

Civil Rights Case in Federal Court Filed, New York City, September 2014

Latonia J. & child Denise J. v.

New York State Department of Mental Health & Child Protective Services

Initial Case: Family Court, Westchester County NY

The Foundation's client since Sept. 2013 to Present

The Rubino law firm in Manhattan, with the assistance of The Foundation, filed a Federal civil rights case in September 2014 on behalf of a thirteen year old child, and her mother, both clients of The Foundation. The suit alleges that the child has been "warehoused" in hospitals and institutions in Westchester County, New York, since age 5, resulting in a deteriorated mental and physical condition after years of inappropriate placements, over-medication, agency and staff indifference, and basic violations of her civil rights.

Recently, the staff of The Foundation has continued to engage in forensic evaluation of the complexities that exist between Westchester Psychiatric Center and CPS, who appear to have joined forces against mother and child. These entities continue to make false accusations against the mother, and fail to make appropriate therapeutic discharge plans for the child. Upon the child's most recent admission to Westchester Psychiatric on July 11, 2014, her mother was falsely accused by the Admitting Doctor, to CPS, of neglecting and then abandoning her child in the Emergency Room. Due to the aggressive efforts of The Foundation, these charges were finally retracted by the hospital in a letter signed by the Behavior Health Center's Medical Doctor and Unit Chief, on September 8, 2014. Importantly, throughout the summer of 2014, a series of critical Family Court appearances have been handled in person by The Foundation, on behalf of mother and child.

At this time, The Federation has participated in the filing of a formal Civil Rights lawsuit in Federal Court, New York City, regarding the rights violations of our subject clients, citing the harmful criminal negligence of CPS and the NY State Dept. of Mental Health regarding their actions in this case.