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BETTY J. GOULD CLERK

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SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
FOR THURSTON COUNTY
FAMILY AND JUVENILE COURT

Starcia M. Ague, Minors
Kirsten M. Hassel Plaintiff/Petitioner,
vs.

Danna G. Riley Defendant/Respondent.

NO. 02 3 004360

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

*Typed written version of the original
hand-written statement by Candace
Powell*

NAME:

Kirsten Hassel

ADDRESS:

*223 Lark St SW
Tumwater WA 98512*

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Candace Merdian. I have known Dawna Riley and Starcia Ague for 15 years. I know Dawna has been addicted to "meth" for at least 10 years now. For at least 5 years Dawna has been "homeless" for the most part.

Four years or so ago when Dawna was pregnant with her second daughter Chantel, Dawna agreed to let Starcia live with her father Buddy Ague. From the beginning Starcia began doing real well in school. Her father's home wasn't the perfect place because he was also addicted to "meth". But with some stability from not moving from place to place and all the chaos, she felt grounded somewhere and kinda on her own as to if she would go to school and get her schoolwork done or not, it being her choice. She started going to school every day and started excelling in school like never before.

Instead of seeing this change in Starcia's academics, and taking any blame for all the school Starcia had missed and all the chaos that kept Starcia from being able to complete school work, Dawna instead immediately wanted Starcia back with her, even though she had not stopped using "meth" but had received housing.

When Dawna received housing it was quite a challenge to find somewhere to rent to her because of her rental history and bad credit and evictions. I helped Dawna find a place and gathered up furniture, etc., for her apartment. She said she was gonna stay off "meth" and now that with housing and not being homeless anymore and a new baby, that she had every reason to stay clean, including to get Starcia to come back home.

It wasn't even a week and Dawna was obviously "high" and no longer cared. When I would go to visit I would be treated like an un-wanted guest instead of the person who helped her get where she was. I tried to keep myself involved because of Chantel, providing rides to get food, buying diapers, etc., until it was so obvious that I was not welcome as I do not use "meth" and made it hard for Dawna and her "welcome" addict friends to go about their usual business.

The apartment and housing lasted maybe a year, and once again Dawna got evicted and lost her housing. I didn't hear from her much at all, and when I did it usually was lies of Dawna saying she was "clean", yet it was so obvious it was not true.

Dawna again became pregnant, and this is again when I became part of her support system. Homeless with Chantel and pregnant with her 3rd child, Dawna started coming around once again.

Dawna took Starcia to Kirsten's knowing it was the best place for Starcia, since her father had been busted for "meth" manufacturing and he had placed Starcia in a dirty, overcrowded, friends' of his family's house, and had changed her school. But Dawna refused to leave her in such filth, and being homeless still herself, took her to Kirsten's. She changed schools again, but had taken to Kirsten's really well.

She has her own room in a clean family home. Starcia just needs some stability and to be grounded somewhere, somewhere she can call home and not have to worry like she has in her short life. To know where she'll be for the next three years till she's 18 years old and not to live the way of life her parents have chosen to live, Starcia should for once have a say in this, this being her life and all.

Once Starcia settled in Kirsten put her energy into not only taking in Starcia but to find Dawna a place to live with Chantel and new baby.

Dawna has burned all her bridges and is lucky to of had Kirsten do so much for her. I wouldn't have because I've tried before and ended up just being used.

I care about Dawna and her 3 children. Using "meth" while pregnant and not getting adequate pre natal care on top of that tells how much she cares about herself and her 3 children. And until she does care there's not a lot I can do for the situation.

The more you do for Dawna the more she resents you and thinks you're against her in some way, because for Dawna to do the same for someone she would want something in return, because she is selfish, and her own needs come above even her own children.

Starcia deserves stability and has shown that the lack of stability is all that's holding her back from being a healthy functioning adult despite her last 10 years of chaos brought on by her parents' foolish decisions.

Starcia has been accused of "following the buck", but that is false, Kirsten has no more money than most, she has just made wise decisions to pay her bills and rent and giving all she has to the children first.

Starcia is an amazing young lady, despite what she has been through. She just wants out of the "meth" epidemic in this town, and all over. Why should Starcia believe things will ever change and have to live with her parents choice to live the drug life and criminal life that comes with it, when it's their choice to live this way, not hers.

Dawna has been notified of the location of Family and Juvenile Court.

I swear under penalty of perjury the above statement is true.

Candace Merdian

4/18/02

Typed version, copied from the original.

I have read this typed version and it is a correct copy of my handwritten original. CM

Candace Merdian