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EXPEDITE (if filing within 5 court days of hearing)

Hearing is set:
 Date: _____
 Time: _____
 Judge/Calendar: _____

FILED
 SUPERIOR COURT
 THURSTON COUNTY, WA
 2021 JUN 24 PM 4:41
 Linda Myhre Enlow
 Thurston County Clerk

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
 FOR THURSTON COUNTY
 FAMILY AND JUVENILE COURT**

GUARDIANSHIP of HAZEL SMYTH
 ET AL vs. Plaintiff/Petitioner,

Defendant/Respondent.

21-4-00443-34
 ST 51
 Statement
 10553496



NO. 21-4-00443-34

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

STATEMENT of Amy GMAZEL

NAME: Amy GMAZEL
 ADDRESS: 6901 26th CT SE
 LACEY, WA 98503
 PHONE: () 360-455-9717

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Amy Gmazel
6901 26th ct. SE
Lacey, WA, 98503
(360) 455-9717

June 17, 2021

RE: Ms. Selena Smith Child Custody Case

To Whomever It May Concern,


I, Amy Gmazel, resident of Lacey, Washington, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the statements to follow are true and correct. I have known Selena Smith since September of 1986, when Selena and I were both ten years old. We grew up together, and I was at one time acquainted with many members of her immediate and extended family. She and her children have visited my home many times and have briefly lived with me.

I emphatically believe that Selena Smith should regain custody of her minor children Hazel, Onawa, and Raven. I believe that separation from their mother is doing these children active harm. Selena is a good, loving parent and shares a close bond with her children. I further believe, based on observing their interactions, that the children trust and are securely attached to her.

I have observed Selena's parenting on many occasions. I have frequently been impressed by the patience she shows the children, carefully explaining an action or request, and calmly deescalating an impending conflict. Hazel, especially, seems to have thrived under Selena's care and has made dramatic improvement in language, motor, and social skills.

I believe that the bond the children share with Selena is stronger than the relationships they share with other family members, and that the three children will suffer greatly if they continue to be kept from their mother's care. I beg the court to reunite these children with their mother.

Amy Gmazel

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy Gmazel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.