

## ons for victims of Noel



Assemblyman José Peralta (D-Queens), with Guardian Angel Curtis Sliwa (c.), urged people to help victims of tropical storm Noel, which ravaged Mexico and the Dominican Republic and left thousands homeless. For more info, see Ruiz column on page 2. Photo by Susana Bates

# A custody nightmare gets worse

## Girl placed in foster care shows signs of sex abuse

BY JESS WISLOSKI  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

INVESTIGATORS ARE looking into charges that a 5-year-old Queens girl was sexually abused by her foster family even as her birth parents were frantically trying to regain custody.

The girl, who has been in protective custody since Aug. 24, was taken to Kings County Hospital by her foster family Oct. 22. They said she exhibited dangerous behavior.

An emergency room exam revealed swelling and redness of her genitals, as well as whip marks on her back and a gash on her chin, said Jill Jones-Soderman, a licensed psychiatric social worker who has been hired by the girl's birth parents to look into the matter.

Jones-Soderman notified police, prompting an investigation.

"There are symptoms of sexual abuse," said Jones-Soderman, who is also a forensic counselor.

The foster family took the girl to the hospital after her foster parents said she had outbursts during which she was "flailing her arms, rocking, and banging her head against the wall," according to records obtained by Jones-Soderman.

That was the fourth court-appointed foster family the girl had stayed with since the city Administration for Children's Services took custody of her about two months ago.

The agency voiced concerns in court that the child's 40-year-old mother may be suffering from Munchausen syndrome by proxy — a rare mental illness in which a parent makes a child sick, or mistakenly believes the child is sick, to get attention.

The mom and her husband said they have been further distressed by an already bleak situation. They are allowed one supervised visit a week.

"It's so hard," the girl's father said. "You can't even believe what you're hearing."

The mother said she noticed bruises and scrapes on the girl's face and body shortly after she was taken into city custody. But she said she did not raise an objection earlier because of the suggestions of Munchausen syndrome.

On Monday, the girl was released from the hospital and returned to the foster family, but her mental state has deteriorated, Jones-Soderman said.

She urged the city to speed up its ruling on whether the child can return to her parents.

"A determination as to how dangerous the situation to the child was [at home] is supposed to happen within 72 hours," said Jones-Soderman, referring to what is called a 1028 proceeding.

"It's been nearly three months, and that still hasn't happened," she said.

ACS did not return calls for comment. [jwisloski@nydailynews.com](mailto:jwisloski@nydailynews.com)

OK, here we go.....ACS removed Amber from the stability of a loving nucleus family, a beautiful home, supportive neighborhood because her parents sought medical attention for her pre-existing condition and had the audacity to discover and question Dr. Julia Garber who prescribed the wrong medication for Amber. In a cowardly and criminal effort to divert attention from herself, Dr. Julia Garber made a false report to ACS claiming Mrs. James "suffered from Munchausen by Proxy" and the couple was displaying "strange and unusual behavior". Dr. Julia Garber's criminal intent continued when she falsely misrepresented herself as a Psychiatric to ensure credibility and ensure that her charges against Mr. and Mrs. James would stick. The unethical and criminal behavior of Dr. Julia Garber was revealed under oath during a court hearing. **Yet she was never charged with endangering the welfare of a child or placing this child in imminent danger.** The initial evaluating caseworker accurately noted the loving environment and family to which this child belonged, yet the court removed Amber and placed her with a foster care 'masters' who beat her so badly, that her wails, bruises, black eyes were recorded, photographed and reported. **Yet, no one was charged with endangering the welfare of this child...no one was charge with placing this child in imminent danger.** Instead Amber was moved to another foster care machine where she was sexually abused and the abuser was allowed to explain the penetration of this child as "an accident", **yet no one was charged with endangering the welfare of a child, nor was anyone charge with placing this child in imminent danger.**

In fact, St.Vincent's caseworker, Andrian Prichette responded to the parents' outrage by informing them that she, Prichette, had known the foster woman for 4yrs and would do everything to protect her.

The question is, who is Adrian Prichette hired to protect, the child or the adult? **Neither the sexual abuser foster person nor Adrian Prichette were ever charged with endangering the welfare of the child, nor charge with placing the child in emminent danger.** To smoke screen the issue again and avoid liability, ACS, once again moved Amber to yet another foster care holding pend. There, Amber was so neglected and malnourished that her dramatic weight lose lead to yet another move to yet another foster care holding pend. Needless to say, **no one was charge with endangering the welfare of a child, nor was anyone charge with placing this child in imminent danger.** The third foster care torture chamber so traumatized this child that 6 years old Amber James suffered a psychiatric breakdown that resulted in her admission to Kings County Psychiatric Unit. It was during the processing stage at the Kings County Psychiatric emergency room where Amber was abandoned by St. Vincent's caseworker Adrian Prichette, in whose care Amber was trusted. Adrian Prichette admitted that she left the sleeping child in the emergency room unprotected because it was 12:00 midnight and she, Prichette, had to get home to her own family. **Yet no one was charged with endangering the welfare of a child, nor was anyone charged with placing this child in imminent danger.**

Instead, Amber and her parents were punished for revealing this incredible negligence and exposing Adrian Prichette.

Without any warning Amber was discharged from the hospital and placed in an undisclosed foster care concentration camp. Three(3) days later Amber's top secret whereabouts is still being withheld from her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. James suspect that Amber may be injured or may have sustained addition visible injuries that would be hard to hide. So the alternative is to keep Amber away from her picture taking parents.

When will those who have blatantly endanged the welfare of Amber James be charged. When will those who have willfully placed Amber James in Imminent danger be charged. When will this wrong be right and Amber James be release and freed

WHERE IS AMBER?????????.....DOES ANYONE KNOW???????

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## Whistle-blower Jill Jones-Soderman Files Lawsuit Against Her Former Attorney

NYACK, N.Y., July 13 /PRNewswire/ -- Jill Jones-Soderman, a New York-based social worker and the executive director of The Foundation for the Child Victims of the Family Courts, has filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit against her former attorney in federal court for alleged negligence, fraud, deception, malpractice and infliction of emotional distress.

According to Jones-Soderman, she paid Richard Mazaway thousands of dollars over the period he was "representing her." During this time he never filed a motion or legal order on her behalf despite the fact that he had personally uncovered evidence and had access to all pertinent information to prove that she was the victim of malicious judicial fraud and misconduct.

He even found "smoking gun" evidence during discovery from the New Jersey Attorney General's office which showed why the state's licensing board was so aggressively pursuing the revocation of her license - to the point where they were fabricating charges - Jones-Soderman said. On top of that, she was told she could not know the nature of the complaint against her. Yet Mazaway did nothing. The information he obtained proved that Judge Mary Margaret McVeigh had filed fraudulent charges against Jones-Soderman, stating that a report had been written to influence the court. But according to Jones-Soderman, no such report was ever written.

The problems started when Jones-Soderman was fraudulently removed from a case on which she was serving as a forensic consultant, she explained. After discovering and attempting to expose the alleged fraud occurring in the family court, she was ordered off the case. Meanwhile the New Jersey licensing board attempted to end her career based on what Jones-Soderman insists are fabricated charges. So she hired Mazaway, who promised to put up a vigorous defense and work on some of her cases.

Jones-Soderman claims that through his inaction on the various cases, he allowed the fraud going on in the family court to continue. Some of the clients using his legal services had their children returned into the hands of the abusers, she said. According to Jones-Soderman, Mazaway's performance regarding one scheme going on in the court ultimately contributed to the suicide death of a 12-year-old child who was ordered returned to his abusive father.

"The theatrics are for the client in the privacy of the office," explained Jones-Soderman regarding Mazaway's promises. "What happens in court is that the client gets screwed and loses everything." According to Jones-Soderman, Mazaway had also discovered evidence of lies and fraud perpetrated by New Jersey state officials. He outlined a defense and even proposed filing a federal civil rights action against the state and its agents, having determined that Jones-Soderman fit the definition of a whistle-blower. But he did nothing - or worse, "aided and abetted" the licensing board, as Jones-Soderman claims.

"Lawyers like Mazaway count on the client's fear of changing attorneys," Jones-Soderman said, adding that paying a new retainer and telling the whole painful story again motivates many clients to keep their attorney despite glaring problems. She eventually fired him and has now filed a law suit in the U.S. District Court for Southern New York.

Mazaway contributed to irreparable harm to Jones-Soderman's career and reputation, she said, noting that the primary allegiance of lawyers is to the courts and not their clients. "I want this to serve as a warning to all the lawyers who think they can destroy their clients," she added, also noting that at least three other clients have complained about Mazaway's services and neglect. "We can and will fight back. He is being sued because he chose to betray his client rather than to expose the corruption of the system."

For more information about the work of Jill Jones-Soderman and her organization, please visit [www.notinvain.org](http://www.notinvain.org), [www.lawisnotjustice.com](http://www.lawisnotjustice.com), [jill.jones-soderman.com](http://jill.jones-soderman.com) or call (786) 266-0390. Jones-Soderman's private practice focuses on mediation and navigation of court litigation for clients in high-conflict situations. Please refer to [www.thefamilyresolutioncenter.com](http://www.thefamilyresolutioncenter.com). She also serves as a therapist and program developer for the Thorpe Family residence, a long-term housing shelter for traumatized women and children supported by the Sparkill Order of Nuns.

SOURCE The Foundation for the Child Victims of the Family Courts

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