

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL SHARED PARENTING 50/50 PROPOSED PA HB 1397**

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November 25, 2019

**To the Honorable Members of the House Judiciary subcommittee on Family Law in Pennsylvania:**

**Representative Sheryl Delozier, Majority Chair**  
**Representative Tina Davis, Minority Chair**  
**Representative Jerry Knowles**  
**Representative Jonathan Hershey**  
**Representative Paul Schemel**  
**Representative Summer Lee**

Please accept this amended testimony for the record, of proposed PA HB 1397.

Hello. My name is Laurie Nicholson. I am an alienated mother of three and the founder of Parental Alienation Awareness, PA. I am a parent and children's rights advocate. I am a constituent of Erie County, PA.

I fully support Representative Sue Helm's proposed PA HB 1397, pertaining to a presumptive 50/50 custody rebuttal, in absence of proven abuse, criminal history or domestic violence and I ask that you do the same.

I am in favor of 50/50 Equality for parents. Children have the right TO LOVE and BE LOVED by BOTH parents. ALL children matter. As each child grows into an adult and becomes a parent themselves one day, its important that SHARED CUSTODY becomes the "norm" in our society, absent of abuse, criminal record or domestic violence.

I would never want another child to be severed from a loving, fit parent, as my three children were, because a shared court order was not upheld or enforced by the Judge who wrote it. I would never want another child to experience what my three children have, as they were used as a weapon in my divorce and placed in the center of litigation. Litigation needlessly continued

for more than a decade of their lives. After 11 attorneys, a countless number of unqualified and uneducated therapists, counselors, evaluators, GAL's, parent coordinators- the list goes on and on. My children have been also alienated from their 13-year-old sister, who grew up with them and shared a very strong bond with each of them.

**“A party’s effort to protect a child from abuse by another party is not evidence of unwillingness or inability to cooperate with that party.”**

13<sup>th</sup> factor to consider when awarding custody in proposed PA HB 1397

That is exactly how I entered my hellacious situation of custody, by trying to protect my children from abuse. I never believed when I asked for a divorce, I would also be divorcing my own children, because the courts failed to listen to my repeated pleas for help. I left the marriage to protect myself & children from further abuse. If I had not left, I would be charged with “failing to protect” my children. You are told by the courts, “the past is in the past” or “we will go from this day forward”, with complete disregard to any and all relevant past history. Evidence is rejected or denied. However, past history is just important in custody matters, as past medical history is imperative for patients. **For nearly 13 years Pennsylvania family court refused to protect my children.**

What I experienced with in the family court was an extenuation of domestic violence. The courts allowed not only myself, but my children, to suffer for over a decade of the continued abuse...(legal, financial, emotional, mental, physical) and continued medical neglect of my children. Countless court orders were never upheld or enforced, as contempt petitions were denied or dragged out 3-6 months, violations simply got a slap on the wrist or a scolding by the judge. Where is a protective parent to turn for relief? You cannot even contact local law enforcement, as they suggest, “go back and file for contempt”.

Had the courts interceded and stopped the further abuse from the very beginning, I would have a loving relationship with my now, “alienated teenagers”. But, no one cared to explore the truth. No one would listen. Please note, I have a perfectly healthy, thriving academically achieving 13-year-old daughter...who is also a victim, as she has lost her siblings.

**Pennsylvania is a jurisdiction that recognizes Parental Alienation. Please refer to following case: WCF v. MG, 115 A. 3d 323 - Pa: Superior Court 2015**

**Parental alienation** describes a process through which a child becomes estranged from a parent as the result of the psychological manipulation of another parent. The child's estrangement may manifest itself as fear, disrespect or hostility toward the parent, and may extend to additional relatives or parties. The child's estrangement is disproportionate to any

acts or conduct attributable to the alienated parent. Parental alienation can occur in any family unit, but is believed to occur most often within the context of family separation, particularly when legal proceedings are involved, although the participation of professionals such as lawyers, judges and psychologists may also contribute to conflict.

**“Induced parental alienation** is a specific **form of psychological child abuse**, which is listed in DSM-5, the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), under diagnostic code V 995.51 **“child psychological abuse”**. Untreated induced parental alienation can lead to long-term traumatic psychological and physical effects in the children concerned. This fact is still not given sufficient attention in family court cases”

The courts allowed my children to be dragged through a relentless court process, that to this day, has still never been remedied or resolved. The courts continued and encouraged the conflict and involved *countless untrained professionals*, that you have to pay for out of pocket, as these services are not covered by health insurance. To assist family’s experiencing this, **state mandated training on Parental Alienation is a must**.

As of the date of the upcoming hearing, Dec 9, 2019, I have not seen or spoken with my 17-year-old son, Child A, in **2078 days** or 5 years, 8 months & 8 days, or 68 months & 8 days.

I have not seen or spoken with my 18-year-old son, Child B, in **1526 days** or 4 years, 2 months & 4 days or 50 months & 4 days.

I have not seen or spoken with my 16-year-old daughter, Child C, in **1310 days-** or 3 years, 7 months & 1 day or 43 months.

Co parent was able to take one child per year, on special events or a holiday- Child A- 2014- before his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, Child B- 2015-his first homecoming, Child C- 2016 Mother’s Day. He was able to manipulate the shared custody orders and managed to, in his words, “exercise sole custody” without ever being punished. THE FAMILY COURT DID NOTHING!

Please keep in mind, I HAVE A SHARED CUSTODY ORDER. (Attached) These children live seven minutes away, except for one, who is in college. They have shared the same school district, at times, the same school events, as their 13-year-old sister, who is a child from my current marriage. TIME CAN NEVER BE MADE UP! All important milestones have passed. All holidays and birthdays have fled by. Imagine not even being able to send any mail or packages, call, text or even email your child, as the co parent blocks all contact, despite telling the courts otherwise. The co parent actually supplied false emails to the court. Recently, I have learned the phone numbers are different, yet the co parent keeps other numbers active, *as part of the game*. Imagine finding out about emergencies such as car crashes, fires, hospitalizations or being stranded on a piece of ice on the lake, by OTHER PEOPLE, not your co parent. This is what

has been done to my family, as the courts have allowed this situation to spiral out of control. Shared 50/50 would not apply to my case or any other “alienated” parent unless there was **strict accountability and punishment on the abuser**, ultimately, a reversal of custody, after repeated violations of existing order(s). Implementing strict, to the letter guidelines; that once the orders are violated, I am suggesting a loss of custodial time and mandated therapy for the parent who chooses to violate that said order. This would be in the “best interest” of a child, as this continued chaos and manipulation creates unnecessarily stress and anxiety on child(ren) involved.

**Shared 50/50 would be ideal for 2 fit loving parents, absent of abuse, neglect or criminal convictions.**

I will state, I do not have so much as a parking ticket or speeding violation, though, I have been treated like a criminal. Had a criminal record or abuse history verification form been filed upon entering divorce in 2005 and again when filing for custody in 2006, according to **PA Rule 1915.3-2**, it would prove, without a doubt, I have a clean record. These filings were never completed, as far as I can see from my docket. My proof is contained in numerous plastic totes and folders which would fill a room, including a lengthy letter from ex, admitting to all he has done to myself and the children. This too, was denied in court. I have never done one thing wrong. I repeat, I do not possess a criminal record, nor have I ever been convicted of any form of abuse. I followed every single order to the “T”, but the co parent never did. I've never even spanked my children, as grounding them or “time out” worked fine- but he liked to scream and he was physical. My children were once happy, healthy children. Now, they are unrecognizable. I had to get psychological evaluations; however, I was not the one who attempted suicide or who possessed over 300 guns, nor was I in trouble for 2.2 million of insurance fraud. Their father never had to comply to the court ordered psych evaluation. The Guardian Ad Litem assigned refused, as well, to protect my children, despite all evidence I provided to her. In fact, she wrote and submitted a report that was completely biased and full of false allegations (supplied by the co parent) without ever speaking to myself, my family or the school. **Guardian ad litem Powers and Duties §6311. Guardian Ad Litem for child in court proceedings (5) Interview potential witnesses, including the child’s parents, caretakers and foster parents; examine and cross-examine witnesses; and present witnesses and evidence necessary to protect the best interests of the child.** We finally managed to have a meeting, **ONE time in the 4 years**, since she was assigned to case. Although, without ever knowing anything about me, she was making decisions that greatly affected my children’s lives, forever. At the time of the first and only meeting, she was angry that I brought my current husband, as I felt it was in my best interest, to have a witness. **Within 6 months of her assignment to my children, she requested all my children’s personal effects from my home, even our pet cat.**

I have been tortured by the legal system for protecting my children. My last hearing was on January 19, 2018. At this point, after numerous attempts to be heard, 11 attorneys and hundreds of thousands spent in the kangaroo courts, then being assigned child support in 2013, after ex claims "disability"-please note: his \$15,000 arrears were wiped clean, after I was a stay at home mother since 2000. I realized I had to exit the courts, while I still was able. **I have been denied my constitutional rights to parent my children because of perjury, fraud and deception upon the court, by my ex and "friends of the court"**. I was denied due process and got sucked down the "rabbit hole", like so many other healthy parents. Countless false allegations by the co parent, to child protective services, yet nothing was ever "FOUNDED". This as well, should have been punishable. Numerous reports to the local township, animal cruelty and police- yet he was never punished. He falsified records at school and doctors' offices. His own attorney made up horribly, untrue allegations, along with blandishments to the judge, to paint me as a deplorable parent. Co parent blatantly disregarded all orders and defiantly denied me any/all contact to OUR children. He even took the 3 children out of the country without informing me. I have never been a criminal, but I do feel criminals have more rights than I. As a criminal, the child/ parent relationships are protected, encouraged and facilitated. Even inmates have more accessibility to their children than a fit loving alienated parent with no criminal record...

\*\*\*\*" The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that "[n]o state shall ... deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." U.S. Const. amend XIV, § 1. While there is no mention of family, a parent's right to child custody, or the protection of a child's welfare in this amendment or elsewhere in the Constitution, the United States Supreme Court has constitutionally protected each of these interests as a fundamental liberty under the Fourteenth Amendment"

**MY CHILDREN AND I WERE UNJUSTIFIABLY DEPRIVED OF ALL BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY COURT SYSTEM.**

\*\*\*\* "Pennsylvania courts have similarly recognized that the law protects the natural parent's relationship with his or her child and will not interfere unnecessarily with that relationship, even at the expense of estrangement to the extended family. See Jackson v. Garland, 424 Pa.Super. 378, 622 A.2d 969, 971 (1993) (citing Santosky v. Kramer, 455 U.S. 745, 102 S. Ct. 1388, 71 L. Ed. 2d 599 (1982) and Weber v. Weber, 362 Pa.Super. 262, 524 A.2d 498 (1987)). In fact, our General Assembly has specifically declared"

**THE PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY COURT UNNECESSARILY AND UNJUSTIFIABLY INTERFERED WITH MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN.**

\*\*\*\* "[I]t is the public policy of this Commonwealth, when in the best interest of the child, to assure reasonable and continuing contact of the child with both parents after separation or dissolution of the marriage and the sharing of the rights and responsibilities of child rearing by both parents...."

## **THE PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY COURT SYSTEM UNJUSTIFIABLY DENIED ME CONTACT WITH MY CHILDREN, FAILED TO ENFORCE OR UPHOLD NUMEROUS ORDERS, CAUSING IRREPAIRABLE DAMAGE TO OUR FAMILY SYSTEM AND PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP(S)**

Please refer to pages 66,67 AND 68 of the **Pennsylvania Dependency Benchbook Office of Children and Families in the Courts Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts**. This defines how the court system SHOULD treat parents. The courts have been neglecting parents' rights for way too long.

### **7.3 Legal Requirements Governing Visitation**

**“As long as the goal is reunification, a parent may not be denied visitation”**

**“except where a grave threat to the child can be shown” (In the Interest of M.B., 674 A.2d 702, 705 (Pa. Super. 1996)). This standard reflects the parents’**

**\*Best Practice – Visitation Practices\***

**In any prehearing report, the judge should require the agency to include a specific section discussing the visitation history while in care as to each parent and the siblings, and any specific recommendations as to the immediate future. A judge should also facilitate collaborated agency and community efforts to improve visitation practices, and encourage strategies for quality visits (PA Children’s Roundtable Initiative, 2009, p. 12) constitutionally protected liberty interest in such visitation, and also the significant consideration of allowing a parent to maintain a meaningful and sustaining relationship with his or her child (Id.) (See also In re: B.G., 774 A.2d 757 (Pa. Super. 2001); In re: C.J., 729 A.2d 89 (Pa. Super. 1999)).**

**The term “grave threat” is not specifically defined in case law other than to limit visits by a parent who suffers from “severe mental or moral deficiencies” (In Interest of Rhine, 456 A.2d 608, 613 (Pa. Super. 1983)). Poor parental judgment during visits is not enough to limit a parent’s visitation, nor a contention that the parents at visits are “undercutting” the authority of foster parents, or that the caregivers complain of “acting out” by the child after the visit (In re: B.G., supra).**

**For the most part, the Juvenile Act does not contain any guidelines as to parent-child visitation in dependency cases. By Administrative Regulation, the county agency is generally required to provide opportunities for visits between the child and parents “as frequently as possible, but no less frequently than once every two (2) weeks” (55 Pa. Code § 3130.68). Note that the regulation specifies only a minimum required frequency, however; courts should be reluctant to approve “cookie-cutter” minimum visitation plans that always provide for visits every two weeks, without consideration of each child/family’s unique needs. Relying solely on the administrative regulation provides parents with 52 hours per**

**year or 2 ¼ days of visitation. Clearly this level of visitation is minimal at best.**

**THE PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY COURT SYSTEM UNJUSTIFIABLY DENIED ME VISITATION/  
CONTACT WITH MY CHILDREN, FAILED TO ENFORCE OR UPHOLD NUMEROUS ORDERS,  
CAUSING IRREPAIRABLE DAMAGE TO OUR FAMILY SYSTEM AND PARENT/CHILD  
RELATIONSHIP(S). THE PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY COURT UNNECESSARILY AND UNJUSTIFIABLY  
INTEREERED WITH MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN.**

**Visitation page 68**

#### **7.4 Sibling Visitation**

The preferred method for ensuring sibling contact is to place siblings together. When this is not possible, frequent, ongoing sibling contact and visitation is critical. **Visitation with siblings can be of great value in serving the best interests of the child (PA Children's Roundtable Initiative, 2009, p. 11-12). Federal law (see the account of the "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008" in Chapter 16) recognizes the special relationship siblings may have with one another and requires states to make "reasonable efforts" in dependency cases to provide "for frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between the siblings."** An exception exists if visits or contact is contrary to a sibling's safety or wellbeing. Under the Act, the case plan should reflect efforts to keep siblings as near to each other as possible, with **regular sibling face-to-face visitation once a month at a minimum, and regular phone contact as well.** Clearly this is a minimum standard with ongoing sibling visitation needing to be much more frequent in many cases.

**THE PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY COURT UNNECESSARILY AND UNJUSTIFIABLY IGNORED THE NEEDS OF MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER AND UNJUSTIFIABLY DENIED CONTACT WITH AND SEVERED THE BOND SHE ONCE HAD WITH HER SIBLINGS. THIS DAMAGE CAN NEVER BE UNDONE.**

#### **PA Rule 1915.3-2:**

**(a) Criminal record or abuse history verification. A party must file and serve with the complaint, any petition for modification, any counterclaim, any petition for contempt or any count for custody in a divorce complaint or counterclaim verification regarding any criminal record or abuse history of that party and anyone living in that party's household.**

According to my transcript, as far as I am aware of, the only summary on file was that requested of Erie Co. Office of Children & Youth, of agency involvement, including summary of

any Act 124 "Indicated" or "Founded" ChildLine reports. To my acknowledgement, my attorney (at the time) did not file on record, a criminal background check for myself and as far as I am aware, my co parent's attorney, at the time, did not file anything on record either.

**THE PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY COURT FAILED TO FOLLOW THE LAW.**

***Recently, when requesting a transcript of my last custody hearing, (the 1/19/18 hearing where the Judge denied my request to have a custody trial, denied my request to have an expert testimony witness, Dr. Craig Childress, and the Judge told my attorney, he was "skating on thin ice", for mentioning Parental Alienation, the Judge refused to answer my request for supervised visits, if in fact, I was such a horrible mother) I was forced to pay a transcriptionist directly, this was in violation of 2 laws- PA Rule 4007 (C) and Local rule 4008 (B) According to the law, I was to pay County of Erie, not a contractor. As of today, my check has been returned because I noted on check- "under duress" of the PA law.***

**Rule 4007 - Requests for Transcripts**

- (A) The original transcript request shall be on a standardized form ("Transcript Request Form") provided by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts and shall be filed with the appropriate filing office for the case docket. The form is available on The Unified Judicial System's Web Portal, the website for the Erie County Court of Common Pleas or by contacting the District Court Administrator for the Erie County Court of Common Pleas. In order for the request to be processed, a copy of the request must be served on the District Court
- (B) Administrator, as well as on all other individuals designated by Pa.R.J.A. 4007. For purposes of service on the District Court Administrator, the request may be hand delivered to Room 210 of the Erie County Courthouse, e-mailed to the District Court Administrator, or mailed to: District Court Administrator, Erie County Courthouse, 140 West 6th Street, Room 210, Erie, PA 16501.
- (B) The District Court Administrator will not direct the court reporter to proceed with transcription until either (1) receipt of partial payment in the amount of one-half of the estimated cost of the transcript; or (2) receipt of an order granting permission to proceed in forma pauperis or waiving costs in accordance with Pa. R.J.A. 4008(B) and Erie County Rule of Judicial Administration 4008(B). The party ordering the transcript is responsible for contacting the court reporter to determine the amount of deposit required. Deposit checks shall be made payable to the County of Erie and delivered to the District Court Administrator.
- (C) Upon receipt of notification from the court reporter of the completion of the transcript and the amount of the balance owed, the party ordering the transcript shall forward to the District Court Administrator a check in the amount of the balance due. The check shall be made payable to the County of Erie. Upon receipt of final payment, the District Court Administrator will direct the court reporter to file and deliver the transcript in accordance with Pa.R.J.A. 4007(D)(4).



PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY COURTS are ruining families. There is no “best interest” of ANY child. There are only monetary incentives for a “Pocket Pal” system.

Family court has ruined my 4 children's lives and is ruining millions of families across the United States, including Pennsylvania. The damage has been done, as Family Court aided in the alienation process of my children and refused to follow THE LAW. Please note, I will reiterate, I have no criminal record and possess all my PA Clearances. I was a nurturing, devoted, dedicated loving mother. Our family simply became a target in this 50 billion dollar a year industry.

Our court system is broken! **There is no remedy of law, no due process, no accountability and no transparency in family court. Had there been 50/50 custody in the very beginning of my proceedings, with accountability of the person violating the orders, PENALTIES AND SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE, my children would not have become casualties.**

This law will bring equality in custody determinations and protect the rights of children to have BOTH FIT and LOVING PARENTS involved in their lives, following a separation or divorce. The passing of this bill greatly benefits any Pennsylvania child, as studies have shown **SHARED PARENTING** increases academic achievement, improves emotional health (lowers the rates of anxiety & depression, increases self-esteem & overall life satisfaction), reduces the rate of behavioral problems, such as delinquency, school misbehavior, bullying, drugs, alcohol, smoking and promiscuity-A child also benefits with improved physical health and decreased stress-related illnesses. The passing of this bill will significantly lower the incidence rate of Parental Alienation.

\*\*\*Children need BOTH PARENTS in their lives, if there is no history of or presence of abuse or a criminal background. THIS LAW PROVIDES THAT PROTECTION with 16 revised custodial factors.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE EQUAL SHARED PARENTING BILL 1397.**

FIX THE FAMILY COURTS for the sake of ALL our children.

Respectfully submitted and testified,

*Laurie Lee Nicholson*

Laurie Nicholson

Parental Alienation Awareness, PA

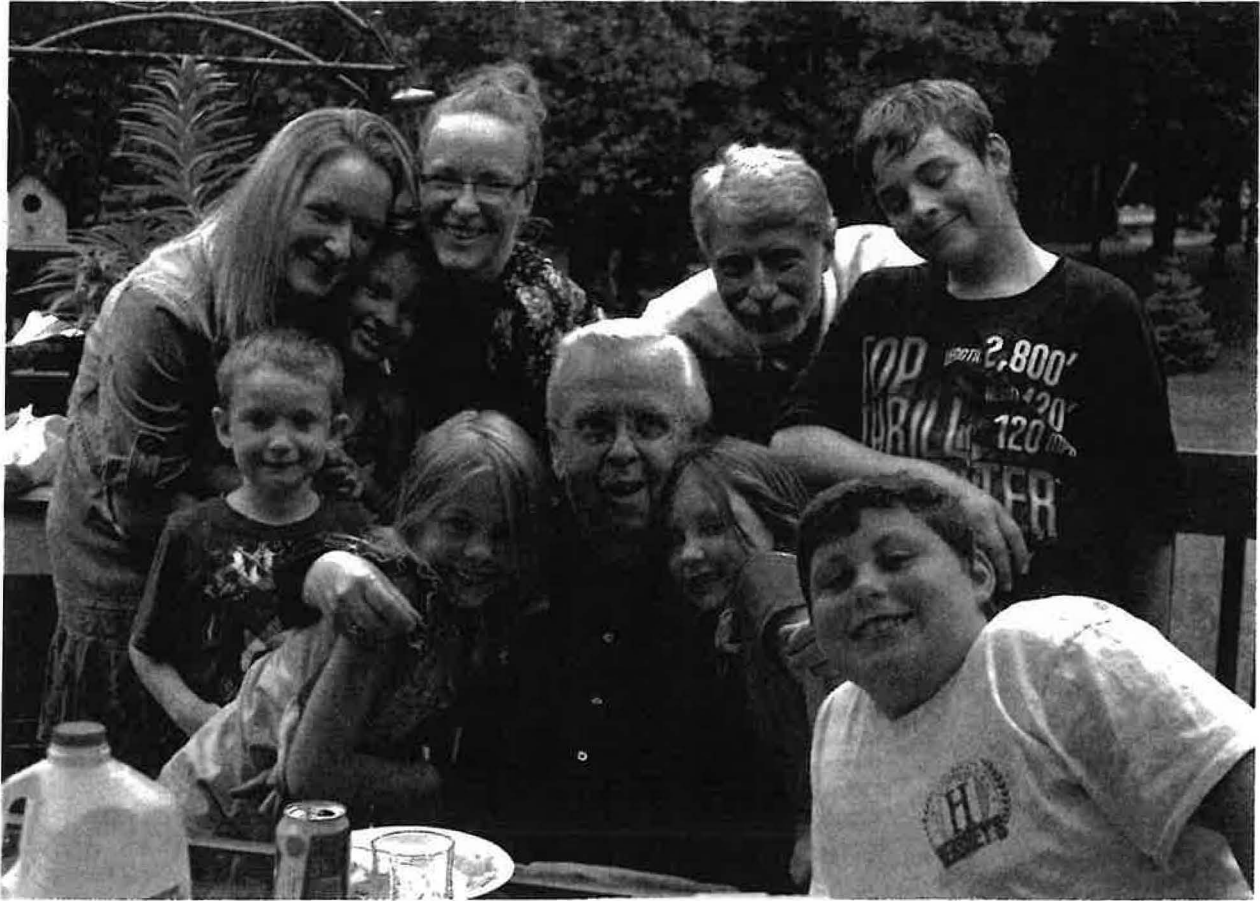
BECAUSE PICTURES DO NOT LIE.... OUR ONCE, INTACT FAMILY-



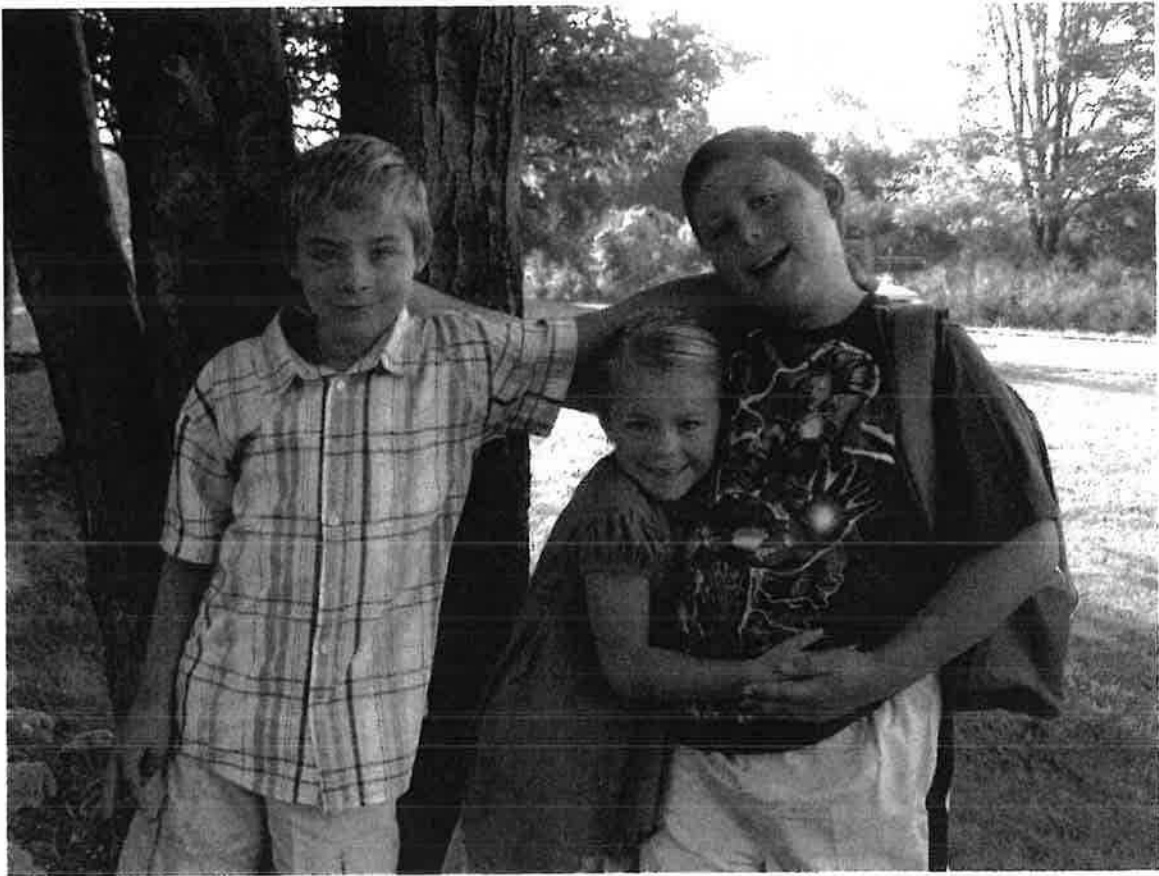
CHILD A- TOP LEFT  
CHILD B- BOTTOM LEFT  
CHILD C-MIDDLE RIGHT  
YOUNGEST SISTER MIDDLE LEFT



CHILD B- TOP  
CHILD C-LEFT  
YOUNGEST SISTER-RIGHT



CHILD A-TOP RIGHT  
CHILD B-BOTTOM RIGHT  
CHILD C-BOTTOM LEFT  
YOUNGEST SISTER- MIDDLE RIGHT



ALL ALIENATED FROM ½ OF THEIR FAMILY

LAURIE L. SCHAUER,  
Plaintiff  
V.

: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
: OF ERIE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
:  
:  
:

WADE A. SCHAUER,  
Defendant

: NO. 13215 - 2005

**ORDER OF COURT**

AND NOW, to-wit, this 25 day of April 2013, it is hereby ORDERED,

ADJUDGED, and DECREED:

1. The parents shall share the legal and physical custody of their children. The names and birth dates of their children are as follows:

Mitchell Schauer, born February 26, 2001

Travis Schauer, born May 1, 2002

Hope Schauer, born October 20, 2003

2. The children shall reside with their father except that the mother shall have partial custody with their children as follows:

a.) School year:

Week 1: In week one, the children shall be with their mother on Tuesday from 4:15 pm until 8:00 pm; on Fridays beginning at 4:15 pm (noon if there is no school) until Monday morning when the children return to school (5:00 pm if there is no school).

Week 2: The children shall be with their mother on Tuesday at 4:15 pm until Wednesday morning when the children return to school (5:00 pm if there is no school).

b.) Summer:

Week 1: The children shall be with their mother on Tuesday from 9:00 am until Wednesday at 9:00 pm; and on Friday from 9:00 am until Monday at 10:00 am.

APR 25 2013 3:29 PM  
ERIE COUNTY COURT

Week 2: The children shall be with their mother on Tuesday from 9:00 am until Thursday at 10:00 am. Thereafter, this cycle shall repeat.

c.) Each parent is entitled to two (2) seven (7) day periods of uninterrupted custody time upon thirty (30) days written notice to each other.

d.) The non-festive holidays, the children shall be with father on Memorial and Labor Day. The children shall be with the mother on July Fourth. The hours shall be from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm unless mutually agreed to do otherwise.

e.) In 2014 and even years, the children shall be with their mother for the Easter holiday. In 2015 and odd years, this schedule shall alternate.

f.) In 2013 and odd years, the children shall be with their mother for the Thanksgiving holiday. In 2014 and even years, this schedule shall alternate.

g.) In 2013 and odd years, the children shall be with their mother on December 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon until December 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon and with the father on December 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon until December 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. In 2014 and even years, this schedule shall alternate.

h.) The parties shall refrain from discussions having to do with the conflict, or disagreements between them in the presence of the children. Neither parent shall engage in any conduct that presents to the children a negative or hostile view of the other.

i.) Medical needs and concerns of the children shall be governed by a separate Medical Protocol Order.

j.) There shall be no corporal punishment.

k.) The parents shall administer medication as prescribed by the physician.

l.) There shall be adult supervision at all times.

m.) The parent receiving custody shall provide transportation. The driver shall stay in the vehicle. The relinquishing parent shall stay in his or her residence, unless there is a need to exchange, or transfer medications consistent with the Medical Protocol Order.


n.) The parents shall insure all homework assignments are completed and delivered to school when due.

o.) Each party shall be responsible for taking the children to their scheduled activities when the children are in that party's custody or care.

**3. ALL HOLIDAY SCHEDULES SHALL SUPERSEDE ANY OTHER PARTIAL CUSTODY OR VISITATION SCHEDULE UNLESS MUTUALLY AGREED TO DO OTHERWISE.**

4. The children shall be with their mother on Mother's Day and with their father on Father's Day. The hours shall be from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm unless mutually agreed to do otherwise.

5. Each parent shall plan a birthday celebration for their children on one of their regularly scheduled partial custody days near the children's birthday.

 6. Each parent shall keep the other informed of their children's health, progress in school and general welfare and shall consult the other parent concerning major decisions affecting their children.

7. Each parent is entitled to receive directly from schools, health care providers, or other relevant sources, information concerning their children.

8. Neither parent shall engage in any conduct that presents to their children a negative, or hostile view of the other.

9. Each parent shall encourage their children to comply with the custody



arrangement and foster in their children a positive view of the other.

10. This custody arrangement may be modified by an agreement of the parties when required for the best interest of the children. The term "mutual agreement" contemplates good faith discussions by both parents to reach an agreement as to specific dates and times of partial custody or visitation, and the unilateral determination of one parent to deny contact shall be viewed as a violation of this provision.

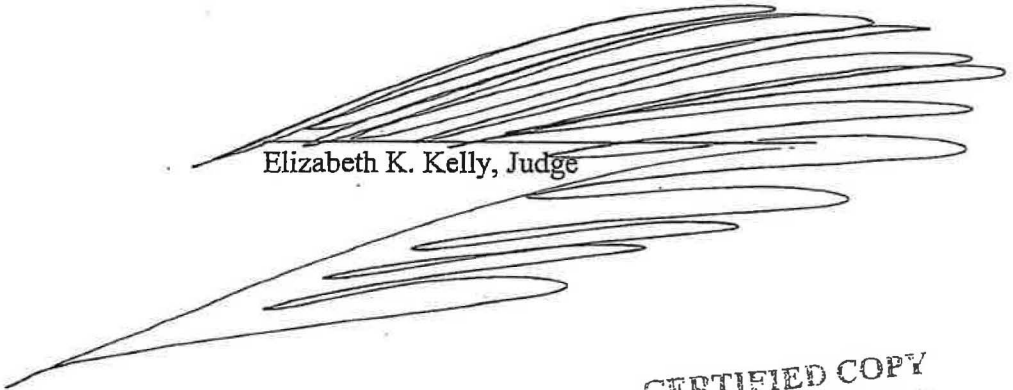
11. If not already done the parties agree, as a condition of this Consent Order, to attend the "Children Cope With Divorce" seminar.

12. Jurisdiction of the aforementioned children sand this matter shall remain in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania unless and until jurisdiction would change under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act 23 Pa. C.S.A. 5401 et seq.

13. RELOCATION NOTICE. No party with custody rights to a child may relocate with the child prior to agreement of all parties with custody rights to the child, or prior approval of court. Relocation is defined as changing residence of the child which significantly impairs the ability of the non relocating party to exercise custodial rights. A party proposing relocation must comply with all provisions of 23 Pa. C.S. Section 5337 before relocating with the child. A sample relocation notice and counter-affidavit are available at [www.eriecountygov.org/custody](http://www.eriecountygov.org/custody).

14.) VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER BY ANY PERSON MAY RESULT IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES, INCLUDING PROSECUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 2904 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CRIMES CODE, INTERFERENCE WITH THE CUSTODY OF CHILDREN.

BY THE COURT:



Elizabeth K. Kelly, Judge

CERTIFIED COPY

*Kelly Spivak*  
PROCLERK

APR 30 PM 3:30  
PROCLERK

Dear Legislators,

My previous written letter of support did not include my address. I have included it on this email. My apologies. Please accept the following.

Dear Legislator:

My name is Laurie Nicholson. I am an alienated mother of three and the founder of Parental Alienation Awareness, PA. I am a parent and children's rights advocate. I am a constituent of Erie County, PA.

I fully support Representative Sue Helm's PA HB 1397, pertaining to a presumptive 50/50 custody rebuttal, in absence of proven abuse or domestic violence and I ask that you would do the same.

I am in favor of 50/50 Equality for parents. **Children have the right to love and be loved by BOTH parents.** ALL children matter when they become parents.

I would never want another child to be severed from a loving parent, as my three children were, because a *shared court order was not upheld or enforced* by the Judge who wrote it. I would never want another child to experience what my three children have, as they were used as a weapon in my divorce and placed in the center of litigation. Litigation needlessly continued for more than a decade of their lives. After 11 attorneys, countless of unqualified and uneducated therapists, evaluators, GAL's, parent coordinators- the list goes on and on. My children have been also alienated from their 12 year old sister.

Family court has ruined my children's lives and is ruining millions of families across the United States, including Pennsylvania. The damage has been done, as Family Court aided in the alienation process of my children and refused to follow the law. Please note, I am a fit, loving and responsible parent. I have no criminal record and possess all my PA Clearances. Our family became a target in this 50 billion dollar a year industry.

Our court system is broken! There is no remedy of law, no due process, no accountability and no transparency in family court. Had there been 50/50 custody in the very beginning of my proceedings, my children would not have become casualties.  
THIS NEEDS TO STOP, for the sake of ALL of our children.

Sincerely,

Laurie L. Nicholson  
8390 Sterrettania Road  
Girard, PA 16417  
814-392-9009  
[motherllnof5@gmail.com](mailto:motherllnof5@gmail.com)