



# Columbine Counseling Center

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CLIENT COPY

December 18, 2003

Susan Satriano  
10185 W 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. #37  
Lakewood, CO 80215

Dear Susan:

I received your message concerning the stalled treatment with the children. I am not surprised, given that the treatment plan was seriously flawed. As I have said to you before, fault lies with several individuals who have been involved with your family.

The Special Advocate, Stacey Nickolaus, knew full well that the children were becoming severely alienated last year. She and I witnessed this behavior develop. Her findings were unequivocal that severe alienation was taking place. Yet, for some unexplained reason, she failed to inform the court of the seriousness of this behavior and failed to make strident recommendations, which would have refocused this matter on the aberrant behavior of your estranged ex-husband.

The current plan was doomed to failure for several reasons. Lon Kopit, Ph.D., is neither trained nor competent enough, in my view, to assist your family in any meaningful way. While he insisted he has worked with "hundreds" of families with alienation issues, I doubt his skill and training. If you were to ask him whether he is familiar with the writings of Joan Kelly, Matt Sullivan, Margaret Lee or Joann Stoltz, I doubt he would know of these individuals. I have taken training with Matt, Margaret and Joann and I am familiar with the current literature in regards to alienation.

Not only has the Special Advocate failed you, but your current attorney has also failed you. To enter into an inadequate agreement, bypassing the fact that the Karlis Center staff, myself and Dr. Linda Chamberlain all clearly recognized the signs of severe alienation, was highly inappropriate. Findings of severe alienation should have been the first act of the court and a specific parenting plan should have been put in place which coordinated all aspects of treatment, including therapy for Tom. I have worked successfully in this regard with Dr. Shelley Bresnick, psychologist, whom, you will recall, father and his attorney rejected outright. In addition, while I have no problems with Jean Bretz as a parenting time supervisor, I assume there was little coordination of treatment strategy between her and Dr. Kopit.

Roberta M. Richardson, M.D.  
Bill J. Fyfe, Ed.D.

In your commentary, you mentioned that your attorney advised you to agree to a clause preventing my access to other mental health professionals who may become involved with your family in the future. I am not surprised that father and his attorney attempted such manipulative behavior. I am convinced that their friendship goes beyond the normal lawyer/client arrangement. Because of this matter, I no longer work with Mr. Parrish whom I regard as incapable of assisting families such as yours.

I wish I had words of encouragement for you concerning your future relationship with your children. Research indicates that as children move into later adolescent years, they often discover how their father has taken away their mother and corrupted their reality. Should this be the case, you will have an opportunity to renew your relationship with your children. I note this hopeful potential with some caution however. Research also indicates that once these children find out how their parent has behaved, the child cuts off the alienating parent, creating even more loss and estrangement.

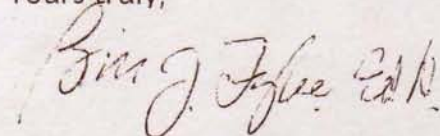
The legal system has failed your family miserably because the court failed to consider the serious nature of father's blinding hatred and misogyny. Had the Special Advocate and officers of the court properly represented the facts of this case to the court, the court could have acted.

It is my hope that in the future we will criminalize alienating behavior in severe cases such as yours. The focus of intervention and treatment should have shifted from your need to endlessly demonstrate your competence as a parent, towards Tom's incompetence and hatred, which corrupted your children's reality.

For approximately eight months we re-established contact between you and your oldest child, Dean. My hope is that he will remember those months fondly, as he matures and escapes from the corrupting influence of his father's hatred. As for the younger two children, I am not hopeful that they will re-gain any sense of reality until later in life.

I wish you well this Christmas and suggest that you begin to move forward by taking care of yourself. A crime has been committed and sometimes the legal system fails. I found you to be a kind and sensitive individual, certainly not perfect, but certainly not deserving of the abusiveness that you have had to endure. Save this letter and present it to your children some day.

Yours truly,



Bill J. Fyfe, Ed.D.  
Psychologist