

**FILED**  
FEB 26 2024  
KITSAP COUNTY CLERK  
DAVID T. LEWIS III

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KITSAP**

**In re the welfare of Adeline Feulner:**

**Case No: 07-3-01713-1**

**Heather Wood, mother  
Petitioner**

**REPORT OF GUARDIAN AD  
LITEM, public**

**And  
Lenard Feulner, father  
Respondent**

**PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND RE: GAL AUTHORITY**

On October 25, 2023 I was initially appointed Guardian ad Litem for 16 year old Adeline Feulner by Judge Forbes. I read the court file and briefly reviewed the child's filing for emancipation (Cause number 23-2-01534-18). I also started the investigation regarding the case. These efforts soon halted as it became evident that this case, at that time, suffered from various procedural and other irregularities. Many of the issues that halted my investigation have since been resolved with Judge Adams becoming the assigned judicial officer.

Judge Adams signed an Amended Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem for a child Nunc Pro Tunc to 10/25/2023 on December 18, 2023. Once my authority to act was established I resumed my duties.

On Saturday, February 3, 2024 an email was sent by John Smith, DBA Amicus Curia, with an attachment signed by Heather Woods including the following language, "COMES NOW, Heather Wood, Petitioner, by herself, pro se of necessity, to Object to these proceeding for lack of jurisdiction and she SERVES NOTICE of her



1 WITHDRAWAL of her Petition effective immediately as a matter of right and not  
2 discretionary or requiring permission from any party or, indeed, THIS  
3 COURT--...". I, again, ceased my GAL duties and on February 9<sup>th</sup> filed Notice and a Motion  
4 for clarification from the court of my GAL authority and duties, and how/whether I was to  
5 proceed. There was already a hearing noted for February 16<sup>th</sup> for presentation of orders by Ms.  
6 Wood pertaining to an earlier hearing. I noted my hearing for the same time.

7 Later, on February 9<sup>th</sup>, I received the attached email from Mr. Smith stating, "At this  
8 point, Heather Wood's position is you are attempting to influence the Court after she has  
9 announced she has withdrawn her Petition as a matter of right." (exhibit 1) I was aware that Ms.  
10 Wood's NOTICE had not yet been filed with the court. Still, the email gave me pause.

11 Ms. Wood's "NOTICE of Withdrawal of Petition..." was stamped "filed" on February  
12 12, 2024. On February 13, 2024 Mr. Feulner filed a series of documents which seemed to  
13 indicate that he was asking to proceed with his Parenting Plan previously filed on November 21,  
14 2023.

15 Mr. Feulner appeared in court on February 16<sup>th</sup> to press his claim; Ms. Wood did not  
16 appear and the court's attempts to contact her by phone were not effective. The court granted the  
17 withdrawal of the petition as a CR41 motion and granted Mr. Feulner's request to proceed on his  
18 parenting plan as a CR41 (a)(3) counterclaim. The court directed that I was to proceed with my  
19 GAL duties as previously ordered.

20 The Amended GAL Order of December 18, 2023 requires that I investigate and file a  
21 report only on the issues checked:

- 22 -All issues related to making a parenting plan for these children including any of the issues  
23 below *whether they are specifically checked or not*;  
24 - *Checked issues*: parenting abilities; abandonment or neglect; substance abuse  
25

1 - *Issues not checked:* criminal history; domestic violence; mental health issues; physical health  
2 issues; sexual abuse allegations

3 At issue is establishing the first parenting plan for Adeline.  
4

## 5 INVESTIGATION

6 In carrying out my appointment I have undertaken the following investigation: To  
7 date I have read the court file which includes many, many declarations, motions, and orders. In  
8 addition, I have interviewed Adeline several times (phone and in person) including at her current  
9 abode which is a motor home (essentially her bedroom) parked at her paternal grandmother's  
10 home (food preparation, restroom/bathing/essential services, and living area is inside this home).  
11 I interviewed Lenard Feulner several times (phone and in person). Charlene Feulner (paternal  
12 grandmother) was interviewed in person at her home. The interviews with Ms. Wood have been  
13 in person at her traveling home (former small school bus being converted to a "van life" home),  
14 through phone calls and, primarily, email exchanges. I have viewed the former living  
15 arrangements at Diana and Jack Watkins's home. Ms. Wood has also provided information  
16 through internet sites, pictures, educational information, and other useful records.

17 The following people have been interviewed by phone: Diana Watkins (maternal great  
18 aunt to Adeline, aka "Bbomb"), Kate McClellan (maternal grandmother), Elda Hall (friend of  
19 mother), John Smith (friend of mother), Michelle Robb (friend of mother), and Torri and Reid  
20 Colburn (older daughter and son-in-law of Mr. Feulner).

21 Internet research has been conducted regarding: Universal Technical Institute (UTI, a  
22 private automotive trade school) and West Sound Technical Skills Center.

23 Professional contacts by phone included: Emily Drake (attorney involved in earlier  
24 parentage action), Becky Turbyfill (brief consult regarding technical details of this case), Frank  
25 Maiocco (to establish funding for UAs), Julie Selbig (in person, email, by phone) and Keith

1 Winfield (Kitsap Recovery Center to arrange UAs), Agape Unlimited personnel (to provide  
2 referral information, collateral UA for assessments, and releases), Susan Mayes (DCYF  
3 Supervisor, for ARY and CHINS information as well as Family Voluntary Services), and Sherri  
4 Fauver (South Kitsap High School counselor). Some school records have been reviewed or  
5 discussed, including attendance.

6 Records have been gathered from: Department of Children, Youth and Families,  
7 Washington State Access to Criminal History (Ms. Wood and Mr. Feulner), and from Providence  
8 St. Joseph Centralia. Law enforcement records have been gathered from: Kitsap and Thurston  
9 County Sheriff's offices, and the cities of: Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater.

10 Drug/alcohol assessments were received for Mr. Feulner and Adeline from Agape  
11 Unlimited. Mr. Feulner and Ms. Wood participated in a UA as requested. I have no indication  
12 that Ms. Wood arranged for a drug/alcohol assessment as we had discussed, although I haven't  
13 heard anyone seriously indicate that Ms. Wood has a problem related to drugs or alcohol.

14 Internet research has been conducted regarding: Universal Technical Institute (UTI, a  
15 private automotive trade school) and West Sound Technical Skills Center.

### 17 **OPINION**

18 There appears to be sufficient evidence that Adeline's current relationship with her  
19 mother supports therapeutic intervention in order to preserve what remains and, hopefully,  
20 rebuild some of the lost closeness. The goal is to have a hopeful, helpful structure to build  
21 towards a future relationship with healthy, respectful boundaries. Adeline needs the opportunity  
22 to develop the healthiest relationship possible with each of her parents. Having Adeline in  
23 counseling assures that she can bring any parenting issue/concern to the attention of this  
24 mandatory reporter.  
25

1 It is a teen's job to craft their own identity and separate from their parents. Sometimes  
2 this journey is particularly difficult. This appears to be the case here. Adeline's perception that  
3 she must keep secret her actions from her mother in order to individualize might be typical, but  
4 the lengths she has gone in that direction is concerning. Also concerning are Adeline's actions  
5 outside of the courtroom on August 15<sup>th</sup> when she rejected both her mother's and the court's  
6 direction. The depth of Adeline's rejection of returning under her mother's care is unusual. I  
7 don't envision Adeline currently being effectively parented by her mother. As Ms. Wood has  
8 stated, a pupil needs to be willing to learn. Conversely, the earlier rejections by Ms. Wood  
9 contributed to the current divide. I don't see that Adeline and her mother currently have a  
10 parent/child dynamic that allows for effective remedying of the situation.

11 At this point in time, it appears to me that Adeline living under her father's parenting is in  
12 the best interests of the child. It is not a course without risks. Adeline has been raised to be  
13 independent. Her current exercising of that independence is not always wise. Adeline has been  
14 described from a young age as being determined. These can be wonderful and scary attributes  
15 when transitioning to adulthood.

### 17 RECOMMENDATIONS

18 1) That a person be identified as a neutral person to pass on *factual* information. Possible  
19 examples: times of therapist appointments if they are to include mother and daughter; any  
20 assignments the therapist may wish for mother or daughter to complete; coordination of presence  
21 at relative's homes (at this point, surprise is not useful). Lacking any other designated person,  
22 mother and father use *Talking Parents* to communicate short, necessary parenting information.  
23 *Talking Parents* is free to parents.

24 2) Adeline continue with therapy. This is her own therapist. Any involvement of others is to be  
25 only at the invitation of the therapist.

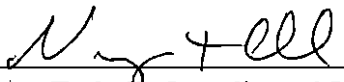
3) Adeline's therapist direct in any contact between mother and daughter for now.

4) Mr. Feulner's parenting plan is the only one being proposed. The only limitation I see could  
be 3. B., abusive use of conflict. After counseling has progressed to several joint sessions I

1 could see Ms. Wood and Adeline meeting under supervision, simply to assure that neither party  
2 reverts to emotionally harming the other.

3 5) The parents be aware that involving the family/friend constellation in endorsing their view  
4 will lengthen the time needed for mother and daughter to resolve whatever can be resolved and  
5 move forward in a positive direction.

6 Respectfully submitted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

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9 Nancy Tarbell, Guardian ad Litem  
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