

January 28, 2015

Kansas Legislators
300 Southwest 10th Avenue.
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Case Manager's – Kansas's Social Experiment for Judges & Lawyers

To whom it may concern:

I'm taking this opportunity to provide opposition testimony on my experience as an expert parent subjected to the social experiment called Case Management for the last 11 years. My boys are 19, 17 and 15 and all they have wanted is to get away from a mother with "major issues" that have been shown with testing and actions before the courts. We have had five psychologist that have stated the boys need to live with their father at least half the time, but robes of judges trumps laws of the land when we are in a "court of equity" or administrative court. At every stage of my divorce the system has failed my family.

Our lives were controlled by the Case Manager I want to make you understand that not removing this process completely or destroying it all together is absurd to every parent and voters of this state. My visitations rights as a father were stripped from me for 3 years through the Case Manager and the Judges wanting to force the process on me. I have no respect for a process that doesn't constitutionally protect parents and I have watched it happen to many others across this state.

As a legislator in this social experiment where do we go from here while it continues to hurt families and children in a process in which previous legislatures passed with no accountability or oversight. We didn't need it, there is no statistics stating its benefits from the people being forced into it. There is no surveying or information to show how the real process is effecting the parties (IN WHOLE).

The person who now makes the important decisions that will affect my children for the rest of their lives, has known my boys a total of a few hours over years. Does it seem like they are equally qualified? More importantly if they make a mistake will they not be held accountable? HARDLY! If they make a mistake and my children suffer the consequences locking themselves in their rooms because of the path the Case Manager set them on, do I call my Case Manager on Friday night and ask them to come over and hang out outside my child's room all night? The Case Manager, who knows nothing about my children, is only there at the request of the judge or in most cases one parent. Can they make any decision they want to make, sure they can and they do. They charge large sums of money, upwards of \$350 per hour, thousands per year and if they are wrong they will not be held responsible by court order.

So far the cost of hiring a private judge in Kansas is a staggering cost per month per parent. Annual cost is in the tens of thousands of dollars after taxes have been deducted. I was told this would go away. There is this notion that the fox is guarding the hen-house because the judge has ordered us to pay the Case Manager whatever they want to discharge for their duties or services, if that's what you want to call it. Under the Case Manager statutes, the judges can not only force me to pay them whenever they feel there is something important they want to do, even my ex-wife can force me to incur more bills. There is no motivation for any of this to stop, the Case Manager gets to make money and my ex-wife gets to cost me money.

At this rate the total cost taken out of our children's future college savings will be well over \$120,000 because we were sentenced to this process until the boys are 18 years old.

I am in the constant process of refinancing my bills, how do I explain that in addition to child support, and in some other cases spousal support, my meager living cost, I also have to pay for an on-staff judge at whatever rate they desire per month?

After I refinance my Case Manager's bill is higher than the utilities in our home for a complete year.

If someone in my position cannot make their payments there is no bailout plan. If I can't pay my Case Manager payment I can be held in contempt, wages garnished and worst case incarcerated.

For what it costs me to have a Case Manager I could feed 10 children in Zimbabwe each month, if you add that to what my ex-wife pays the parent coordinator the number doubles to 20. For what we pay our children would have food, medicine and the ability to go to school each month without assistance from the state or other agencies.

I'm being forced to pay for this process to be involved with my children or obey them. I have the dubious distinction of being the first guy on the block with his own judge (you might even call him my new parent)! Got to love government?

Maybe some of this sounds like sour grapes. The bottom line is that no one wants to take responsibility for solving problems. As a result there is a stranger among us, stranger destroying families from within.

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