

JOEL I. KIMMEL, PH.D., P.A.

& ASSOCIATES

- CLINICAL AND CHILD PSYCHOLOGY
- MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING
- EDUCATIONAL CONSULTATION

February 23, 1990

The Honorable Michael Gersten
Palm Beach Court
PO Box 4238
Mental Health
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-4238

Case #- 89-141-MH

Dear Judge Michael Gersten:

I am writing this letter on behalf of [REDACTED] a 15 year old teenager with a history of academic, emotional and behavioral problems. Because of these problems, she was placed in Growing Together, a residential treatment facility, in August 1988. This was deemed necessary after several months of outpatient therapy proved ineffective. I was her outpatient therapist throughout that time. Unfortunately, after 16 months in Growing Together, it became necessary to withdraw [REDACTED] from treatment. Her parents were concerned about her level of depression and withdrawal. An independent psychiatric evaluation confirmed the Weiss' concerns and recommended immediate removal from Growing Together, along with a course of antidepressant medication.

Because of the intensity of the treatment program as well as the length of [REDACTED]'s placement at Growing Together, it may be difficult for her to respond to questions about her treatment in the presence of staff members and/or administrators. Therefore, in order to establish the most conducive atmosphere for information gathering, it is my recommendation that [REDACTED] be interviewed privately. This would probably increase the likelihood of honest responding as well as reduce the pressure on [REDACTED]. It must be kept in mind that [REDACTED] continues to suffer from emotional problems. It is difficult for her to process information under the best of circumstances, let alone in front of a judge and Growing Together staff. The pressure of being questioned under such conditions may preclude a successful resolution of your investigation.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Sheri L. Zatz

Sheri L. Zatz, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist

SLZ/ke

• (305) 752-4300 •

1890 UNIVERSITY DRIVE • SUITE 302 • CORAL SPRINGS • FLORIDA • 33071

ProjectStraightInc.com