fairly long distance in order to get them to school but they have stayed in the same school. Mrs. Valentich does believe that her husband loves the boys but she is particularly afraid of what he will do if he is not successful in obtaining primary custody. She believes that he needs psychiatric help and is afraid as to whether he will "go off the deep end".

PAYING BILLS

IS SHE A PSYCHOLOGIST

When seen with their mother the boys were very comfortable and relaxed and had no reluctance to show their affection to her. They spoke about many of the activities which they enjoy doing, both in the home, (baking, etc.) and away from home. Michael observed to be somewhat whinny and may be a bit overprotected by his mother. Overall though the boys were more relaxed than during the session when they were seen with their father and it is evident that they are more accustomed to being with their mother and feel more comfortable with her.

EVALUATION OF MARK

QUEST MARK SENTENCE

Mark presented as a very nervous youngster during both evaluation sessions. He was often noted to avoid eye contact, tap his hands and throughout showed an ongoing level of anxiety that is higher than normal for a child his age. It is evident that Mark is very easily stressed and several times during the session he came close to crying. Mark is certainly aware of the ongoing conflicts between his mother and father although he utilized a style of denying their impact on him or at least minimizing various problems. Mark was administered the Bender Gestalt Test and portions of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale For Children - Revised as well as a Family Drawing. He is a rather bright youngster with scores in the high average range of intelligence. However throughout the testing Mark found it very difficult to relax and he takes many things extremely seriously. At times Mark was so tense and tight during the testing that he would sigh with relief when a particular task was over. To spite his reasonably good ability level he is very unsure of himself and Mark was literally apologetic when he was not able to respond with a correct answer. Mark very much needs an environment where there is less stress in his life as he is normally so nervous, hesitant and unsure about himself. One can readily see why Mark was reluctant to talk about too many problems in that these events do bother Mark a great deal and cause him to worry. Mark did indicate that it is probably better that his parents are not together because of the fighting which they did. For the most part Mark did reveal information which was consistent with what his mother had described. That is, he did indicate that his mother had done most things with the boys while his father would be busy with other work. Similarly Mark did acknowledge that he would sleep with his father in the past. Mark states that he didn't

want to hurt his Dad's feelings and so he slept with him despite not wanting to do so. Mark denied that his father had touched him in any inappropriate area when they were sleeping together but was extremely nervous and uncomfortable when asked about this. He did acknowledge that he had noticed the crumpled up kleenex with sticky stuff in it but states that he never asked what it was and thought that maybe his father had blown his nose. Mark does like visiting his father and would like to see him more but he is reluctant to sleep overnight at his father's house because of his concern about his sleeping with him again. In other areas Mark also confirmed some of the statements which Mrs. Valentich had made about his father's interest in guns and critical comments about various people. For example, Mark stated that his father had made comments about shooting people, had spoken favorably about Hitler and how his father would always criticize his mother spending too much money and doing too much with other people. Mark also reported that his father had participated in very few activities with the children. Nonetheless Mark does miss seeing his father and it is clear that he did enjoy some things with his father such as working in his shop. More recently his father has promised he and his brother that he will buy a gym set and possibly a video recorder for them and he is enthusiastic about these things. Mark's father has also recently begun taking them to some sporting events such as wrestling and he has enjoyed this.

It is very evident that Mark does not want to hurt his father's feelings. For example, he states that he has been afraid to tell him that he wants to live with his mother. Mark is the type of youngster who wants to please other people and it is likely that he tries very hard to please his father. Mark acknowledged that it is easier to talk to his mother and that she also explains things better to him. As a result if he has a problem he will invariably talk to his mother about it. One must stress that Mark is a very polite and sensitive youngster who cares a great deal about both of his parents. Mark does miss his old neighborhood and some of his friends who he used to play with and this is another reason why he enjoys visiting with his father. Mark has been hurt by some of the things which his father has done since the separation and was particularly angry about the time that his father took their car. Overall Mark is a very polite, well mannered youngster who has been well raised. It is my opinion that he does need some professional help and counseling in order to help improve his self confidence and reduce his habit of worrying so much about various events in his life. Naturally it will also help Mark if his home life and family situation stabilizes.


EVALUATION OF MICHAEL

Michael was not seen for an extensive amount of time due to his age and relative lack of maturity in comparison to his brother. He did present as a cute and rather happy youngster who is at times rather animated and more carefree than his brother. As previously indicated there may be times when Michael is overprotected. He certainly looks up to his brother and is prone to imitate him at times. It is evident that Michael has not been nearly as affected by his parents' family conflicts and their recent separation. He does not seem to know as much about their present conflicts over custody either. Mark did relate in a rather positive manner to both of his parents although it was apparent that he was more affectionate with his mother and more accustomed to being with her. Nonetheless he was not uncomfortable with his father and seemed happy during that portion of the evaluation session as well.

J. W. HARRIS

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is evident to me that Mrs. Valentich has functioned as the primary care figure for these boys for their entire lives. I do not see any reason for changing this situation as Mrs. Valentich is clearly a very active and responsible parent who has done a very good job of taking care of her two children. Despite criticisms made by Mr. Valentich it appears that Mrs. Valentich has done a very good job of involving the children with various activities in the community and while at home similarly relating to them in an appropriate manner and supervising their educational growth and development as well. Mark is a very nervous child who does present with emotional problems but this seems to be a function of many factors including the very stressful family history and situation which he lived in for many years. By Mark's admission his mother has been the one who has primarily raised him and his brother and she is the one with whom he is most comfortable with. Mark does love his father but his father has not been nearly as involved in doing things with the boys or relating to them in a day to day manner. Although Mr. Valentich states concerns about the boys' educational development and career goals, etc., I see no indication that these areas are being neglected by Mrs. Valentich. I do on the other hand have many concerns about Mr. Valentich's influence and relationship with the boys. Mark confirmed many of his mother's statements regarding his father's rather authoritarian attitudes, preoccupation with guns and violence, and intolerance for various groups and people. My own evaluation of Mr. Valentich similarly indicated that he is a man who is not very tolerant of other people and who could become easily angered and even lose control of his behavior. This would be particularly true in a highly stressful situation or if M^o Valentich believed that other people were gaining an unfair advantage over him. Mr. Valentich was rather pressured in his behavior during the evaluation session and did at times express ideation which was paranoid in nature. He does have a high level of distrust for other people and seems to believe that he is being unfairly victimized by his wife as well as others. Lastly, I remain very concerned about Mr. Valentich's history of sleeping with Mark. Although Mark denied any form of sexual abuse this behavior appears to be highly inappropriate, particularly in light of Mark's statement that his father would leave semen filled Kleenex around the room. It would be my recommendation that Mr. Valentich undergo a more complete psychiatric evaluation and possibly counseling which might hopefully help stabilize his present emotional adjustment and acceptance of his present family situation. It is certainly my recommendation that Mrs. Valentich retain primary custody of her children and that Mr. Valentich's partial custody and visitation exclude overnight visitation with his boys at this time. I believe that some additional daytime visitation between Mr. Valentich and the boys might be reasonable, particularly during the summer months. Mark certainly does have a desire to see his father a little bit more and I see no reason to keep Mr. Valentich from the boys as long as he does follow through with previous court ordered instructions regarding the removal of guns and discussion of violence in the boys' presence. However I would strongly recommend that no overnight visitations take place until further evidence is obtained regarding Mr. Valentich entering counseling and until further information can be obtained from Mark over a period of time regarding his father's previous history of sleeping with him.



Neil D. Rosenblum, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist

NEIL D. ROSENBLUM, Ph.D.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Fairfax Apartments — Suite 109
4614 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 621-3335

1/27/87

Judge Kelly
Court of Common Pleas
City County Bldg.
Pittsburgh PA 15219

Dear Judge Kelly:


I am writing to you in order to request that you appoint another psychologist to perform the psychological evaluations ordered for the Valentich family on 12/15/86 (case# FD 84 0694). After meeting with Mr. Frank Valentich on 1/20/87 I believe that it is best if I withdraw from any new involvement with this case. During my meeting with Mr. Valentich he raised many concerns about the psychological evaluation which I submitted to the court on 4/27/85. While I do not agree with all of his objectives I believe that his concerns and existing distrust of my professional opinion would compromise my credibility with Mr. Valentich and limit my effectiveness in working further with this family.

I would also like to clarify one possible misconception or point of confusion which Mr. Valentich believes was raised in my report of 1985. During the evaluation which I conducted Mrs. Valentich raised the question of whether Mr. Valentich could have sexually abused her sons. Mark denied such allegations when asked. Nonetheless I remained concerned about the admitted recent history of Mr. Valentich sleeping with the boys and recommended that there be no overnight visitations between Mr. Valentich and the boys until a further psychological evaluation could be conducted with Mr. Valentich and more learned from Mark about this issue. I was not confirming this allegation of sexual abuse but rather requesting a conservative posture be taken on overnight visitation until this issue was further evaluated. Mr. Valentich did follow through with the recommended psychological evaluation. Dr. Herbert Levit wrote a report on 8/21/85 that he found "no basis for any implied sexual abuse" by Mr. Valentich. As a result I see no reason to recommend that Mr. Valentich's overnight visits with his sons be restricted. In addition it would be inappropriate to view Mr. Valentich as a child molester or maintain any stigma toward him as a result of this initial allegation. It was certainly not my intention to unnecessarily deprive Mr. Valentich of visitation with his children for close to a two year interval of time but rather recommend an initial period of protection for the children.

I appologise for any inconvenience or delays which my decision to withdraw from this case has caused the involvrd parties.

Very truly yours,

cc Frank Valentich
Janice Valentich
Rose Palmer
Terrence Farrell


Neil D. Rosenblum, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist

DR. HERBERT I. LEVIT, P.C.
CLINICAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST
790 KOSSMAN BUILDING
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

21 August, 1985

Ronald C. Ecker, Esquire
1527 Frick Building
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219

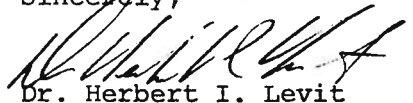
Re: Frank Valentich

Dear Mr. Ecker:

Thank you for referring Mr. Valentich to me. His examination was begun on 8-19-85 and will be completed on 8-26-85, excepting a computerized MMPI which should be received with interpretation sometime within the next week or so. Thus, this is merely a preliminary report.

The initial phase of his examination included reviewing the records, among which were reports by Ms Kathy Hamm and Dr. Neil Rosenbloom, taking an independent history from Mr. Valentich, and administering the Human Figure Drawing, Bender Visual Motor Gestalt, and Rorschach Tests. Mr. Valentich was pleasant and cooperative throughout the process, though he stated he was upset at the need for the testing and the costs involved. He did describe himself as a first generation American who has very strong beliefs in this country, believes in the need for and value of education, and feels that hard work and frugality and essential to ultimately attaining "the good life". (My quote, not his.) He was not demeaning of his wife but stated that her values were much different than his and she liked to spend money too freely, ignoring the more domestic aspects of marriage. He did mention that she had been married previously and her first husband divorced her because of her infidelity. He feels she still likes partying and is not a frugal, serious wife. He misses his children and is upset by what she has done, how she has done it, and the lies he feels she has told about him. He denies bigotry and violent impulses, and certainly the many letters he has collected as testimony to the exemplary qualities of his character seem to substantiate his position. I question the fact stated in both prior professional reports as to his violent potentiality and must wonder why neither of these persons saw fit to examine him either psychologically or by psychiatric referral. Until all the test data are in I will not comment on the interpretation of any of them piecemeal, but at this stage I find no reason to condemn Mr. Valentich for being somewhat old fashioned in value system, compulsive and rigid in personality, and I reject the implication of serious psychopathology. There are no reasons from a clinical/forensic viewpoint to deny this man to full access to his two sons, with all his parental rights. Finally, I find no basis for any implied sexual abuse by him, whatsoever.

Sincerely,


Dr. Herbert I. Levit
Fellow, American College
of Forensic Psychology

DR. HERBERT I. LEVIT, P.C.
 CLINICAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST
 790 KOSSMAN BUILDING
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

31 August, 1985

Ronald C. Ecker, Esquire
 1527 Frick Building
 Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219

Re: Frank Valentich

Dear Mr. Ecker:

This will supplement my letter of August 21, 1985 concerning Mr. Frank Valentich. His testing has been completed and my initial impressions that there is no marked psychopathology has become my diagnostic conclusion.

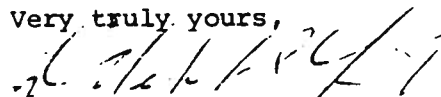
On the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Test, Revised, which usually gives results about 10 IQ points below the prior version of the test, Mr. Valentich obtains screening IQ's as follows: Verbal IQ, 101, Performance IQ, 84, Full Scale IQ, 89. His intellectual functioning and potentialities are approximately average. There are no indications of pathological thought processes. On the recall to the Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test he performs at the same intellectual level. His productions on that test show him to have a moderate level of hostility, part of which is felt to be situational, a tendency to contain and internalize his feelings, and feelings of being restricted by his surroundings. ~~There are no signs whatsoever of any violent potentialities nor of gross psychopathology.~~ His House-Tree-Person Test shows some anxiety and apprehension, some compulsive defense mechanisms, and a self-concept that is not very flattering, and there are feelings of insecurity present. His Rorschach is unremarkable, with several popular responses, no atypical or pathological ones, a relative paucity of ideation, and an inference that he has very little knowledge of women, nor any very close relationships with them. He is certainly not a person one would describe as "warm" emotionally, and he occasionally may act grandiose to conceal unconscious inadequacies, but there is no emotional pathology per se either. The MMPI was administered and computer scored by NCS Professional Assessment Services. I quote from their report;

DIAGNOSTIC CONSIDERATIONS

This is a normal-limits profile and a clinical diagnosis based on the MMPI is not appropriate".

To summarize, Mr. Frank Valentich shows no demonstrable psychopathology and there are no psychological reasons to deny him his full parental rights. I see no indication for psychological treatment and no need to see him further. Thank you again for your kind referral.

Very truly yours,



Dr. Herbert I. Levit
 Fellow, American College
 of Forensic Psychology

14 September, 1985

Honorable William L. Standish
Room 629 City-County Building
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219

Re: Valentich Family

Dear Judge Standish:

This will summarize my examinations of Mrs. Janice Valentich and her sons Mark, age 12 years 8 months, and Michael, age 5 years, 9 months. The examinations were conducted in my office on September 13, 1985. I had previously, on 8-19-85 and 8-26-85, examined Mr. Frank Valentich. The results of the examination of Mr. Valentich, and the over-all background are known to you so I will not repeat them here. One item is not included in this report and that is the computerized interpretation of the MMPI obtained from Mrs. Janice Valentich, the reason for this being that it was just submitted for evaluation yesterday and time constraints preclude its inclusion here. If necessary it will be supplemental to this when I return from vacation after 9-30-85.

Mrs. Valentich was at first apprehensive about submitting herself and her children to these examinations. However, once in the office she appeared friendly and congenial, had many documents with her including a copy of her previous divorce papers, and seemed to feel she needed to justify her position regarding her husband and their altercations. She was told that the purpose of the examinations was not to either find fault or substantiate positions but rather to evaluate her and each child emotionally. She accepted this without difficulty. She did deny most of her husband's allegations, stating that the little "partying" she did was "Tupperware parties" with lady friends, and that there was not excessive spending as claimed. From her point of view the major problems were her husband's lack of discipline or involvement with the children, how money should be spent, priorities, and her feelings that his behavior became increasingly paranoid. He has an interest in guns, she states but he denies a preoccupation with Hitler, and their relationship simply deteriorated. She stated that she has no intention of keeping her husband from seeing his children but wishes to retain full custody. The clinical impression was that she is a pleasant, emotionally stable woman,

Mrs. Valentich's intellectual evaluation shows her to be of above average intellectual ability, though she functions in the average range. There are no signs of pathology in thought processes. Her productions on the Human Figure Drawings and Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Tests show some immaturity, difficulty with interpersonal relationships if they involve such closeness on an adult level, problems with dependency needs, and a good deal of repressed hostility. There are also, at times, feelings of helplessness. Her productions

Valentich Family

2.

on the Rorschach shows some preoccupation with health matters, some feelings of alienation, but otherwise seemed within normal limits. Thus, the tests seem to confirm the clinical picture that, other than some underlying hostility and emotional isolation, which may not be unusual under these circumstances, Mrs. Janice Valentich seems to be a relatively healthy woman.

Mark Valentich was initially quite hostile to the idea of re-examination and was upset by the possibility of going over traumatic material again. However, he relaxed fairly quickly and cooperated fully. He made it very clear that he loves both his parents and his primary desire is to see them reunited, though he knows this will not happen. He feels both were wrong in their relationships, but father was a bit more wrong than mother. Both made accusations and both were partly correct, though again he felt mother the more correct. He categorically denies any sexual contact or behavior involving his father. He acknowledges his father's involvement with guns but says he likes them as well, indicating there is no danger if properly used. He confirmed his mother's statements regarding his father's interest in Hitler but is not influenced by it. He wishes to live with his mother but would like to visit with his father, including spending weekends together. His prior problem with encoepresis is resolved. He does admit to getting very angry and depressed at times but suppresses these feelings, and there is generalized anxiety, most of his problems stemming from the family dispute. He does quite well in school. He is somewhat obese, ~~always has been~~, and has no problems with sleep, dreams, appetite, etc. He feels his father has shown significant more paternal involvement since the separation. Clinically Mark shows neurotic processes of childhood associated with the family stress.

Mark's testing shows him to have well above average intellect, though it seems anxiety has caused him to function lower than his ability level. His tests were performed in a slow, compulsive, insecure manner with much hesitation and erasure. He shows the anxiety and depression seen clinically and his efforts are aimed at denial of them. On an emotional level he has as many problems in his relationship with mother as with father, possibly because of his dependency upon her. There may be some pre-occupation with good and evil, or the occult, on a covert level at this time. There also seems to be a combination of mixed feelings towards his father with a fear of him mixed with a need for and desire for increased affection from him. While he clinically denies it, there is a suggestion that he would like to run away when the tensions escalate. There is sufficient in his testing and his clinical picture to indicate a neurotic diagnosis and to suggest that he be seen in psychotherapy.

Michael had difficulty leaving his mother, clinging to her and crying. Once in the office, he made no complaints when mother left the room and he was able to adjust quickly and well. He stated that he eats and sleeps well, has no problem with bad dreams, likes school and does well in it, and seemed

Valentich Family

3.

on the surface fairly normal. He insisted that he likes his parents equally well but that he would like to sleep at his father's house but his mother will not let him. He cannot decide which parent he would choose to live with but wishes they would reunite. He denies any behavior of his father relative to bigotry or "Hitler", having no memory of such behavior. He indicated some anxiety and depression which is possibly familial and circumstantial. He shows no significant psychopathology other than his mild and brief separation anxiety and his situational anxiety and depression.

On testing, however, problems appear to exist. He was screened on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children and fluctuated between pro-rated IQ Scores of 72 and 144, which is quite atypical. His general fund of information was poor, being in the "Borderline" range, and may reflect a paucity or sterility of stimulation in the home, or the influence of the family status during the past few years. In contrast, he reads at a beginning first grade level. His attention and concentration spans, which should be diminished by anxiety, were excellent, suggesting that these signs of emotional stress are rather superficial. His productions were quite slow and his poorest area was that reflecting hand-eye speed and coordination and the one also most influenced by depression. His Verbal IQ on the WISC was 110, his Performance IQ was 104, his Full Scale IQ is 108, and his range is 72 to 144. On the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test his IQ was 105. Developmentally and emotionally, on the Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test he seemed about a year behind his age level, and his Human Figure Drawing also reflects such immaturity. In order to rule out any problems in that area due to visual perceptual problems I would suggest an examination by an Optometrist who specializes in perceptual disorders. His Rorschach shows some diminution in productivity, some paucity of creativity, and some generalized intellectual and emotional blunting, considering his implied intellectual potential on the WISC. While no significant pathology is noted, re-examination in a year is indicated.

- The picture here is that of a family in chaos because of parental conflicts based in part upon incompatibilities and totally different value systems and life styles. In my opinion there is no possibility of reconciliation. There is no point in family therapy at this time, despite the need for both parents to work harmoniously for the children's best interests. Mark is in need of professional help on a regular basis, subject to his approval. He has been seeing Ms Harm, likes her, and should probably continue with her. In my opinion primary custody should be with Mrs. Janice Valentich but Mr. Valentich should have full visitation and possibly partial custody.

Thank you for permitting me to see this family. If there are any questions, I am at your disposal. I will furnish you with the MCPI results when I get them.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Herbert I. Levit
Fellow, American College
of Forensic Psychology

Frank Valentich

02 September 1988

A. J. Van Cara, Ph. D.
Vietnam Veterans Resource Center
500 Walnut Street
McKeesport, PA 15132

Dear Dr. Van Cara,

On April 27, 1985, Dr. Neil Rosenblum issued a report to Judge William L. Standish of the Family Division, Common Pleas Court of Allegheny County evaluating myself, Frank Valentich, my wife, Janice Valentich, and our sons, Mark and Mike, to assist the court in deciding custody of the two boys. Dr. Rosenblum's evaluation was performed at the request of the court, and a copy is enclosed herein. As you can see, at the time of the report, Mark was 12 years old, and Mike was 5 years old. In his report, I contend that Dr. Rosenblum made a number of statements and recommendations to the court that were based solely on his conversations with our family and I feel he made conclusions that were not supported by any use of testing measures or other evaluative tools at his disposal as a clinical psychologist. In other words, I contend that his conclusions were based entirely on personal opinion, as opposed to a professional opinion as a psychologist, buttressed with objective test results or other objective criteria. While I do not pretend to be a psychologist or to claim a greater knowledge of Dr. Rosenblum's profession than his extensive training has provided him, I do feel that he violated a number of the principles described in the Ethical Principles of Psychologists, and I will describe these to you in detail below. Furthermore, I contend that he presented a number of unsubstantiated accusations against me by my wife in such a manner as could be, and is, easily construed to mean that he accepted said accusations as fact, without having had any independent confirmation, and, again, without benefit of any kind of professional evaluation of me using objective measures which would have provided a more factual basis upon which to judge the accuracy or truth of those allegations. In a letter to the court dated 1/27/87 (copy enclosed), Dr. Rosenblum restated his position, again without benefit of any further evaluation of me or of my family. In his restatement, he withdrew from his position as stated in his first report on several of the most key issues pertaining to the custody case.

Quoting from the Preamble of Ethical Principles of Psychologists,

Psychologists respect the dignity and worth of the individual and strive for the preservation and protection of fundamental human rights....They use their skills only for purposes consistent with these values and do not knowingly permit their misuse by others. While demanding for themselves freedom of inquiry and communication, psychologists accept the responsibility this freedom requires: competence, objectivity in the application of skills, and concern for the best interests of clients, colleagues, students, research participants, and society.

Principle 1
RESPONSIBILITY

In providing services, psychologists maintain the highest standards of their profession. They accept responsibility for the consequences of their acts and make every effort to ensure that their services are used appropriately....

f. As practitioners, psychologists know that they bear a heavy social responsibility because their recommendations and professional actions may alter the lives of others. They are alert to personal, social, organizational, financial, or political situations and pressures that might lead to misuse of their influence.

Principal 2
COMPETENCE

c. In their professional roles, psychologists avoid any action that will violate or diminish the legal and civil rights of clients or of others who may be affected by their actions.

Principle 8
ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES

c. In reporting assessment results, psychologists indicate any reservations that exist regarding validity or reliability because of the circumstances of the assessment or the inappropriateness of the norms for the person tested. Psychologists strive to ensure that the results of assessments and their interpretations are not misused by others.

First of all, while Dr. Rosenblum's evaluation was supposed to have been of our entire family, only Mark was administered the Bender Gestalt Test and portions of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale For Children - Revised (WISC-R), as well as a Family Drawing. While Dr. Rosenblum stated that "Michael was not seen for an extensive amount of time due to his age and relative lack of maturity in comparison to his brother" (page 5), and thus, I understand his not having tested him, Dr. Rosenblum did not utilize any standard measures of intelligence or emotional stability in evaluating myself or my wife. Rather, he based his report on interviews with each of us separately, and on interviews with me and the boys together, and my wife and the boys together. Even though Dr. Rosenblum did administer the above-mentioned tests to Mark, his only reference to the results of those tests in his six-page, single-spaced report is one sentence on page 4: "He is a rather bright youngster with scores in the high average range of intelligence".

As I mentioned previously, Dr. Rosenblum presented a number of accusations made by my wife against me in his report in such a manner that they can easily be construed by any reader of his report not familiar with our family or our case as established facts. For example, on page 1, he states,

"Mr. Valentich is a very strongly opinionated person and also during the course of the evaluation his behavior suggested that he can become easily upset and angered when people disagree with him", and, on page 3, "This examiner did receive a letter from Ms. Hamm (another counselor involved with our family at my wife's request) about the counseling which indicated many concerns about Mr. Valentich and his tendency toward violence and critical attitude toward other people, particularly his wife". Dr. Rosenblum appears to accept Ms. Hamm's evaluation of me as having a tendency toward violent behavior, though neither he nor Ms. Hamm saw fit to evaluate me objectively in this regard, and I have absolutely no record of complaints filed against me for violence or any prosecution or conviction for any violent acts, ever. In other words, Dr. Rosenblum's evaluation of me as having a potential for violent behavior is based entirely on statements made to him by my wife and another counselor, without any attempt on his part to make an independent evaluation as to the validity of those statements.

In a number of places in his report, Dr. Rosenblum mentions allegations by my wife that I had sexually abused my son, Mark (pages 1, 3, 5), and states, "she more recently began to suspect some form of sexual abuse. Mark has denied her questions about this but since the separation he has also lied about things" (page 3). While Dr. Rosenblum does state in several places that Mark specifically denies that I sexually abused him, he states, on page 6, "Although Mark denied any form of sexual abuse this behavior appears to be highly inappropriate, particularly in light of Mark's statement that his father (me) would leave semen filled kleenex around the room". In fact, Mark never said that to him at all. What Mark indicated to Dr. Rosenblum was, on page 5, that he "thought that maybe his father had blown his nose", which, to my way of thinking, is an appropriate thought upon finding used kleenex. Furthermore, why would any twelve-year-old be picking up used kleenex and opening them to reveal their contents? He concludes his report, on page 6, by stating, "...I would strongly recommend that no overnight visitations take place until further evidence is obtained regarding Mr. Valentich entering counseling and until further information can be obtained from Mark over a period of time regarding his father's previous history of sleeping with him".

Dr. Van Cara, I could go on and on listing examples from Dr. Rosenblum's report, but I feel that I have been specific enough to support my position. As final evidence, allow me to quote to you from his aforementioned letter to the court of 1/27/87:

I would also like to clarify one possible misconception or point of confusion....I remained concerned about the admitted recent history of Mr. Valentich sleeping with the boys and recommended that there be no overnight visitations between Mr. Valentich and the boys until a further psychological evaluation could be conducted with Mr. Valentich and more learned from Mark about this issue....In addition it would be inappropriate to view Mr. Valentich as a child molester or maintain any stigma toward him as a result of this initial allegation.

Dr. Van Cara, as a result of Dr. Rosenblum's initial report, the court denied me overnight visitations with my sons, a situation which has persisted since his report, until the present day. While Dr. Rosenblum did not express

any professional opinion and did not offer any evidence to support the evaluation of me as having sexually molested my son, he still recommended that I should have to seek counseling, and strongly recommended that I be denied overnight visitation. I did, in fact, seek another opinion, from Dr. Herbert I. Levit (correspondence enclosed). In contrast to Dr. Rosenblum, Dr. Levit did administer tests to me, including the WAIS, the Human Figure Drawing, the Bender Visual Motor Gestalt, the Rorschach, and the MMPI. Dr. Levit found absolutely no clinical or forensic reasons why I should not be allowed full parental rights to my children, and he so states in the enclosed correspondence. Furthermore, in his letter dated 21 August 1985, he states, "I find no basis for any implied sexual abuse by him, whatsoever". The bottom line, Dr. Van Cara, is that when I was evaluated by a clinical psychologist who used the tools of his trade to the fullest extent possible, and in an ethical manner, an objective evaluation of me was produced which demonstrated no reasons why I should be denied full rights to my sons. However, the earlier, in my opinion, totally unfounded and unethical evaluation of me presented as a professional opinion in a court of law has resulted in grievous harm to me and to my relationship with my sons. Though Dr. Rosenblum was very careful to write his report in such a way that he never, in six pages categorically states that he believes that any of the allegations made by my wife against me are true, he gives the clear impression that he believes that they are. Without ever doing an independent objective evaluation of me, he concluded by recommending strongly (his word choice, not mine) that I be denied my full parental rights. If this does not constitute unethical behavior by any professional, much less a professional as highly regarded and trusted by our judicial system as a clinical psychologist, I don't know what does.

The outcome I desire by my appeal is that I will be able to approach the courts, yet one more time, with all of the evidence I have provided you, as well as with, what I hope will be, a judgment by his peers and co-professionals that Dr. Rosenblum, in my case, acted in a way that violated the ethical principles which he is sworn to uphold in his profession, and thereby caused me and my sons wrong, which wrong I hope to be able finally to right in a court of law. I fervently wish to have more time to spend with my sons now, in their formative years, rather than having to wait until they are grown men, and can decide for themselves that they want to spend more time with me, without a court telling them that they may not. The only place I can get that permission now is from the court, and with your help, I may be able to have my sons back.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Valentich

Frank Valentich

Therapist & judge linked in ethics probe

Pittsburgh, PA - Dr. Neil Rosenblum, a court appointed child psychologist, has been linked to Judge Kaplan by the president of the District Psychological Association in McKeesport, Dr. Arthur VanCara, in a rash of complaints over the last four years that the psychologist and judge worked in concert to "destroy family relationships," according to documents and reports secured by F.A.I.R.

According to a documentary evidence submitted to the Judicial Inquiry and Review Board in Harrisburg, the psychological association has been trying for four years to revoke Rosenblum's license. They claim that the link between Rosenblum and Judge Kaplan came up time after time in a series of

complaints over the last four years. Judge Kaplan is currently being investigated by the Judicial Inquiry and Review Board.

The reported collusion and unprofessional conduct between Rosenblum and Kaplan first came to F.A.I.R.'s attention when a Pittsburgh member's custody was suspended after eight years with no hearing with the case being turned over to Rosenblum. F.A.I.R. is following this case and awaiting the findings of the investigators.

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Instant Custody and Swift Vengeance

**Ralph Underwager, Ph. D. & Hollida Wakefield, M. A.
Institute for Psychological Therapies
2344 Nicollet Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55404**

In a divorce or custody battle the system for dealing with a report of sexual abuse rewards the mere act of reporting with instant custody and swift revenge. It doesn't matter whether the charge is true or not. The effect is the same. Immediately the accused parent is prevented from seeing the child. Even if the charge is not "substantiated", visitation is limited and likely supervised by the state. The parent accused is thrust into a morass of legal battles, investigation, costs, depression and anxiety, damage to career, loss of self-esteem, impotent rage, and endless frustration. Criminal charges may be filed and the accused parent may face years in prison. The state with its power, resources, and personnel becomes an ally and supporter of the accuser. The accused now has two adversaries. There is no cost to the person making a report. There are only payoffs.

It is not surprising that allegations of child sexual abuse in divorce are increasing dramatically. In the last two years we have given expert consultation and witness in fifty-one cases of sexual abuse allegations during a divorce or custody litigation. Eighty percent of them resulted in no finding of abuse by the justice system. Mr. Allen's story is typical. Even when you are not guilty, your relationship with the child is over and your life is destroyed.

The tragedy is that pursuit of a good goal--protecting children from abuse--results in damage and destruction of children. Most of the children are very young, under six. When they are interrogated repeatedly by police, social workers, and prosecutors with the aim of validating an abuse report, when they are put in therapy with the assumption that they have been abused, when the accusing parent questions the child over and over about abuse, a child who has not been abused is being trained to grow up psychotic.

When the system treats each report as real because "children don't lie about sexual abuse" and "Children can't talk about things they have not experienced" (dogmas totally unsupported by any empirical evidence), any child who has not been abused is subjected to a massive, total indoctrination that teaches them falsehood is truth and truth is a lie. For children just beginning the process of sorting out reality from unreality, the psychological effect is devastating and likely permanent. The principal responsibility of adults toward children is to teach them the way the world really is. When the adults teach children that events happened that didn't happen, the only possible outcome is lasting confusion.

When it is believed a child has been abused, the system assumes that great damage has been done and heroic measures are required. In fact the best research evidence shows that about twenty percent of abused children are traumatized. When there is real abuse but no assessment of the actual harm to the child is made, instead, all children are subjected to the heroic interventions of prolonged therapy, placement out of the home, institutionalization, alienation from family and friends, and numerous examinations, what may well have been a minor, somewhat troubling episode for the child is blown into a major, distressing, and destructive experience. The abused child is further abused by the system and the last state of the child is worse than the first.

The emergence of a sexual abuse allegation in a divorce/custody battle need not be a deliberate, willful effort to dissemble. When people are getting a divorce, there is a great deal of anger and hurt. Each spouse is ready to see and amplify the faults of the other. The adversary nature of the legal system requires scoring points on each other. With the heavy media blitz on sexual abuse, the broad publication of alleged "indicators of sexual abuse" (again there is no empirical support for the claimed association) and the fact that research evidence shows that



University of Pittsburgh

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Biological Sciences

July 10, 1985

To whom it may concern:

This statement of my knowledge of Frank Valentich has been prepared at his request for consideration with regard to his suitability to have parental custody of his sons, ages 5 and 12.

I have known Frank Valentich for 20 years as the principal machinist and instrument maker for the psychological and biological departments in the Clapp-Langley-Crawford complex at the University of Pittsburgh—a position of considerable responsibility.

In this time I have visited Frank's shop on an average of perhaps twice a month, which amounts to several hundred contacts lasting from 5 to 30 minutes. I have not had any other association with him, and I have not met any members of his family.

As part of his job, Frank has built, modified, or repaired various mechanical devices required in my research program. Because I have used hand tools all my life and have a doctoral degree in experimental physics, Frank has allowed me to use his simpler machine tools for my personal work. Many of my visits to his shop have been in connection with repairs for my home.

I have often asked Frank's advice on shop matters. Occasionally, I have answered theoretical questions he encountered in building research instruments. Our relationship has been one of mutual respect and friendship.

Frank always seemed eager to talk, and I felt he was entitled to social contact with the top of the academic hierarchy as well as with the graduate students and university tradesmen who were most often in and out of his area.

Our conversations have ranged over everything from international affairs to his wife's spending of money. This was not a one-way transfer of information. I have always believed that the intellectual's cardinal sin is to live in a world of his own creation, never bothering to learn how things look from other sectors of society. In my view, I was both studying and teaching sociology—even though I would often rather have been back at my office desk.

In re: Frank Valentich
July 10, 1985
Page 2.

Frank and I shared a cynical view of the world; so communication was easy. If he complained about the waste of materials he saw around the University, I would explain the lack of available brain power to run things better and the overhead costs that would have to be factored into any salvage system. If he wondered why we could not stop crime by more direct methods, I would explain that, when that is tried, the forces of law and order quickly become instruments of brutality and oppression for the innocent as well as the guilty.

What pleased me was that he was educable. He seemed to know the answers before I gave them. As I sensed it, he merely wanted me to confirm that there are no easy answers to society's problems. His frustration tended to cynical humor rather than to anger.

Frank has an interest in things both technical and scientific. I recall at least two recent occasions when he brought up for discussion the TV popular science program known as NOVA. His expression of curiosity and awe showed an outreaching mind.

Frequently, in Frank's shop I would walk into an ongoing conversation with building maintenance men or campus tradesmen. Their conversation continued without interruption as though I were one of them. Never did I detect any difference in Frank's attitudes between these and my private conversations with him.

On various occasions I was present when Frank dealt in person or by phone with a graduate student or faculty member who had changed his mind or did not know what he wanted Frank to build. Occasionally, a sizeable investment of Frank's effort was lost. I would hear his mild conversation with the person and, thereafter, alone, I would often probe a little (if only to discover who was technically competent in our department).

Never in my twenty years with Frank have I seen him angry. He expresses his annoyance in ways that are appropriate—a humorously cynical dig, or a verbal sigh, as it were.

What is more, I have never seen Frank do or say a mean thing. There is no viciousness in him that I have been able to discover.

Frank is not a moody person. On the contrary, he has shown an extremely stable personality. For twenty years I have known him as a psychologically uncomplicated, thoroughly likeable guy.

From time to time the subject of his family would come up. Frank is hard working and frugal. I gathered that his wife is not. Frank would tell me about his children. I remember when his oldest boy spent several weeks in the hospital with a ruptured appendix. Frank wanted my opinion as to whether the case was being handled properly. He has shown me pictures of toys he built for his son and has talked about the things they did together.

In re: Frank Valentich
July 10, 1985
Page 3.

Frank impressed me as having a strong sense of conventional morality. His parents came from Croatia, and he was raised in a Croatian-American culture. His attitude toward other cultures and races seems to be one of live-and-let-live. On one occasion we discussed the question of expatriates who perpetuate the feuds of the past. He thought that this was absurd and that old animosities should be allowed to die.

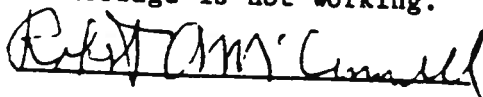
Frank has no interest in historical injustice. He does feel strongly about antisocial behavior and unearned privilege, which he does not excuse because of poverty or past, group injustice. At his socio-economic level these attitudes are normal. They reflect the values of hard work and upright behavior that make him a useful member of society.

Frank has his own complete workshop at home. As a hobby, he has built tamburitza musical instruments and guns. For some years Frank played evenings and weekends in a Croatian music group, earning money and having a good time. He showed me an automatic pistol that he had machined entirely from stock steel by copying a sample. He had every right to be proud of his technical skills. I understand that he has a collection of marksmanship trophies won as a member of the Armed Services.

One characteristic that has made him valuable to the research scientists whom he serves is his flexibility. Unlike many instrument makers who develop a compulsive perfectionism that wastes money and annoys managers, Frank tries to discover how good a job you want and then delivers accordingly. He will do a "quick and dirty" if that is what you need, but if you convince him that it has to be precise, he will go to great lengths to give you near perfection. I know this from my own experience.

My guess is that this sort of practicality would carry over into a father-son relationship and that Frank would temper his expectations with patience and love.

Everything that I know about Frank indicates that he is a better-than-average father. But, until maturity, both boys and girls need a mother also. Thus, it saddens me that this marriage is not working.

Signed: 

Robert A. McConnell
Emeritus Research Professor
Biological Sciences

RAM:sw



August 13, 1985

Mr. Ronald D. Ecker
1131 Frick Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Ecker:

I am responding to a request from Mr. Frank Valentich that I provide you with a personal and professional evaluation. Let me begin by stating that I have known Mr. Valentich for over 10 years as a colleague at the University of Pittsburgh, where I was Avinoff Professor of Biology. During that time I interacted with Frank on nearly a daily basis. Frank did an enormous amount of work for me as he served as a Master Craftsman for the Department. Frank's skill as a machinist and creative craftsman are matched by only one other person that I know of in my 20 years experience in the academic community. In fact, it is a pity that individuals of this caliber are not being developed by the university community. To succeed at this position, one must be able not only to master the problems of metal, wood and plastic work, but also to translate the requirements of scientists into a working plan. The latter is usually the more difficult part of the task, because scientists think as scientists, not engineers. One of the characteristics that always impressed me was Frank's enormous patience with us. He had a genuine desire to help make our job successful. He would work long hours on a job and then redo it completely if we were dissatisfied with some aspect of it. A quick survey of the departmental faculty would demonstrate the varied and substantial contributions that he has made to all of our research. One characteristic of the academic community is a shortage of funds. Frank's shop was no exception. There are two means of facing the problem: complain or try to solve it. Frank continuously did the latter. He would salvage almost anything discarded in the department. In doing so, he saved all of us a great deal of money. Salvage in most cases goes into someone's trunk and home. In Frank's case it went into our laboratories. I can sum up my evaluation of Frank's skills in one simple statement. The University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences will shortly attempt to construct a shop like the one that Frank administers at the University of Pittsburgh. At that time, I will do everything in my power to attract him to it.

As a person, Frank is both idealistic and pragmatic.

He believes in the good of people, but is careful to manage his affairs conservatively. I have met few individuals who are more devoted to family and country than Frank. The commitment is not worn on his shoulder, but carried in his heart and demonstrated by his actions. I personally have given Frank hundreds of dollars worth of platinum wire on nearly a dozen occasions. When the job was finished any unused portions were returned. How many workmen do you know who would do that, especially when they were as strapped for funds in the shop. No one ever found a single instance in which items were missing from the shop, not even supplies. Frank basically worked a second job making musical instruments to provide the "extras" that he felt would make his family happy. I have heard literally many tens of times that he had accumulated enough money to buy this for his wife or that for his son. In ten years I never heard him refer to anything that he bought for himself. He was intensely patriotic. He has an unabiding concern that americans will lose sight of the values that made this country great and that the country would suffer as a result. I could continue, but it would serve little purpose. Frank is the epitome of an old-world craftsman who came to America because of its potential and what it stands for. In all of my interactions with him, I have seen nothing but model demeanor.

I don't know anything about the difficulties in which Frank finds himself, but it is my fervent hope that the situation can be resolved in a balanced and peaceful manner. The life that Frank has led does not deserve such tragedy. If I may be of further assistance to you, or may provide detailed information concerning any part of this communication, please let me know and I am happy to do so.

Sincerely yours,



Terrance G. Cooper
Van Vleet Professor
& Chairman

Carnegie Mellon University

Department of Biological Sciences
4400 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213
(412) 578-3395

August 1, 1985

Mr. Ronald D. Ecker
1527 Frick Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Ecker:

I am writing you to express my respect for Mr. Frank Valentich as an individual. I first met Mr. Valentich in the late 1960's when I was a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh. I worked with him from time to time not only because we were housed in the same building complex but also because I needed his help in building apparatus for my research program. Thus, I have a good perception of Mr. Valentich as a person and as a professional colleague.

In my opinion, he is a first-rate machinist. He takes great pride in his work and he is a hard worker. Besides his full-time employment at the University of Pittsburgh, he devotes many hours during the evenings and weekends to a couple of other outside jobs. He told me on several occasions that he needed to make more money than he was able to earn at Pitt so that he could provide his family with a comfortable life. He also told me that he preferred that his wife stay at home in order to spend more time with the children. I noticed that he cared for his family deeply. I remember that several years ago his oldest son, Mark, was quite ill and that he did his best to find the finest medical care available. Mark had an operation at Children's Hospital. My wife and I went to visit Mark there, and Mr. Valentich was very grateful for our concern.

I always enjoyed my association with Mr. Valentich. In my opinion he is an honest, responsible person. I have a great deal of confidence in him and in his work. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Chien Ho
Professor and Head

209 Laurie Drive
Pittsburgh, PA
15235
August 14, 1985

Mr. Ronald D. Ecker
1527 Frick Building
Pittsburgh, PA
15219

Dear Mr. Ecker:

I am writing on behalf of your client, Mr. Frank Valentich.

I have lived next door to Frank and his family for over nine years. During that time both he and his wife have become friends of mine. I consider Frank to be a fine person, excellent parent, and reliable friend.


Frank has always impressed me as being a dedicated and hard-working family man. He has applied his skills and talents as a machinist, artisan, and musician to provide a good income for his family by working hard at these three jobs.

Frank and I have often discussed the importance of education and hard work as they relate to raising a family. As a veteran public school teacher, I certainly agree with Frank on these issues. I believe that Frank is sincere in his beliefs regarding traditional family values and that his children are suffering for not having enough of his influence and guidance in this area.

I do not regard Frank to be a reactionary or an anachronism. I perceive him to be a prudent, dedicated family man who is applying his abilities for the betterment of his family.

I know both of Frank's children well and have come to be aware, on the few occasions spent with them since September, 1984, that they miss their father and want to return home with him.

I hope my thoughts and observations are helpful to you and Frank.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Douds, Jr.
ph. 373-1311

WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE
AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

THE EDWARD MALLINCKRO
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMAC

August 16, 1985

Ronald D. Ecker
1131 Frick Bldg.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Ecker;

I am writing at the request of Mr. Frank Valentich, as a character reference. I knew Frank during the 5 year period I spent as an assistant and associate Professor of Biology at the University of Pittsburgh. We saw each other professionally at his shop and had many long and, for me, interesting conversations about life, our families and the world in general.

I think I came to know Frank fairly well. He is among the most honest and responsible persons I have met. His system of personal values is what can only be described as extremely traditional: a strong work ethic; a fierce loyalty to his family and their well-being; a healthy attitude of measured patriotism. On a professional level I was pleased to be associated with Frank. He was an extremely talented and resourceful craftsman, who was truly interested in solving technical problems. He, characterically, would always have ideas about improving on what I wanted, eventhough it required extra effort on his part. I found him cooperative and reliable in our business dealings.

In summary, I think Frank is a good person, and a valued colleague.

Sincerely,

John P. Merlie
John P. Merlie, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

JPM/ml

Box 8103
660 South Euclid Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63110



University of Pittsburgh

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Biological Sciences

July 18, 1985

Ronald D. Ecker, Esq.
1131 Frick Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Ecker:

Mr. Frank Valentich manages the machine shop for the Departments of Psychology and Biological Sciences. I have known Mr. Valentich for the last six years and have had numerous occasions to interact with him. He is a conscientious, dedicated individual with great mechanical skills. He has, in all my interactions with him, proven to be reliable and of impeccable character. During some of our discussions we touched upon matters of work ethics, philosophy of everyday living, and politics. These conversations have always been interesting and stimulating. We have from time to time discussed education of our children and other related matters. Mr. Valentich shares many of my own views on the importance of scholarship and concern for family and children. In all my dealings with Mr. Valentich, I have had no reason to have other than a sincere respect for him as a moral, concerned human being.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Albert E. Chung".

Albert E. Chung, Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman

AEC:sw

February 11, 1991

June 11, 1991

Judicial Inquiry and Review Board
Mr Robert Keuch
225 Market St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

Dear Mr. Keuch,

I attended a hearing before Judge Straussburger on February 8th, 1991, Blake v. Blake and observed that Judge Straussburger did not permit Mr. Blake to complete his testimony. It was observed that Judge Straussburger had his mind made up prior to Mr. Blake's testimony by stating that this motion was frivolous and that fines are to be awarded against Mr. Blake. Mr. Blake's testimony was not complete when Judge Straussburger had stop the motion and said that Mr. Blake will be forced to pay for counsel fees. In my opinion Judge Straussburger showed undue prejudice and was not fair to and was trying to intimidate Mr. Blake. I would hope that if I had to appear before Judge Straussburger, that no retaliatory actions would happen to me for exercising my lawful rights.

Also, Judge Straussburger that same day, in a previous motion prohibited an Attorney from presenting the facts of the case whose name is unknown. He said "your done!!!! out!!!" while that attorney was attempting to present his case in a professional manner.

The above situations are indicative of a personal problem of Judge Straussburger of being either emotional or physical in nature. Psychological evaluations are necessary for such abnormal erratic behavior.

Please use this letter as a record of complaint.

Sincerely,

Frank Valentich
Frank Valentich
205 Laurie Drive
Penn Hill, PA 15238
(412) 373-8059

Ruth A. Smith
NOTARIAL SEAL
RUTH A. SMITH, NOTARY PUBLIC
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
EXPIRES AUG. 6, 1991
Association of Notaries



FNT C