

Submitted by: Father of MKB (Maddie, Katie, Blake)

MKB had to endure a situation which could have been prevented, should have been prevented.

- Overview:
 - The system only has one chance to get it right.
 - An evaluator and the court system know evaluators carry a lot of weight in a courtroom.
 - The evaluator seems to be looked at as “the answer”
 - If an evaluation is right, life is good. If an evaluation is wrong, the pain carries through the rest of a child’s life.
- Events:
 - Both evaluators in my case would not take in to account what addiction of a parent did to MKB.
 - Even though well known, how addiction affected the relationship with MKB was not factored.
 - MKB were transferred to their mom with complete control (red flags prior to the switch and after the switch)
 - MKB were moved twice in two years (against orders and MD law) shortly after the moment their mom got full custody.
 - An abusive figure (boyfriend) moved in immediately the moment their mom gained full custody. Against a court order.
 - References to Parental Alienation were everywhere in the evaluation, even though it is not recognized in the DSM and is well known to be used as an angle in the court room.
 - First evaluator found to be bias by the judge.
 - Second evaluator was selected by the judge. Judge knew this specific evaluator was not selected by father as a rebuttal expert. Conflict of interest.
- Aftermath:
 - 4 years later and a million dollars in the hole, MKB got their life back.
 - The evaluators were proven wrong.
 - Proven wrong by MKB and their voice.
 - MKB were muted, and words manipulated, kids overcame.
 - MKB testified and took control of their own life path forward.
 - MKB lost most of their childhood which can never come back.
 - MKB lost money resources which were for them but taken by the system which is there to “look out for them”
- An evaluator should not have “free rein” with no oversight.
 - MKB lost almost 5 years. A big chunk of their childhood.
 - There is no recourse for the false they were forced to live.
 - There is no look back at the actions of the Evaluators (BIA or Court) to prevent future similar outcomes.
 - There is only hope via a bill like this can help prevent negative outcomes.
- Specifying certain qualifications and training necessary for an individual to be appointed or approved by a court as a custody evaluator is a must to prevent the pain of errors which can’t be reversed.
- Specifying certain expert evidence is admissible in certain child custody and visitation proceedings under certain circumstances is also a must to prevent fringe theories or just personal thoughts of an evaluator from entering a court setting.