

Re: DCF destroying evidence, making false statements

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kathLOON you selfish obnoxious troll, this is a LYME DISEASE NEWSGROUP

STOP SPAMMING

NO ONE CARES ABOUT YOUR BATTLE WITH DCF OR GOVERNOR ROWLAND OR THE ENTIRE PLANET

GO TAKE YOUR MEDS

kathleen wrote:

> <http://hartfordadvocate.com/gbase/News/content.html?oid=oid:59322>

>

> *Against a Parent's Will*

> *After a murder and arson, an East Hartford church family took in one of*

> *the surviving children. Now, the DCF says the family is unfit to care for him.*

>

> *by Dan Levine – March 25, 2004*

>

> **TRUTH BAPTIST CHURCH PHOTO**

>

> *The Truth Baptist Church in South Windsor.*

>

> *Nearly five years have passed since the Silk family home in East*

> *Hartford went up in flames, the work of a mentally unbalanced mother.*

> *Kelly Silk stabbed her husband to death, doused herself and her*

> *daughter in gasoline, and then set the fire, apparently intending to*

> *murder her entire family.*

> *Two of the Silks' four children survived the June 10, 1999 inferno,*

> *including the girl Silk drenched in gas. And just as the tragedy can*

> *only be described as seismic, the legal ramifications of those*

horrific

> *events are still shocking the court system.*

>

> *In their wills, the Silks left custody of their children to Chad and*

- > *Sara Prigge. Chad Prigge was a minister at Truth Baptist Church in*
- > *South Windsor, an independent evangelical group described alternately*
- > *as a congregation and as a cult, according to a December 13, 2001*
civil
- > *complaint the Prigges have filed against the state.*
- >
- > *The Silks belonged to the church and lived across the street from the*
- > *Prigges, who rescued the children the night of the fire.*
- >
- > *"Chad ... and Sara Prigge awoke to screams for help and a blaze of*
fire
- > *coming toward their house," the complaint says. "Sara recognized the*
- > *person as Jessica, threw water on her, and had her roll on the front*
- > *lawn to put out the fire in her hair."*
- >
- > *After the murders, the Prigge couple attempted to gain custody of the*
- > *youngest Silk child, 4-month-old Joshua (the older daughter went to*
- > *live with her biological father).*
- >
- > *Despite the Silks' wishes expressed in their will, the state*
Department
- > *of Children and Families ultimately awarded custody of Joshua to*
- > *another family who were not members of Truth Baptist Church.*
- >
- > *That decision -- and the DCF's decision methods -- prompted an array*
of
- > *legal challenges. First, the Prigges challenged the custody order*
- > *directly. Though a Superior Court judge harshly criticized the DCF's*
- > *methods -- including destroying evidence sought under subpoena -- he*
- > *upheld the agency's decision, saying the child had already formed a*
- > *bond with the adoptive family. That family had been awarded temporary*
- > *custody pending the court's decision.*
- >
- > *The state Supreme Court decided against the Prigges, ruling that*
wills
- > *are not ultimately binding when it comes to child custody.*
- >
- > *But the DCF's actions prompted a separate civil suit from the*
Prigges,
- > *claiming that former commissioner Kristine Ragaglia and other DCF*
- > *employees discriminated against the family due to their religious*
- > *beliefs. And a Waterbury Superior Court judge recently resisted the*
- > *state's attempts to have the lawsuit dismissed in its entirety,*
ruling
- > *that many of the Prigges' claims are specific enough to be considered*
- > *at trial.*
- >
- > *"We know the families we serve are very diverse," says Gary*
Kleeblatt,
- > *a DCF spokesman. "We are very aware of the need to respect those*
- > *differences. We train for it, and we emphasize them."*

>
> *But according to the couple's legal complaint, the DCF took a dim view*
> *of the Prigges immediately following the fire. A DCF investigator began*
> *interviewing witnesses, some of whom described the church as a cult*
> *that reportedly did not believe in taking medication, and said the*
> *Prigges employed corporal punishment.*
>
> *The DCF based its custody decisions on these allegations, "despite*
> *overwhelming evidence" that they were false statements, the Prigges'*
> *complaint says.*
>
> *Shortly after the fire, Prigge called DCF caseworker Kelly McVey and*
> *declared his intention to pursue custody of Joshua, his complaint*
> *says.*
> *McVey took notes of the conversation, but when those notes were*
> *subpoenaed, she destroyed them, the complaint says. In their place, a*
> *typewritten version stated that Prigge was unsure about whether he*
> *wished to pursue custody.*
>
> *"Neither the defendants nor any other DCF representative has ever*
> *conducted an inspection of the Prigges' home or interviewed the*
> *Prigges," the complaint says.*
>
> *"Social service agencies cannot make placements solely on the basis*
> *of*
> *religion," says Phyllis Bossin, a Cincinnati-based attorney who is*
> *chairwoman of the family law section for the American Bar*
> *Association.*
> *"They can't have a policy to refuse to send a Catholic child to a*
> *Jewish home."*
>
> *Nevertheless, every custody case turns on the best interests of the*
> *child, Bossin says. And even though parents can express a preference*
> *for who gets custody of their child -- as the Silks did in their will*
> *-- it is still only a preference, she says.*
>
> *That means the Prigges have no real rights to Joshua, making their*
> *chances of prevailing against the DCF very difficult, Bossin says.*
>
> *"I don't think they're going to win this suit," she says, adding:*
> *"There's not a lot of law on their side."*
>
> *danadvocate@sbcglobal.net*