

EXHIBIT 13
DATE 1/24/2011
HB 281

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee;

My name is Marie Dykstra. I am a lifelong resident of Montana, living at Thompson Falls. My experience with the GAL system has been a very personal and intensely painful one. The bias and discriminatory actions of the GAL in our case, have completely alienated our two granddaughters from us.

Religious discrimination is against Federal Law. In the report submitted to the court, our GAL stated, "Wayne's family belongs to a religion called 'the truth'. The religion is fundamentalist and patriarchal. The women must dress a certain way and not cut their hair. Wayne does not participate in the religious services." The statements were false. My son has never belonged, or claimed to belong, to this 'religion'. The GAL's reference to MY religion had the sole intent of biasing the opinion of the court.

The GAL removed the children from our son without just cause or explanation. She then insisted that the mother, father and both girls be assessed by a psychologist of HER choosing. The GAL expounded at great length on this professional's credibility. Yet when this psychologist's findings were incriminating to the GAL and her position, she made the executive decision to render it void and it was never submitted to the court. The GAL refused to comply with the psychologist recommendation of removing herself from the case. Three times our son sought to have the GAL replaced, but the court denied his requests.

Furthermore, the psychologist's report stated, "emotions continue to run very high and the alienations that presently exists is of some magnitude". Because this was allowed to continue and was further inflamed by the GALs actions, my granddaughters are completely alienated from their father and our family.

The GALs decision was made with no input or proper research. She visited with professionals at the school the girls attended, ONLY AFTER being ordered by the court to do so. The knowledge garnered at the school, fell on deaf ears.

In all of this, there was no provision for our son to challenge any of the numerous falsehoods the GAL put forth to the court, and so my granddaughters joined the ranks of hundreds of children who have been failed by a defunct GAL system.

Please, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee consider the children. Make a change by passing this legislation.

Thank You,

Marie Dykstra



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