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Thursday October 5, 2006

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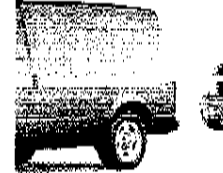


2002 Jeep Liberty Sport
61,957 miles



WEST MILFORD MESSENGER > NEWS

UPDATED: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2006



Little Girl Lost

Struggling through By JoAnn Baker, Editor's note: Some of the names in this story have been changed to protect confidentiality.

West Milford — Crystal is a bright, articulate six-year-old. Sometimes she is violent, biting and kicking for no apparent reason. Sometimes she is somber and quiet, unable to sleep and full of anxiety.

When she was three she told her mother Mary that her father had touched her in a way that caused Mary alarm. The couple had been having marital difficulties and had been seeing a therapist. Mary called the therapist the next day and brought Crystal in for a session.

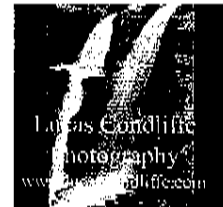
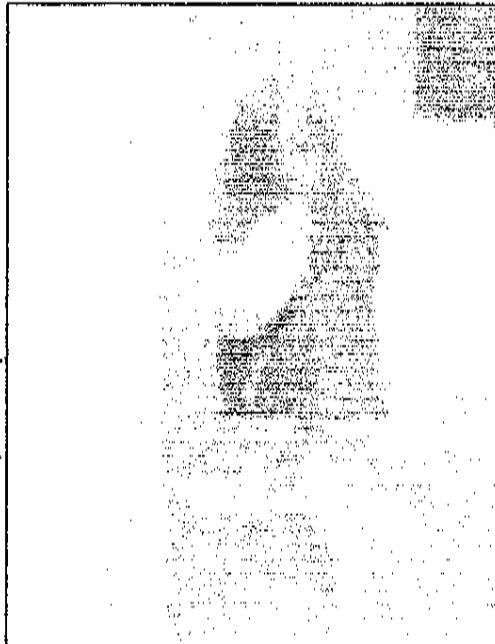
That was three years, five evaluations, and many court dates ago. Talk of lawyers and courts became common around the house. According to Mary's nearly-daily diary, shortly before Crystal's fourth Christmas she gave her mom 13 cents and asked for a lawyer "to make daddy go away."

By that time, the parents were locked in a bitter dispute — dad had fought for, and won, supervised visitation. But Mary had been told by therapist Jill Jones-Soderman, LCSW that the visits should be stopped. "I felt it was dangerous for [Crystal] to even see her father. I believe he is highly disturbed," Jones-Soderman told The West Milford Messenger.

This is the story of a mom who has been fighting to protect her daughter. She has run through all her resources and now it appears she may be fighting a court battle without representation.

Crystal has been seeing a different therapist since 2004. On the strength of her report, visitation was stopped all together for a while, then dad fought back.

The court appointed a psychologist to evaluate Crystal. He wrote a letter to





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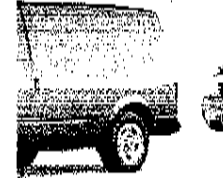


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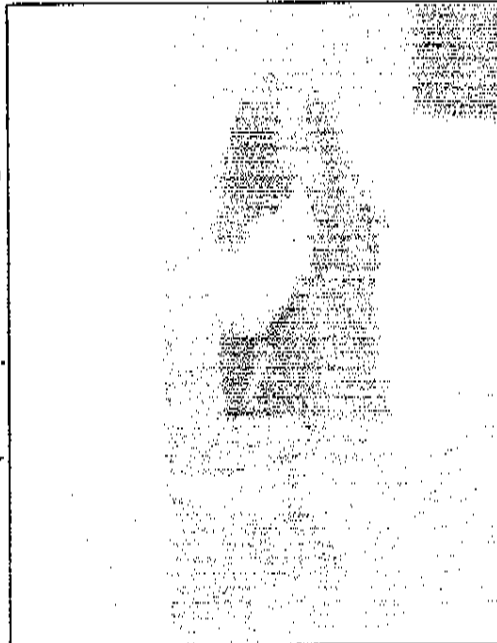


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