



Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody, Incorporated  
Post Office Box 1335  
Baltimore, Maryland 21203  
Telephone Number 443 – 768-8158  
*501 C 3 Agency advocating, educating & empowering fathers for custody*

February 22, 2021

Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais  
c/o Judiciary Committees  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Jon S. Cardin  
c/o Judiciary Committees  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Issue: House Bill 0447 Judges – Selection, Election, Tenure, and Continuance in Office

Dear Delegates Cardin & Dumais:

Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody has questions about House Bill 0447 since we are in an ever-changing society and laws are changing daily can the proposed bill contain information about disciplinary actions to be taken as well?

Winning Strategies has concerns over your House Bills introduced seems to keep judges that do not follow the laws of Maryland, Recently, there was a judge in Montgomery County who violated the family law rules and has been removed from a case. However, he is still able to practice law as a judge and will hear cases again. Judge David Boytin, but he has been re-elected until 2035. The Baltimore City's Family Court Judges and Magistrates are just as notorious for violating family laws but, they remain in their court rooms only to victimize fathers by not following the law. However we retain them?

We believe your bills should be amended to include stipulations for violating the

Laws and the magistrates that were appointed by a judge should be liable and recused as well.

In 2021, this is the year we need fairness for fathers. Please see the attached documents to support amending the proposed bills to include Disciplinary Actions for Judges and Magistrates.

Sincerely,  
The Winning Strategies Team

Cc: File

November 23, 2020

Re: Case # 24D16000240

To Whom It May Concern:

This communication is being sent to initiate a complaint against the Judge, who presided over the referenced case. I accompanied my nephew, Devin Curtis at his court hearing regarding custody of his six year old daughter, Yavi Curtis. Devin had full custody of his daughter ever since she was three months old. Custody was granted due to the mother's abandonment and unstable living conditions. There was also some concern about her mental health and her ability to adequately care for the child. I attended a previous court hearing where Vashti was ordered to undergo a psychological evaluation, provide proof of school/work and submit income tax information, but she didn't provide any of it. During that hearing, she was granted visitation, but was inconsistent with it. There were various instances where Vashti would file charges against Devin, thereby having him arrested in order to have the child in her custody, especially around her birthday. Devin has filed various charges and peace orders against Vashti for destruction of property to which she has broken windows on (3) cars, broken windows at both his mother and grandmother's house, damaged the door by kicking it in and damaging the screen by stabbing it with a knife. Vashti has sent Devin numerous text messages colored with foul language, threats of violence and arrests. She has sent those same types of messages to his mother, father, aunts and significant others. Some of those messages have disturbing comments about their child to which she calls her dumb and ugly. I attended the last court hearing where the judge granted joint custody. I was extremely disturbed by the order because the judge seemed to be extremely biased against Devin. The more Devin explained Vashti's erratic behavior, the more the judge blamed Devin for it. Devin explained how Vashti continuously destroyed property of his along with various family members and friends, violating peace orders, failing to meet at designated locations to pick up their child for visits, and pay child support. The judge responded by stating, "Well, you wouldn't let her see her child" as if it were lawful to do those things. Devin explained to the judge that Vashti continuously swears out unfounded charges against him resulting in his arrest and being detained due to her anger against him. The judge informed Vashti that it was not a good idea to have Devin falsely arrested due to the state of Black men's relationship with the police. The judge asked Devin for his address and he kindly asked the judge if he could submit his address privately to avoid having to announce it in court, but the judge ordered him to say his address out loud. At that time, Vashti began writing something down on paper. Devin was simply attempting to avoid having to give his address since Vashti had destroyed his property in the past and have made threats of violence against him. My accompanying my nephew was to simply support him having custody because I felt that Vashti's past behavior was of some concern. In addition to that, Devin had the support of various family members. I had printed out numerous disturbing text messages that Vashti had sent to me to which I had asked her to stop. I have blocked her on social media, but she would create fictitious names and send additional messages. She even contacted my employer claiming that I had used my position to fraudulently assist my nephew with housing. When I was called to the stand to testify, I attempted to read the text messages to the judge, but she quickly informed me that she had no interest in the text messages. When my brother (Devin's father) was called to the stand, he was met with the same resistance. I was extremely disturbed by that response because it would have provided some insight as to Vashti's state of mind and her behavior. There is no way that a judge could determine whether a mother is fit to care for a child unless there is some information to draw from. There was testimony about her mental health condition, inconsistency with medication/treatment, her housing instability, destructive behavior and threats of violence, but the judge still awarded joint custody without looking into any of the information provided. I am more concerned about the lack of moral, ethical and legal obligation to an innocent child, placing her in the hands of an individual who has exhibited those behaviors. There are resources within the courts that could have proven or disproven what was reported; however, the judge determined that Vashti was fit to share custody. She reported that she was a college student on a special assignment in Florida, a full

time worker at a construction company, had her own apartment and two vehicles, none of which was proven. She has a history of family dysfunction, mental health issues, residing in rooming houses, destruction of property and misusing the judicial system to inconvenience others. All of which could have been verified with very little effort. There is a current pending case against her very own father to which she claims that he pulled a gun on him. He has spoken to my brother and is willing to provide some insight regarding his daughter's history of filing false charges when she's upset.

My family has undergone one of the worse cases of child abuse one could imagine, resulting in the death of a child. Unfortunately, there were no signs that we could have utilized to intervene on his behalf to save his life. I am forever haunted by the death of my great-nephew. He suffered at the hands of his very own mother, who was overwhelmed, unstable and lived in a dysfunctional environment, such as Vashti. When it comes to child welfare, courts are supposed to rule in the "best interest of the child", however, that was not the case. I remain fearful that Yavi is in an abusive environment, which can be verified by a neighbor and her mother. All of the information that the judge used to rule in this case was completely biased. The very issues that Vashti has claimed against Devin are the same issues that are relevant in this current case. She has done what she accused Devin of doing, which is prevent him from seeing his child. The last time he saw his daughter was 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. This has caused a great deal of emotional distress for Devin as well as all of the family that had grown accustomed to seeing his daughter. Devin has been consistent in his daughter's life since she was three months old. It is unimaginable how much damage this absence has done to the child, which was supposed to be protected by the courts.

I have worked with crisis families for the majority of my career and have witnessed how courts have aided in their destruction. I am outraged by the judge's actions in this case as well as the lack of continuity of prior hearings, which should have been referenced when ruling on the custody of an innocent child. The judge's biased actions against my nephew has placed yet another child in danger. I only hope that an upcoming hearing will rectify this error. There are current reports by Vashti's mother and neighbor of suspected abuse, which again has gone unnoticed. A child's life is dependent on courts and case workers being intentional about "best interest of the child".

Respectfully,

Glenda Curtis