

DISTRICT COURT, EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO 270 S. Tejon Street Colorado Springs, CO 80903 P.O. Box 2980 Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2980 Phone Number: (719) 448-7650	▲COURT USE ONLY▲
In re: The Marriage of: Petitioner: FRANCES M. GALE, And Respondent: LEONARD GRIFFIN	
DANA M. MEDORO, Child and Family Investigator 2975 Broadmoor Valley Road, Suite #103 Colorado Springs, CO. 80906 Phone Number: (719) 229-5030 E-mail: Danamedoro@aol.com Fax Number: (719) 442-0002	Case No: 98 DR 504 Division 6 Courtroom 401
CHILD AND FAMILY INVESTIGATOR STATUS REPORT	

COMES NOW the Child and Family Investigator, **DANA M. MEDORO**, hereinafter referred to as the CFI, and reports as follows:

I. REASON FOR APPOINTMENT

The undersigned Child and Family Investigator was appointed in this case by the Honorable Steven Pelican on February 23, 2007 to represent the best interest of the minor child, **JAMES GLEN GRIFFIN**, (D.O.B. January 14, 1997) and to make recommendations with respect to parenting time.

II. SCOPE OF CFI'S INVESTIGATION

The Child and Family Investigator has consulted either in person or by phone with the following individuals:

- Robert Fisher, Attorney for Petitioner,
- Tyler Makepeace, Attorney for Respondent
- Frances Gale, Petitioner/Mother
- Leonard Griffin, Respondent/Father

Dr. Frank Barron, Clinical Psychologist
Mr. and Mrs. Cappadonna, Paternal Grandparents

III. INITIAL FINDINGS

Upon contacting both parties during the initial stages of the investigation, the CFI became aware that Dr. Frank Barron was in the process of reviewing all critical documentation and data pertaining to the minor child, James Griffin. Dr. Barron was retained to determine whether or not the results of the psychological testing performed on the Respondent/Father, Leonard Griffin, supported continued suspension of all contact between the Father and the minor child.

It was determined by all parties that continuation of the CFI's investigation prior to reviewing Dr. Barron's recommendations and findings may be a waste of both parties' limited financial resources.

The Petitioner/Mother stated that she did not have the ability to pay her portion of the CFI's retainer and that the delay contemplated would afford her the opportunity to save the necessary funds required. To date, the CFI has not received those funds.

On December 5, 2007, the undersigned received the attached email (See Exhibit A) from Dr. Barron. Dr. Barron's findings suggest that although James is suffering from a severe psychiatric disorder, given the absence of contact between James and his father over the past two and a half years, and given the fact that James' condition has not significantly improved during that time, that the contact between the minor child and Leonard Griffin could not be considered as the sole cause of James' delicate condition.

It was further noted in Dr. Barron's email that James' condition, during this time that he has not had any contact with his father, appears to have worsened.

Dr. Barron's limited recommendations also suggest that the initial contacts between Mr. Griffin and James be supervised.

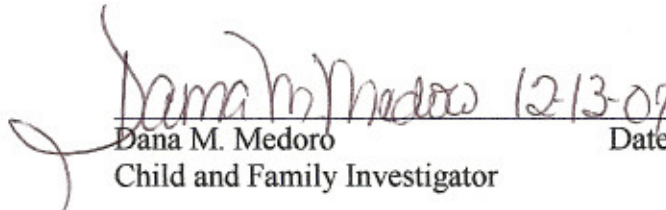
IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the hearing currently set for December 13, 2007, be changed to a Status Conference.
2. That a reintegration therapist be appointed to monitor the initial contacts between James and his father.
3. That if appropriate, the reintegration therapist be someone that takes Medicaid in order to assist these parties with their limited financial abilities.
4. That contact between the father and the minor child begin immediately and continue for at least 6 weeks prior to the CFI resuming her role
5. That the Mother pay her portion of the CFI fees within the 6 week delay.

6. That the Mother engage the services of Dr. Frank Barron to determine what, if any, role she may play in this continued high-conflict matter.
7. That a hearing be set at least 90 days out to allow the CFI to complete her investigation.

Submitted this 13 day of December, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,


Dana M. Medoro
Child and Family Investigator

12-13-07
Date

CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY

The Child and Family Investigator Status Report dated December 13, 2007 was hand-delivered to the following individuals on the 13th day of December, 2007.

El Paso County District Court
Division 6
Post Office Box 2980
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2980

Robert Fisher,
Counsel for Mother
924 N. Wahsatch Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Fax: (719) 633-1005

Tyler Makepeace
405 South Cascade, Suite 103
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Fax: (719) 632-6644

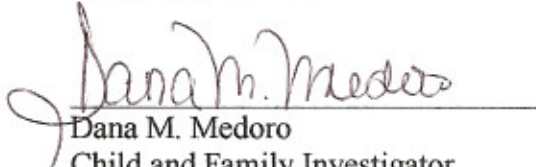

Dana M. Medoro
Child and Family Investigator

EXHIBIT A

To: Dana Medoro
 From: Frank H. Barron, PhD
 Re: Gale/Griffin
 98DR0504
 Evaluation Summary
 Date: December 5, 2007

I am providing you with a brief summary of findings and recommendations pertaining to the psychological evaluation of Leonard Griffin and the appropriateness of his having contact with his son, James Griffin. It is my understanding that a summary will allow you to proceed with the CFI Study and therefore help to avoid further delays in the resolution of this matter through the Court.

Recent and severe respiratory flu has made it unlikely that the complete evaluation report will be available by the time of the next hearing. However, I will continue to attempt to meet that deadline.

The data from which the evaluation conclusions have been formed include three extended interviews with Mr. Griffin, psychological testing, an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Cappadonna and a review of relevant court related evaluations and documents. In addition, the examiner has reviewed District 11 school records of James Griffin, covering a period of time from 2004 through 2006, treatment notes and summaries of his various mental health providers and the complete clinical charts of his 2004 and 2007 psychiatric inpatient treatments at Cedar Springs Hospital.

In the course of evaluating Leonard Griffin, this examiner failed to identify the presence of any form of major mental disorder or diagnosable personality disorder. He does possess personal characteristics and personality traits that have proved problematic in terms of his relating to many of the professionals involved with his son and in the determination of visitation and custody issues. These include difficulty in adaptively managing stress and anxiety, problems relating to authority, generalized interpersonal mistrust and what would appear to be ADHD features that adversely impact attention and impulse control as well as reduce his appreciation of his personal impact on others. It should be noted that Mr. Griffin is currently voluntarily taking Lexapro in order to assist in the management of stress and reduce anxiety. Self-report suggests that this medication is working well for him.

In regard to James Griffin, a review of his records present a somewhat confusing clinical picture to this examiner. Although diagnosed with severe psychiatric disorders which are being controlled by major medications, much of his emotional/behavioral outbursts, as reported in school records, observation of incidents while hospitalized, as well as those reported as having occurred at home, frequently appear to be purposeful and directed toward achieving control in his relationships and interactions with others. While he may escalate his emotional and behavioral reactions during the course of engaging in a "power struggle", he has often demonstrated the ability to rapidly de-escalate in the face of firm limits and in the service of avoiding undesirable consequences.

There is much to be addressed in the context of a complete report, including the credibility of James' reports of contact with corpses, which recently appear to have expanded somewhat beyond his original statements. However, this examiner's clinical impression of Mr. Griffin and James does not suggest that a prohibition of their contact is necessary at the present time. It seems unlikely that Mr. Griffin's very limited contact with his son prior to court ordered termination of their contact, over two and a half years ago, could reasonably be considered the source of an emotional and behavioral disorder that has not changed appreciably, and has perhaps grown worse since that time. The impact of Mr Griffin's contact with James during the period of time prior to their separation could not be assessed as the only contemporaneous record of the effect of these contacts would be contained in the treatment documentation of Ms. Maritta Goodman, LMFT, James' therapist, who did not provide therapy session notes, as directed by Court Order.

The examiner does not perceive psychological characteristics in Mr. Griffin that suggest that he would physically or psychologically damage his son through their contact, even given this child's reported condition. However, the examiner would recommend that early contacts should be supervised with increasing length and frequency as James is able to tolerate emotionally, subject to the CFI's recommendations and need to observe contact to complete assessment.

The examiner would expect that James is likely to exhibit some acting out and manipulative behaviors in response to these initial contacts as well as increased excitability. This would likely be the result of this very significant change in this child's life circumstances and may not be the result of contact between James and his father due to the nature of their interaction. Mr. Griffin may benefit from psychological consultation, guidance and supportive therapeutic intervention during this period of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank H. Barron, PhD
 Clinical Psychologist