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July 25, 2001

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**Criminal Investigator Charles Cresenz  
Division of Criminal Justice  
25 Market Street, P.O. Box 085  
Trenton, N.J. 08625**

**Attention: Records & Identification**

**RE: DANIELLE LOUGH**

**Dear Investigator Cresenz:**

**Danielle Lough and her 3 sons were referred to me, by Strengthen Our Sisters of West Milford, New Jersey, for evaluation for Domestic Abuse and Child Abuse.**

**The three children (ages 5, 6, and 8 yrs. old) have been seen by me on a weekly basis, for more than 60 hours at this point, in individual and joint treatment. Upon seeing the children individually, on their own, and without coercion, each relayed detailed and complete, from beginning to end, stories of physical and emotional abuse. The oldest child, Islam, described in detail having his feet tied with a twisted sheet and hung upside down over a door, where his father, Salah Elkaryoney, beat him with a wooden stick and a belt. The two oldest children, described being zipped into a suitcase by their father. Each of the children described their own episodes individually and out of the hearing of their mother. Jointly, they each described episodes of being hit with sticks, slapped and pushed. Each of the children, also, spontaneously stated that they feared for their mothers life and safety, as they stated their father would hit, slap and beat their mother. Islam, the oldest child, related that he has memories and nightmares of his mother having been beaten with the handle of a hammer in her stomach when she was pregnant with his younger brother. Islam expresses intense fear of his father and often screams and cries when his father is mentioned, and he clings to his mother, when in her presence. The younger boys are extremely hyperactive and relate the events described with rigid smiles on their faces.**

I reported the events of my sessions on April 12, 2001 to the West Milford Police Department and, on the following day, I contacted Kathy Gluchoski of the Division of Youth and Family Services in Paterson, New Jersey.

Further, I accompanied Ms. Lough to the Domestic Violence services at Paterson Family Court. We appeared before Judge Marmo along with a neighbor of Ms. Lough, whom I had contact with, unfortunately, for a period of more than 8 hours and I spent an entire day with Gloria Quinonez in Court and spent time speaking with her over lunch. As the day progressed, I could observe Ms. Quinonez's demeanor deteriorate over the day. She became more shrunken and her stance; she appeared weary, quiet and suspicious. I learned in the course of the day, mainly at lunch, that Ms. Quinonez had a number of prescribed medications to take. I asked her what medications she was taking and she showed me the bottles and at the point, I realized that she was taking medication for schizophrenia. As the day progressed, I not only realized that Ms. Quinonez suffered from schizophrenia, but, that she also, suffered from paranoid ideation. By the end of the day the person who was originally a reasonably friendly, outgoing person had become withdrawn, slumped over and peered at me sideways as I drove her and Ms. Lough home to their apartment from Court, when arriving home Ms. Quinonez opened the door and ran into the house.

In Judge Marmo's Court earlier that day Ms. Quinonez complimented Ms. Lough on being a wonderful loving mother, who was attentive to her children and cared for them very well. She stated that she was in terror of Salah Elkaryoney and she was fearful of testifying on Ms. Lough's behalf, because she was fearful of Mr. Elkaryoney. When Ms. Lough had to return to Court for a Final Restraining Order, the Judge had instructed her to bring Ms. Quinonez with her. Ms. Lough was accompanied to Court by a Staff Member from the Domestic violence shelter, Strengthen Our Sisters, attorney Bernard Weiss and myself and Ms. Lough's children as well. At this court proceeding Ms. Quinonez changed her testimony and stated that Danielle Lough was the person of whom she was afraid of and that Mr. Elkaryoney was a good father. Ms. Quinonez stated that Ms. Lough had locked her in a room in Ms. Lough's apartment. I had visited Ms. Lough's apartment with the children to trace steps and events that the children described and noted that the only locks on the bedroom doors were on the inside of the doors. When I learned that the testimony of Ms. Quinonez was being held against Ms. Lough and that bizarre and fanciful and violent fantasies were being provided as testimony and had heard of these events from Mr. Weiss and members of the Domestic Violence shelter Staff, and wanted the Judge to be aware that, in my professional opinion and experience spent with Ms. Quinonez, I would have diagnosed her as being a paranoid schizophrenic and an evaluation should be made of this person's testimony.

Judge McVeigh contacted DYFS to do an immediate evaluation of Ms. Lough, her children and the home; however, DYFS staff never appeared at Ms. Lough's home. As per my personal knowledge, in discussion with DYFS caseworker, Kathy Gluchoski, she had visited Ms. Lough's home and found no evidence of violence or problems with her care of the children. As per the enclosed report, DYFS has stated that they do not want custody of the children and want no part of the case as they have found no basis of child abuse and recommended that the whole family be referred for treatment. Further, DYFS stated that they deferred to the evaluation and recommendation of Paul Dasher, the court appointed psychologist who interviewed Salah Elkaryoney with the two younger children while the oldest child was being hospitalized at St. Clare's Hospital suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder following the first visit that was ordered by the court using Police force to place the children in the father's car.

It is important to note that Paul Dasher did not extend the same professional courtesy to Ms. Lough regarding interviewing her with the children as part of the court ordered evaluation. The Division of Youth and Family Services are simply following an evaluation of Paul Dasher which is extremely biased, and in total contrast to my reports and evaluations, having spent much more time with these children. He referred the custody of the children be transferred to the father and no contact by Ms. Lough which maybe putting children in extreme danger. Also, the children have been forced to cease treatment with me, so they now feel they have no ally or outlet to express their feelings. This is despite the fact that I have informed DYFS of the deleterious effects on the children. It is also my understanding to date from other therapeutic personal that the children exhibit homicidal and suicidal behaviors at times and articulate such thoughts as well. The two younger boys are acutely hyperactive, which they were not, while in treatment with me. All three children were extremely traumatized after their initial encounter with Paul Dasher, when they spoke of the evaluation they would cry and cling to their mother and was this way for the entire weekend and remained such until Monday morning when I had session with the mother and 3 children.

Following the initial hearing before Judge McVeigh, Judge McVeigh recused herself from the case and Bernard Weiss, Ms. Lough's attorney, withdrew from the case as well, leaving Ms. Lough with no attorney to represent her, while her former husband was represented by private counsel. Numerous attempts by Ms. Lough and myself to procure an attorney were in vain. Ms. Lough and I went through the list of agencies which provide pro bono and sliding scale services and were constantly told that the case was too complicated for them to take on. Ms. Lough has also, contacted the Passaic County Bar Association and is attempting to find a lawyer thru the bar association.

As to Ms. Lough, I do not wish to portray her as a perfect person without any foibles of her own. However, it has been consistantly Ms. Lough who has sought treatment for herself and her children, not Mr. Elkaryoney who has, instead forced visitation with children who had feared him and did not wish to visit with him. To my knowledge, Mr. Elkaryoney never requested any type of therapeutic intervention to deal with his children, who expressed fear of him and rejection of him. Subsequent to the divorce, the children were prepared by their mother for visitation with their father. She always made the children available with an overnight bag packed, for the children to join their father for visitation. The police were present when the children stated in front of their father and in front of the police that they did not wish to go on a visitation with their father; that they feared him and did not wish to go in his car. When Mr. Elkaryoney met with their resistance, Mr. Elkaryoney went to Court and obtained a court order (a copy of which is enclosed) requiring the police to use whatever force necessary to place the children in the father's car. On the first day of this court-ordered visitation, I was on the telephone with Ms. Lough, as she was on the street with the police, the children were crying and refusing to go with their father. The children were running from the police and the police pursued the eldest child in their police car. I could hear on the telephone that the oldest son, Islam was screaming and Ms. Lough wailing. As the police approached Islam in their car he sat down on the street and was holding his head and rocking back and forth as per description of Ms. Lough, as she was moving toward her son. As the police officer forcibly picked Islam up, I could hear him, Islam, yelling "No!!" repeatedly, stating "he beats me up, I dont want to go with him." and pleading with his mother, "Mommy, I dont wanna' go" and "Mommy, dont let them take me." The police officer, whom I could hear said to Islam, "come on, be a man." I was on the telephone with Ms. Lough as she was running around the street and neighborhood behind her children pleading with the police officers not to do this.

As per report by Ms. Lough, Mr. Elkaryoney arrived in his taxicab with another man, it is my understanding from the children that this man held them in the car to restrain them from exiting the vehicle to go to their mother. In addition, it is my understanding from the children this man spent the night sleeping in their father's home and slept on the living room floor blocking the apartment door. I suspect, to keep the children from running away.

I gather that during the visit Mr. Elkaryoney treated the children reasonably well. With the exception of, the eldest son described to me how his father made him sit up all night as a punishment for making his younger brother crash on his bicycle. He went on to explain that every time he would begin to doze off his father would hit him with a wooden spoon to jar him awake, and that when (as the child describes it) it became daylight the father then allowed him to go to sleep.

In my professional opinion, Ms. Lough suffers from Battered Women's Syndrome which places her at a disadvantage when it comes to adequately articulating her situation and defending herself. She is a mother who has 3 children who, in my professional opinion, suffer from ADHD and PTSD. I have seen her for more than 60 hours since April 12, 2001. I have seen the children for an equal amount of time, in individual and joint sessions. I have found Ms. Lough to be totally honest with respect to her own history and her dealings with her children. Under no circumstance have I saw her as an abusive parent with respect to her report and the report of the children.

Over the weekend of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Mr. Elkaryoney took the 2 youngest children for the Court-Ordered Friday-Saturday overnight Visitation. I must note the oldest child was hospitalized at St. Clare's Hospital following the first visitation, due to PTSD. On Saturday when the children were to be returned to their mother's residence, Mr. Elkaryoney did not return the children. Ms. Lough was escorted by the Elizabeth police to Mr. Elkaryoney's apartment. After a few moments discussion with Mr. Elkaryoney, the police joined Ms. Lough curbside where they had asked her to wait since there is a TRO. While their backs were turned speaking to Ms. Lough, Mr. Elkaryoney was seen by a woman accompanying Ms. Lough running to the parking lot carrying a child fitting one of Ms. Lough's sons' description. When the EPD went to check on Mr. Elkaryoney's whereabouts and to inform him to stay put for DYFS to be called, the police found that Mr. Elkaryoney had in fact fled in his Newark taxicab which had been parked in the parking lot on the apartment complex premises just prior to that. It is my understanding as reported to me by Ms. Lough, that when she insisted that DYFS be called to the scene to assess the situation, she was told there was nothing the EPD could do as the children were no longer available, and to go home and contact the court or DYFS case worker Monday morning. The problem with this situation is the court order and accompanying paperwork made available to the police officers by both Ms. Lough and Mr. Elkaryoney, did not allow or inform the Elizabeth Police to determine the children should remain with the father, and this is what they were informing Ms. Lough of, (that they were allowing him to keep the boys in his care), when their backs were turned and Mr. Elkaryoney fled with the 2 young boys. Mr. Elkaryoney could have been out of the country and on his way to Egypt by Monday, not to mention the boys could have been put in a very unhealthy and/or unsafe situation for that period of time.

In closing, I wish to state that this is a very abbreviated summary of numerous and complex events. I have annexed collateral reports to give you a sense of the vicious, prejudicial and inattentive unjust behavior of the court and DYFS in dealing with Ms. Lough's situation. In my professional opinion, Ms. Lough has been slandered, as well as poorly represented and moreso misrepresented.

Testimony from myself, St. Clare's Hospital and Dr. Kennedy has not been permitted to be presented to the Court, only a report of Paul Dasher has been allowed to be presented, and this report, as per my understanding is unfavorable to MS. Lough. I, myself have been threatened by Salah's attorney, Richard Gruber, that if I do not cease my support and treatment of Ms. Lough, that "there will be all kinds of collateral litigation" against me and that he is recommending that I be investigated by the prosecutor's office, as Mr. Gruber plans to state that I have instructed Ms. Lough in how to brainwash the children and have thus caused her to bring a restraining order against Mr. Elkaryoney and have caused her to instruct the children in stating that they were abused by their father. Mr. Gruber stated that he intended to discredit my report and that I am the "target" to be eliminated.

I have contacted the Ethics Committee of the New Jersey Bar Association, Essex County, to indicate that, as a witness, I have been threatened in the course of performing my moral and ethical responsibilities as a fully licensed professional and basically told to disappear. I have also, contacted with Ms. Lough, the Executive Director of DYFS to report the circumstances of slander and liable that have been directed against Ms. Lough in an attempt to remove her children from her.

I would appreciate any assistance or advice that you can provide. Please feel free to contact me at (973) 208-8284.

Very Truly Yours,

*Jill Soderman*  
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*JJS*