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April 21, 2009

In the interest of Ariana-Leilani M.A. King-Pfeiffer, DOB May 7, 2003

Dear Dr. Gerald:

Justice for Children (JFC) is a national child advocacy organization with headquarters in Houston, Texas and offices in Washington D.C. JFC was founded in 1987 by Randy Burton, a former Chief Prosecutor of the Family Offenses Section of the Harris County (Texas) District Attorney's office, and a group of concerned citizens within the community in response to the inadequacies and failure of child protective systems to protect abused and neglected children.

JFC's mission is to provide legal advocacy for neglected and abused children and to develop and implement collaborative solutions to entrenched problems impeding the quality of life for these children, as well as to raise consciousness about the failure of governmental agencies to protect victims of child abuse. Children are our first and only priority. JFC works together with Child Protective Services and other agencies for the welfare of these children, and, when appropriate, opposes court or agency action that threatens to compound the abuse already suffered by these helpless victims.

JFC's expert opinion is recognized and valued by local and national media, legal and medical professionals, child abuse experts, and other children's rights organizations. JFC has appeared as amicus curiae in numerous appellate cases throughout the country. JFC was the lead amici for the Wilkins v Ferguson case (District of Columbia Court of Appeals) contributing to the successful appellate decision in 2007 that protected a young child who had been sexually abused by her father.

Our work has been featured on ABC's Primetime Live, ABC's Primetime documentary entitled "Crimes Against Children," a PBS documentary entitled "Boy Crying, Baby Crying," as well as Good Morning America, Donahue, the Discovery channel's "Justice Files," and on HBO.

Most recently, Eileen King, JFC-DC's Regional Director, was interviewed on WUSA Channel 9 regarding the case of Lexie Glover whose body was found in a creek, allegedly placed there by her own mother. Lexie's many desperate cries for help were ignored by both CPS and law enforcement in Virginia, resulting in her tragic and preventable death.

In Ariana-Leilani's case, we are troubled regarding the inadequate follow-up care for this child's neutropenia as documented in an affidavit by Robert Sklaroff, M.D., who has

thoroughly reviewed the available medical records. We understand that Dr. Sklaroff has sent you his affidavit which states his concerns.

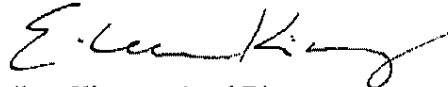
In October 2008, Ariana-Leilani presented with oral mucosal ulcers and papular lesions bilaterally in her groin area. The medical notes from Georgetown University Hospital state that the oral lesions were suspicious for herpes and the source of the groin papular lesions were unknown. A culture was ordered for both conditions but the results of the cultures are (oddly) unavailable from Georgetown University Hospital records department. We are concerned as to whether the cultures were actually completed, since if they were indeed done, there should be no problem accessing this information. The culture results are vital in assessing whether the causes of the ulcers and lesions were benign or if they arose from serious medical conditions in which symptoms may appear at various intervals and then disappear.

Ariana-Leilani has also disclosed (as Joy Silberg, Ph.D. writes in her letter) "'bad touches,' and seeing a 'po-po' that 'gets harder and harder.' None of this information has been adequately investigated." The child has also disclosed that her father (allegedly) sleeps in her bed at home. In the opinion of Justice for Children, this information should be cause for serious concern and ought to be immediately and thoroughly investigated.

All of this information creates a picture of a child who is falling through the cracks. The fact that her father is a physician (neurologist) may provide false reassurance, deflecting attention from Ariana-Leilani's need for adequate follow-up treatment as well as a thorough investigation of her disclosures of (alleged) inappropriate touching.

We urge that DC Child and Family Services Agency intervene and conduct a thorough medical evaluation as well as child sexual abuse investigation for this child.

Sincerely yours,



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