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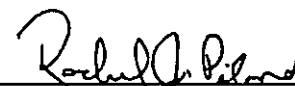
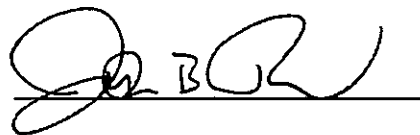
IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Joshua and Rachel Piland — PETITIONERS

VS.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, et al. —
RESPONDENTS

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI


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Concise Statement of Questions Presented for Review

Should Parents be able to appeal jurisdiction in a termination case?

After obtaining jurisdiction, is Family Division court granted the authority to divide a Natural Family because of the Parents' mutual faith in Jesus Christ as their Family's Physician?

Is the division of Natural Family a compelling Governmental interest?

Is Government division of Natural Family (i.e. termination of Parental Rights) "the least restrictive means"?

Did the State of Michigan (i.e. MDHHS, Family Division Court) breach our nation's social pact with its Citizens?

List of All Parties

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

Ingham County Prosecutor's Office (MDHHS Counsel)

Michael D. Staake, Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)

30th Judicial Circuit of Michigan, the Honorable Richard J. Garcia

Michigan Court of Appeals

Michigan Supreme Court

Related Cases

Court in Question	Case Number	Petition Number	Case Caption	Date of Judgment Entry
Michigan Supreme Court	157918 164908		In re: Piland Minors In re: Piland Minors	May 23, 2019 December 29, 2022
Michigan Court of Appeals	340754 353436 360062 362338		In re: Piland Minors In re: Piland Minors In re: Piland Minors In re: S P [REDACTED]	May 15, 2018 April 15, 2021 September 15, 2022
30th Judicial Circuit Court Family Division - Ingham County	75415-1/2-NA 75415-1/2/3-NA 75415-4-NA	17-000591-NA 17-000592-NA 17-000591-NA 17-000592-NA 18-000996-NA 22-000002-NA	In re: Piland Minors In re: Piland Minors In re: S P [REDACTED]	August 31, 2017 February 25, 2020, December 29, 2021 July 06, 2022
30th Judicial Circuit Court Criminal	17-000911-FH 17-000913-FH		Michigan v Joshua Barry Piland Michigan v Rachel Joy Piland	
54A District Court	17-04712-FY-D54A 17-04713-FY-D54A		Michigan v Joshua Barry Piland Michigan v Rachel Joy Piland	

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Opinions of Lower Courts

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Petitioners respectfully request that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment below.

OPINIONS BELOW

For cases from **state courts**:

The opinion of the highest state court to review the merits appears at Appendix A to the petition and is unpublished by the Michigan Court of Appeals.

The order and opinion of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court appears at Appendix B to the petition and is unpublished.

The date on which the highest state court declined discretionary review was December 29, 2022. A copy of that decision appears at Appendix C.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The date on which the highest state court declined discretionary review of our case was December 29, 2022. A copy of that decision appears at Appendix C. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1257(a).

Both the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court declined to review issues raised regarding constitutional matters in its April 15, 2021, opinion (MCOA 353436) and December 29, 2022, order (MSC 164908), respectively.

A potentially *de novo* review of the relationship between the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act regarding Religious Parental Liberty is necessary for U.S. Citizens.

Constitutional and Statutory Provisions Involved

The statutory provisions believed to confer on this Court jurisdiction to review a writ of certiorari the issues at hand are the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Statement of the Case

██████████, 2017 — March 8, 2017

We welcomed our third child, AJP, at home with the help of a midwife, just like we did with her two elder brothers. We, Joshua (Josh) and Rachel Piland, have been married since December 12, 2009.¹ We are both born-again and baptized with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.² We both have taught in free Bible Schools and church meetings in the United States and overseas, including teaching and testifying at a Divine Healing Conference in 2016. We have addressed any reports of physical problems with all three of our children in the same manner: with prayer, with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as our healer, and with any physical aid that is appropriate for the situation and doesn't violate our conscience before God.

When the midwife expressed concern about our daughter's skin color appearing yellow within the first 24 hours of birth and specifically recommended that we immediately seek medical help from a family doctor or the emergency room, we chose instead to stand in faith for healing from God alone. We encouraged AJP to eat, fed her, changed diapers, kept her comfortable, put her in sunlight. On the third morning after her birth, we were so encouraged by her improvement in skin color, appetite, and bowel movements, that we both took rest. While Rachel napped holding our sleeping baby, AJP's spirit separated from her body on February 9, 2017. Lansing Police Department (LPD) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) Child Protective Services (CPS) arrived at our home that evening.

The first petition filed by MDHHS' CPS to terminate our parental rights to MQP and JUP was denied on March 8, 2017, due to the application of MCL 722.634.³ This ends our case's first termination thread.

March 31, 2017 — June 11, 2017

CPS files a second petition—nearly identical to the first—despite MCL 722.634 and MCL 722.127⁴ that permits parents to lawfully object to medical system and the petition was granted on March 31, 2017. That afternoon, our boys (then 3 and 1.5 years old) were removed from our care. CPS transferred our case to a private incorporation. At a subsequent pretrial, the boys were returned home by Judge Laura Baird under a safety plan. On May 25, 2017, the Pilands became aware of the judge's unconstitutional, unilateral ex parte order forbidding physical discipline and the Pilands, via counsel, motioned to amend the ex parte order to allow physical discipline in accordance with Michigan law.

June 12, 2017 — February 25, 2020

At a pretrial before Judge Laura Baird, our motion was denied and the boys were again removed from our care. *From this moment, we knew that the Court and its officers were not operating in good faith* and we took a necessary adversarial posture against a declared adversary. Following Judge Baird's order forbidding that MCL 722.634 be provided as a jury instruction, we submitted an interlocutory appeal. The Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in our favor on May 15, 2018, and May 23, 2019, respectively.

Directly following our declaration to submit an interlocutory appeal, we were criminally charged with Involuntary Manslaughter on September 21, 2017, by the same Ingham County Prosecutor (ICP) representing CPS in their termination petition. The criminal charges resulted in Josh's employment termination. While awaiting trial, we were told our parental rights were intact; however, CPS and the court ignored our request regarding the boys' placement, the trial court judge ruled from the bench that our children could be religiously indoctrinated contrary to our religious beliefs, and countless medical decisions were made for our children despite our most vehement objections and despite MCL 722.127. We submitted a petition for redress of grievances to the court officers and government officials on October 22, 2018. Our parental rights had been terminated in every way, except on paper, prior to trial for jurisdiction. We were deprived of our most cherished heritage—our children—by the civil court without the protections of criminal court due process.

In early 2018, while pregnant with our fourth child, we received the first ever report naming Hemolytic Disease of the Newborn (HDN), and not merely jaundice, as a potential diagnosis affecting our children.

We welcomed our fourth child, VLP, at home on ██████████, 2018, without the assistance of a midwife. Operating with the dispensable force of the LPD and an order from the court, CPS removed our newborn from our home within hours of her birth and she was taken to local Sparrow Hospital without our knowledge or consent where she received complete blood exchange transfusions to begin what ended up being a 49-day hospitalization.

In light of Judge Baird's retirement, the case was transferred to Judge Richard Garcia who presided over our first jury trial for jurisdiction (January 6-10, 2020) and still refused to give MCL 722.634 as the jury instruction which, for years, we have litigated to have applied to our case.

¹ When the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996 was still in effect and defined *Marriage* as the "only legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or wife."

² King James Version (KJV) Acts of the Apostles 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

³ MCL 722.634 *Religious beliefs*. Sec. 14. "A parent or guardian **legitimately practicing his religious beliefs** who thereby does not provide specified medical treatment for a child, for that reason alone **shall not be considered a negligent parent** or guardian. This section shall not preclude a court from ordering the provision of medical services or nonmedical remedial services recognized by state law to a child where the child's health requires it nor does it abrogate the responsibility of a person required to report child abuse or neglect." (emphasis added)

⁴ MCL 722.127 *Objection on religious grounds to medical examination, immunization, or treatment of child*. Sec. 17. "Nothing in the rules adopted pursuant to this act shall authorize or require medical examination, immunization, or treatment for any child **whose parent objects thereto on religious grounds**." (emphasis added)

February 25, 2020 — April 15, 2021

Judge Garcia's order of termination followed adjudication and our parenting time with our three children ceased in February of 2020. Since we refused to violate our conscience before God, our children were taken from us with no hope of their return.

We won our appeal in April of 2021, but the trial court judge sided with the prosecutor, the guardian ad litem, the case worker, and a child counselor who said that parenting time shouldn't be resumed *despite our parental rights being restored and never lawfully terminated*. By this point, our three children had been trafficked to Minnesota. Our personal recognizance bonds and impoverished state prevent us from travel outside of Michigan even if we had been allowed to see our children.

April 15, 2021 — January 3, 2022

During every moment from the Court of Appeals decision to reverse termination until adjudication by the jury at our next trial, our parental rights were intact and we were prevented from having any contact with MQP, JUP, or VLP.

Our second jury trial took place in November/December 2021 while Rachel was in her third trimester with our sixth child. MCL 722.634 was given as a jury instruction, but the prosecutor asked the jury to make a determination on the basis of neglect, cruelty, and criminality *at the civil court level of a preponderance of the evidence* and the jurors found at least one of the allegations for at least one of the children to be most likely true for at least one of the parents. Per the prosecutor's jury instructions, the jurors were funneled to a conclusion of jurisdiction while being instructed not to consider what the court would do if they took jurisdiction of our children and while being ignorant of the prior unconstitutional actions of the judge.

We welcomed a son, SSP, in the last hours of 2021. Again, CPS arrived with LPD within hours of his birth and he, too, received a blood exchange transfusion to start his 7-day hospitalization the first week of January 2022.

January 3, 2022 — Present Day

Judge Garcia's order of termination followed adjudication for our jury retrial. We appealed this termination of our parental rights to the Michigan Court of Appeals and lost on September 15, 2022. We appealed the Michigan Court of Appeals' decision to the Michigan Supreme Court on October 13, 2022, and received their denial on December 29, 2022. Now we come to the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

A jury trial for SSP was held in June 2022 and resulted in adjudication. Judge Garcia's order of termination followed adjudication and our parenting time with our infant ceased on July 11, 2022. He, too, was trafficked to Minnesota to the same "pre-adoptive" foster home in which three of his elder siblings reside. Our appeal of this termination resides with the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Criminal Case Events

On September 21, 2017—over seven months after our home was treated like a crime scene for the natural causes of the death of our daughter on February 9, 2017—we were criminally charged with Involuntary Manslaughter. These charges directly followed our declaration of pursuing an interlocutory appeal and came from the same Prosecutor representing CPS, the petitioner in our civil case. We were arraigned and released on personal recognizance bonds. The officers in our criminal case elected to delay our trial pending the outcome of the civil interlocutory appeal.

When new exculpatory evidence was found regarding the diagnosis of HDN, we were instead charged with more and greater crimes. On March 11, 2019, the ICP filed the People's Motion to Amend the Felony Information and Remand for Preliminary Examination. The new charges are Open Murder and First Degree Child Abuse. The ICP declared its intention to amend the charges and threatened to drop the charges and re-charge us if we didn't waive our right to a speedy trial. We deemed it unlikely that a new arraignment on more severe charges would result in personal recognizance bonds and we were assured by the ICP that the trial would only be delayed by a matter of months, so we waived our right to a speedy trial. That was over four years ago.

The civil case proceeded with a jury trial but our criminal trial was delayed because of MDHHS directives which shut down the justice system in 2020. Our criminal trial was further delayed by Assistant Prosecutor Bill Crino's elective surgery. We were criminally charged over five and a half years ago and still have not had a trial. The criminal charges made us unable to pass a background check and for five and a half years we have felt the daily painful effects of having pending felonies attached to our names. Unless altered, our criminal jury trials are scheduled to begin on May 2, 2023.

When These Issues Were First Raised

March 8, 2017

Preliminary Hearing Transcript [See Appendix E.78.]

August 24, 2017

Transcript “This is a constitutional issue.” [*United States v. Ballard*, 322 U. S. 78 (1944)]

October 22, 2018

Letter to the State of Michigan and its Contracted Agents, with Enclosure: *Our Incontrovertible Reasons for Redress* [*Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U. S. 57 (2000)] [Appendices E.34., E.35.]

January 13, 2019

Letter to State of Michigan and Officers of the Court—Religious Freedom and Restoration Act [See Appendix E.78.]

December 15, 2020

Argument presented to the Michigan Court of Appeals, in their Order, p.11, “Likewise, we decline to address respondents’ argument that the trial court erred by finding that it was in the children’s best interests to terminate their parental rights.” [See footnote at end of 4/15/21 opinion: Appendix E.54.]

November 10, 2021

Dispositional Review Hearing transcript before Judge Richard Garcia, *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000) in argument to resume parenting time [See Appendix E.78.]

October 13, 2022

Application for Leave to Appeal Court of Appeals 360062 to Michigan Supreme Court (164908), New Issue II, *And Is The Least Restrictive Means* [See Appendix E.78.]

March 29, 2023

Petition to Supreme Court of the United States of America for Writ of Certiorari

Compelling Reasons for Granting the Petition

Introduction

The Primary Relationships are between God and Man,⁵ Husband and Wife, and Parents and their Children. Consider the ordering of relationships in the book of Genesis. God first creates man, then God creates woman from man and presents to Adam his wife Eve. Thus God establishes a covenant of Marriage between one male and one female. Via this Marriage, God creates the Natural Family born of the woman: two Parents who naturally procreate their Children in the image of and for God. All three Primary Relationships are created in their order in the opening chapters of Genesis.⁶

Primary Relationship I

The Primary Relationship is between **God** and **Man**. It is superior to all relationships. God and man should never be separated. Our cord with Life⁷ was never meant to be severed by sin.⁸ Fidelity is paramount.

Primary Relationship II

The second Primary Relationship is between **Husband** and **Wife**.⁹ It is inferior to the first Primary Relationship with God as it is a temporal, lifelong covenant. However, the Word of God likens this Marriage relationship with that of Jesus Christ and his Church.¹⁰ Husband and wife should not be separated. This covenant is not to be broken except by physical death.

In marriage, “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.”¹¹ If you’ve ever had the privilege of seeing God’s creature the draft horse, then you’re aware of its strength. We’ve read¹² they can individually pull loads of 8,000lbs but, when yoked with a partner, the team doesn’t just pull double—they pull nearer to triple. Even more impressive is that a well-trained team can pull up to 32,000lbs—quadrupling their individual strength. We suppose we shouldn’t compare our spouses to horses but we’ll gladly liken them to the strength of a marriage yoked with God.¹³ God’s pinnacle creation is mankind and God’s *team* is Marriage.

The husband or wife alone cannot *naturally* procreate without physical union, nor can their *union* endure without a lifelong Covenant of Holy Matrimony which—by their *vow*¹⁴—obligates them to each other and to their own children. Marriage between one man and one woman is the foundation of Natural Family. Marriage between one man and one woman for life is the long-standing *History and Tradition of the United States of America*—and mankind long before our founding. One of our Founders wrote, “The connection between husband and wife, constitutes the most important, and endearing relation, that subsists between individuals of the human race. This union, when founded on a mutual attachment, and the ardor of youthful passions, is productive of the purest joys and tenderest transports, that gladden the heart.”¹⁵ Marriage is the very union of our Founding Fathers and Founding Mothers. Consider our Framers’ enduring marriages, in John and Sally¹⁶ Jay, George and Martha Washington or John and Abigail Adams. We’re convinced that the Primary Relationships are what our Founders fought for, their own *and their posterity’s*. It’s evident¹⁷ the Framers’¹⁸ intent was leaving them an America where its Citizens’ Primary Relationships could thrive. This is what we, too, are contending for—and each Primary Relationship in its order is still worth defending with our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor. And sacred honor requires sacred *honesty* and integrity of heart—a good conscience.

⁵ Mankind, whether *man* or *woman*, humankind’s Primary Relationship is with God.

⁶ KJV Genesis chapters 1 and 2, and chapter 4 verse 1

⁷ KJV John 1:1-4 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. **In him** was life; and the life was the light of men.” and John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (emphasis added)

⁸ KJV James 4:17 “Therefore to him that **knoweth to do good**, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (emphasis added) And Genesis 2:16-17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the **knowledge of good and evil**, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (emphasis added) Die—cut off from Life. Adam and Eve didn’t immediately die *physically*; they were instantly severed from Life *spiritually* by their sin.

⁹ KJV Genesis 2:18 “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

¹⁰ KJV Revelation 19:6-9 “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the **marriage of the Lamb** is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the **marriage supper** of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” (emphasis added)

¹¹ KJV Ecclesiastes 4:9 “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.”

¹² John B. Lund, *The Power of Pulling Together*, October 1, 2018

¹³ see Appendix D.2. Relationship Figures

¹⁴ Like God does not violate his Vows—Word or Promise—neither are we to violate our vows.

¹⁵ Michael Driscoll, *Zephaniah Swift on Marriage and Happiness*, November 17, 2022

¹⁶ Myron Magnet, *The Education of John Jay: America’s Indispensable Diplomat*, City Journal Winter 2010, describes Sally, “as sharp an observer of the era and as sparkling a writer as Abigail Adams.”

¹⁷ Not limited to the evidence of the *Preamble*, “We the People of the United States, in **Order** to form a more perfect **Union**, establish Justice, **insure domestic Tranquility**, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the **Blessings of Liberty** to ourselves and our **Posterity**, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” (emphasis added) A *more perfect Union* begins with the Primary Relationships from which come the Blessings of Liberty.

¹⁸ *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008) “Constitutional rights are enshrined with the scope they were understood to have when the people adopted them.”

The Individual Citizen's Rights of a *husband and wife* are greater in marriage than the rights of two citizens. Marriage between a man and a woman is more than the simple unity between two individuals.¹⁹ Two individual citizens united is not the same as two individual citizens covenanted in Holy Matrimony.²⁰ A husband and wife with their conscience clear are recognized by God in Jesus Christ, have a marriage bed that is undefiled²¹ and, thus, a marriage that is fully recognized by mankind.²² Marriage, to be recognized by God, must be cognizant with what God recognizes as Marriage. Remember the precedent charge God gives to his first created couple: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply."²³ He blessed the Marriage to multiply *his image* perpetually.

Natural Family is the way our Creator intended to multiply *his image*.²⁴ Marriage is the Foundation of Natural Family and Natural Family is the bond of Civilization. It is the common experience that creates and relates mankind. Even Christ, who the virgin Mary conceived by the Holy Ghost,²⁵ was charged to Mary and Joseph in the framework of a marriage and natural family. And this most important birth in the history of mankind occurred between the *husband and wife* only—no physicians. God entrusted parents alone for the delivery and care of the Savior of the world.

All men and women are created *equal spirits*—in the image of God;²⁶ however, not all women have an equal relationship with every man to that of his wife and contrariwise. God is no respecter of *persons*,²⁷ but he is indeed a respecter of *relationships*. You either have a relationship with God or you do not. Likewise, a person is either your spouse or they are not. The one that is your spouse is in your second Primary Relationship (i.e. Marriage) and all others are without.

Adam was first formed physical *flesh*, then the Spirit of God breathed life—*spirit*, his image—into man. This is the *breath of Life*. The *express image*²⁸ of Life (i.e. God) is Jesus Christ who, as God, took flesh upon his Spirit at that point of conception by the Holy Ghost in his mother's womb. Since Eve, human life begins from the point of conception when a new spirit is lit—by the same Holy Spirit—and embodied with flesh. Christ's very presence in Mary's womb²⁹ demonstrates that the breath of Life—spirit—precedes actual physical breathing of the child after birth. Christ's Spirit began to be wrapped with physical flesh at the point of conception. Conception is clearly when a new physical life starts biologically and a spirit is lit at the same moment, as a human being is a physically *embodied* spirit. The dual nature of human life begins at conception.

Being a Mother is different than simply being a woman or female. The word *mother* means to have been "with child" or given birth to a child. The Latin word *matrix*—from *mater*, translated "mother"—means *womb*:³⁰ the place a child is formed and nourished until birth.³¹ Part of that nourishment comes through an umbilical cord connecting the life of the flesh³² of the Mother with the life of the flesh of the Child. After birth, there's no longer a physical cord connecting the two but there's a deeper spiritual bond of *parental* affection between both parents and their child. The birth of their child brings unspeakable joy to Father and Mother, a joy that began when the mother first learned she had life inside her.

¹⁹ see Appendix D.2. Relationship Figures

²⁰ see Appendix D.2. Relationship Figures

²¹ KJV Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

²² KJV Mark 10:9 "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

²³ Genesis 1:27-28a

²⁴ KJV John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (emphasis added)

²⁵ KJV Matthew 1:18-23 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found **with child of the Holy Ghost**. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for **that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost**. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (emphasis added)

²⁶ KJV John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (emphasis added)

²⁷ KJV Romans 2:11 "For there is no respect of persons with God."

²⁸ KJV Hebrews 1:2-3 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and **the express image of his person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" (emphasis added)

²⁹ KJV Luke 1:42-47 "And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and **blessed is the fruit of thy womb**. And whence is this to me, that **the mother of my Lord** should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, **the babe leaped in my womb** for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." (emphasis added)

³⁰ Online Etymology Dictionary, *Child* noun. The word *womb* comes from an Old English word *cildhama* meaning "child-home". A Mother is the first home for her Child.

³¹ American Dictionary of the English Language, Noah Webster, 1828 "*Ma trix*, noun [Latin *matrix* from *mater*, mother.] 1. The womb; the cavity in which the fetus of an animal is formed and nourished till its birth." Compare "*Womb*, noun Woom. [G.] 1. The uterus or matrix of a female; that part where the young of an animal is conceived and nourished till its birth."

³² KJV Leviticus 17:14a "For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof:"

Primary Relationship III

The third Primary Relationship is between **Parents** and *their Children*. It is inferior to the first Primary Relationship with God and the second Primary Relationship of Marriage; however, the Word of God likens this Parent and Child Relationship to that of God the Father and God the Son. Children belong with their own Parents. These natural parental bonds were never meant to be broken—*lessened*, yes, when the children, as adults, begin their own marriage and family.³³ Until that day when parents give away their child in marriage, neither the children and their parents nor the parents should be divided.

The Nuclear Family is the foundation of a healthy society. *Nuclear* stems from the word *nucleus*, like that of a cell—the smallest unit that can live on its own. The nucleus of Family are Parents—one male and one female who agree in Marriage as one—and their Children. Every Natural Family is a Nuclear Family, *natural* coming from its root word *nature*,³⁴ literally translated “birth” from Latin *natus* meaning “born.” *Nature* also means *being* or *essence*—as in, children are new beings from and the essence of both of their parents. Even the word *parent*³⁵ comes from Latin *parentem* meaning “Father” or “Mother” from its parent word *parire* “give birth.” Similar to the sacred boundary of Marriage, a Natural Family includes Parents and their Children—everyone else is without. The Nuclear Family is the smallest molecule and elemental bond of society. Civilization suffers catastrophic fissional consequences when its nucleus is split—broken families and broken hearts that shatter the Union.

Parenting is more than simply procreating a child. Parenting, above all, requires raising and preparing a child for his own Primary Relationship with his Heavenly Father by teaching him the Word of God and by living it out before him in marriage and in faith. If we are faithful in our Primary Relationships, then we train our children to be faithful in theirs.

These are the three Primary Relationships. All other relationships between mankind are *secondary* to these.

Secondary Relationships

The Secondary Relationships are those relationships between mankind outside of their Primary Relationships. There is a clear divide between Primary Relationships and secondary relationships. If someone mapped out our childrens’ family tree, you’ll find their parents quickly with no degree of separation between us or between us and our children. Extended Family, by blood or marriage, will be on our childrens’ family tree, too, but with degrees of separation. Extended family—even grandparents—, although close, are separated by a generation and are of a different Nuclear Family that is outside of ours. These relationships may be strong, special, and entirely appropriate—but they are not Primary Relationships. Grandparents are not the Parents. Extended family or friends are not part of our marriage—nor do they stand between us and God in our Primary Relationship. *Ordinate*³⁶ relationships is key. Primary Relationships are more important than all the secondary relationships that can exist between mankind. Whether fellow colleagues, classmates, citizens, or—to an even lesser degree—animals, our friendships, no matter how dear, are all secondary relationships outside of our Primary Relationships.

If a person enters someone else’s border without permission, then that person is trespassing. This is true in all relationships, and especially the Primary Relationships. If it is our duty to possess our homes, our land, and its borders, then how much more our Primary Relationships? This means guarding against *any spirit* outside of and contending for our Primary Relationships. Remember that any relationship between mankind consists of a *spirit* directly in relation to another *spirit* (see Appendix D.2. Relationship Figures). Spirit A may have a relationship with Spirit B and with Spirit C, but Spirit C is not in the relationship of Spirits A and B, nor is Spirit B in the relationship of Spirits A and C, even if Spirits B and C have their own relationship. These truths are simple and absolutely critical to preserving our relationships. Each relationship has duties that should not be violated by those spirits *within*, and boundaries that should not be transgressed by those spirits *without*.

Individual Citizen’s Relationship with Government

Our Nation is blessed with a birth certificate, the Declaration of Independence, and its Citizens have birthrights—both natural and civil—which maintain that declared independence from fellow citizens and our government. It’s important to note our American History and Tradition of Government once involved *prosecuting crimes against* the Natural Family (e.g. adultery, kidnapping) and *not sanctioning them*, which brings us to the Individual Citizen’s relationship with his Government. Government is neither a man nor a woman—nor is it God. This relationship is not between two *spirits* and, thus, by its very composition, it is inferior to our Primary and Secondary Relationships. The entity of Government is inferior to a Human Being—that is, the Human *Spirit*. Human spirits are what gave rise to government—and not the contrary. Our Citizenry are the spirits who chartered our Government. The letter and *spirit* of those laws is us, and our laws were not written to preserve Government, but to preserve an *environment—a Nation*—in which our Primary Relationships can prosper and, thus, our secondary relationships also prosper.

Our Declaration acknowledges our Creator and our Constitution acknowledges the Individual Citizen’s Primary Relationship to God. These American Maxims acknowledge the Order to which our Government is subject. Authority and legitimacy are granted when our Government acknowledges them. Government becomes illegitimate and authority is rescinded when it no longer affirms them. Our Government is, however, a collection of *spirits*. Government is not anything without the spirits who fill its offices, made up of our fellow individual citizens and contracted legal residents, which are *secondary* relationships for the vast

³³ KJV Matthew 19:2-6

³⁴ Online Etymology Dictionary, *Nature* n.

³⁵ Online Etymology Dictionary, *Parent* n. (also consider *Parent* v. “be or act as a parent to.”)

³⁶ As ordained by the Word of God. Consider Matthew 4:4, II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:20-21, John 17:17, Revelation 22:6-7, 18-19, and Jonah 2:8

majority of us. Consequently, it is Government Officers—the men and women that fill its ranks—who are responsible, solely or collectively, for Government transgressions of the spirit of these American Maxims and every time this happens, we Citizens are to contend. We are always responsible to govern ourselves and rule our own spirit—*true* self-government—remembering that man is accountable to Government as unto God and, any time there is a conflict between the two, “We ought to obey God rather than men.”³⁷

Man’s Dual Citizenship

Man is both a Citizen of this life and that to come. As a constituent of both *physical* and *spiritual* kingdoms, it may be helpful to think of an *individual* as an **indivisible dual**-natured being—both *spirit* and *body*. He or she has a duty to God the Creator before the Government created *under God*. This Individual Citizen is *indivisible* since he deceases when his spirit is divided from his body—this is called physical death.³⁸ After your spirit separates from your body at the point of death—or if the Supreme Judge of the world returns prior—your spirit will be judged³⁹ by the Word of God,⁴⁰ as faithful or unfaithful to all the good you *knew* to do. God judges your heart—that is, your spirit—not your civil certificates, title, demerits, or physical characteristics. God judges you in relation to the Word of God: Jesus.⁴¹ He is judging whether or not your *heart* is like his Heart—that is, is your spirit like his Spirit? His Spirit is *Holy*, not fallen. He is upright, his conscience clear of violation or trespass against any other spirit. He has done and always *will* do all the good he knows to do. We are commanded to be holy as he is Holy, Holy, Holy.⁴² Everyone must balance his own conscience and obligations to God and men in the Order of Primary and Secondary Relationships and—if at all possible—peaceably, submitting⁴³ ourselves to Government as unto God and praying for our leaders that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.⁴⁴ Our Union with God is Life himself, and we must remain indivisible from our Maker. We must remain faithful and *not sin* against God and our own conscience. His commandment to be holy as he is Holy is possible as none of his commandments are grievous.⁴⁵ To achieve this, we must intentionally follow the pattern God sent for mankind: Jesus Christ. Government is not our pattern; Government crucified Christ.

Duty to God and duty to Man

Government might deprive you of life but Government cannot force a Citizen to violate his own conscience. Only the Citizen has that *sovereign power of will* to violate his own conscience. Any Government requiring a violation of conscience instantly delegitimizes that Government, as the principle duty of Government is to preserve an environment promoting the Primary Relationships of its Citizenry and the duty of the Citizens is to preserve their Primary Relationships. If our Government *incentivizes* the negation of the Primary Relationships, then it’s become feral and must be contended⁴⁶ with and subdued. If the Citizen *enables* the destruction of their own Primary Relationships, then they’ve been unfaithful to their Union and ought to be ashamed of their betrayal—and repent.⁴⁷

Conscience

Conscience is an Individual’s Moral Compass. It aids *navigation* of your duty in each relationship. Conscience should not be ignored nor violated. Violating your conscience is to violate your relationship with the Truth,⁴⁸ thus instantaneously separating you from God and sundering any other affected relationships. Violating your conscience is always a betrayal of your principal Primary Relationship. Treason has real implications in Heavenly Citizenship and temporal (i.e. U.S. Citizenship)—the consequences for the latter, severe but temporary, while the former—if unrepented of—*eternal*.

Negating your conscience through repeated violations (i.e. sin, see James 4:17 violating “knoweth to do good”),⁴⁹ “having their conscience seared,”⁵⁰ is simply *chronic* treachery in your Primary Relationship. Searing your conscience does not make your oaths or actions just, simply because you’re no longer receiving aid from the moral compass that *you’ve* lost—while persisting fixed on an immoral heading. A seared conscience is inarguable proof of infidelity in your Primary Relationship.

³⁷ KJV Acts of the Apostles 5:29b “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

³⁸ KJV James 2:26 “For as **the body without the spirit is dead**, so faith without works is dead also.” (emphasis added)

³⁹ KJV Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but **after this the judgment**.” (emphasis added)

⁴⁰ KJV Hebrews 4:12a,c (also see verse 13) “For the word of God ... is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” and John 12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him** in the last day.” (emphasis added)

⁴¹ KJV Revelation 19:13 “And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name is called The Word of God**.” (emphasis added)

⁴² KJV I Peter 1:16-17 “Because it is written, **Be ye holy**; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear.” (emphasis added) (also see Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8)

⁴³ KJV I Peter 2:13-14 “**Submit yourselves** to every ordinance of man for **the Lord’s sake**: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.” (emphasis added)

⁴⁴ KJV I Timothy 2:1-2 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, **prayers**, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and **for all that are in authority**; **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty**.” (emphasis added)

⁴⁵ KJV I John 5:3 “For this is **the love of God, that we keep his commandments**; and **his commandments are not grievous**.” (emphasis added)

⁴⁶ KJV Proverbs 28:4 “They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law **contend with them**.” (emphasis added)

⁴⁷ KJV I John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

⁴⁸ KJV John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (emphasis added)

⁴⁹ KJV James 4:17 “Therefore to him that **knoweth to do good, and doeth it not**, to him it is **sin**.” (emphasis added)

⁵⁰ KJV I Timothy 4:2 “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having **their conscience seared** with a hot iron;” (emphasis added) also see Titus 1:15

What's *your* most prized possession and why? Heart⁵¹—*your* conscience—is what God judges *you* by. *Your* integrity⁵² is all *you* really have under *your* absolute control. James Madison aptly observed, "Conscience is the most sacred of all property;"⁵³ and no Citizen's conscience is the *property* of Government...nor can it be. An Individual Citizen alone must *govern* his own spirit by his own conscience. Conscience—which literally translated is, *com* "with" [or "thoroughly"] + *scire* "to know"⁵⁴ (i.e. your inner *scire*, your inner *science*)—accounts for all of *mankind's* knowledge of his obligations to God, his Marriage, his Children, and, secondarily, his country (i.e. fellow citizens) and fellow mankind.

We cannot live by someone else's conscience, nor will God judge us by theirs.⁵⁵ We are obliged to live by what *we know*, not by the knowledge or ignorance (i.e. nescience) of others. Our conscience measures what *we* know against what *we* do with that knowledge. We are not obligated to live according to the a standard of *Biblical illiteracy*, but we are required to live by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.⁵⁶ We, Josh and Rachel Piland, do know the Word of God and we both have our own testimonies of Salvation (i.e. a born-again⁵⁷ *spirit*—re-lit), water baptism (i.e. the public outward show of a clean conscience washed⁵⁸ by the blood of the Lamb—symbolizing death of the old man of sin and the resurrection of the new man in Christ), and the baptism with the Holy Spirit (i.e. the seal⁵⁹ of God's approval, with the initial physical evidence of praying in an unknown tongue).⁶⁰ And *we* are held accountable for every word revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. We do not claim expertise in much, but we do claim to be *experts of our own conscience*—expertise only possessed by the individual and by Almighty God whose *Omniscience*⁶¹ makes him Expert and Remembrancer of every conscience.

We are also accountable to God for the visions and dreams that we receive *from him*. In Scripture, we find these are ways God communicates with mankind. A dream or vision from God is different that just any dream from a multitude of business. A dream or vision from God is like when you hear the Word of God. When you hear the Scripture, it rings true and clicks into its place in your conscience and you are held accountable for it. After standing in faith for the healing of our daughter AJP, we each—independently and at separate times—received knowledge with perfect clarity from God that our daughter AJP will be resurrected in this life. This was confirmed by the Holy Spirit at her graveside service when he moved with a *gift of tongues* and the *interpretation of tongues*⁶² to say, "A [REDACTED] will most surely be raised quickly." We are both accountable to God for this knowledge. "Religious experiences which are as real as life to some may be incomprehensible to others. ...The religious views espoused by respondents might seem incredible, if not preposterous, to most people. But if those doctrines are subject to trial before a jury charged with finding their truth or falsity, then the same can be done with the religious beliefs of any sect. When the triers of fact undertake that task, they enter a forbidden domain." *United States v. Ballard*, 322 U. S. 78 (1944).

Spiritual Discipline

Every violation of one's own conscience requires repentance and, thus, a restoration of man's Primary Relationship with God. But there also exists a process of spiritual discipline⁶³ whereby the true worshipper—through the leading of the Holy Spirit within him—may learn to *overcome* temptation and sin⁶⁴ like our Lord Jesus Christ did.

Physical Discipline

Just like the sting of spiritual death and the pain of severing your heart from God's heart by sin can lead the individual to overcome sin, so physical discipline utilizes pain to learn obedience⁶⁵ to the Truth. The end of spiritual discipline is eternal life with Christ; the end of physical discipline in agapē love is spiritual discipline.

Spiritual discipline for a child begins at home with loving physical discipline administered by parents. It is a Parent's Duty to chasten his or her own children—in subordination to our Primary Relationship with Agapē.⁶⁶ Physical discipline, when administered consistently in agapē love, leads children to rule their own spirits by *agapē sōphronismós*—self-discipline of

⁵¹ KJV Proverbs 4:23 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life." (emphasis added)

⁵² KJV Proverbs 20:7 "The just *man* walketh in his integrity: his children *are* blessed after him." (emphasis added) And consider Psalm 7:8.

⁵³ "Conscience is the most sacred of all property; other property depending in part on positive law, the exercise of that, being a natural and unalienable right. To guard a man's house as his castle, to pay public and enforce private debts with the most exact faith, can give no title to invade a man's conscience which is more sacred than his castle, or to withhold from it that debt of protection, for which the public faith is pledged, by the very *nature and original conditions of the social pact*." (emphasis added) - James Madison, *On Property*, March 29, 1792

⁵⁴ Online Etymology Dictionary, *Conscience* n.

⁵⁵ KJV I Corinthians 10:29 "Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for *why* is my liberty judged of another *man's* conscience?" (emphasis added)

⁵⁶ KJV Matthew 4:4 "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (emphasis added)

⁵⁷ KJV John 3:3-8

⁵⁸ KJV I Peter 3:20-21

⁵⁹ KJV II Corinthians 1:21-22 also see II Timothy 2:19.

⁶⁰ KJV Acts of the Apostles 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

⁶¹ Online Etymology Dictionary, *Omniscience* n., "infinite knowledge, the quality or attribute of fully knowing all things," 1610s, from Medieval Latin *omniscientia* "all-knowledge," from Latin *omnis* "all" + *scientia* "knowledge"

⁶² KJV I Corinthians 12:8-11

⁶³ KJV II Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love^{G26}, and of a sound mind^{G4995}." (emphasis added)

^{G26} *agapē*; ^{G4995} *sōphronismós*, self-discipline, self-control

⁶⁴ KJV James 1:12a "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation:"

⁶⁵ KJV I John 5:2 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." Also see verses 3-4.

⁶⁶ KJV I John 4:16b "God is love^{G26}," (emphasis added)

^{G26} *agapē*, Koine Greek word, ^{G26} *agapē*—"affection or benevolence" (Strong's Concordance). That is *benevolent*, to the *benefit* of all—God, fellow man, and self.

choosing agapē, the *benevolent choice* for all parties. Discipline can have punitive connotations, but the goal of any punishment or pain should be self-discipline—or self-government. Physical discipline is one tool for parents to train children; there are many others in agapē. Before a child has developed his faculties of reason, physical discipline can be very effective at helping children to understand their bounds.

We were not present for this September 21, 2017, hearing. After turning ourselves in to the LPD, we were locked in a jail cell awaiting arraignment. Is it not ironic that the hearing addresses how physical discipline is not to be used at all—while we were *physically restrained* from being present to hear it? Assistant Prosecutor Laurie Freed stated on record that our refusal to withhold loving physical discipline from our children is “the only reason they came out of their care was because of that clause⁶⁷ and them not wanting to follow that.” Ms. Freed affirmed it was at the *parents’* request that our children were then again removed. This is false. We stated we could not receive our children home under the terms of Judge Laura Baird’s *Ex Parte Order* per our letter⁶⁸ to our counsel at that time, David Kallman, which we sent on Josh’s lunch break the day we received the order:

“Good afternoon Dave and Steve, Today is the first day I’ve had a chance to review the court order from Judge Baird. The worker provided it to Rachel this morning. Rachel and I can comply with everything as unto Romans 13, except, ‘c. Rachel Piland and Joshua Piland Shall not use physical discipline of any kind upon the children.’ This is new to us and was never part of the safety plan or mentioned by the judge at pretrial. Similar to the immunization orders—it appears to be a one-party last minute addendum. An addendum we cannot agree to—no matter how much we want to keep the boys at home. This court order is directly opposed to the word of God and is a matter of **conscience** violation for us both. It’s crystal clear who we must obey. **To us this is no different than if ‘disobey God’ had been written in the order.** Had we known this before hand we would not have picked up the boys under these terms. If our parental rights are intact we will be godly parents to our boys and train them up in the way and in love as the Lord clearly commands. We cannot in good **conscience** obey these terms. And we are letting you know as early as possible. Frankly, I’m surprised by such a point in an order—considering Michigan law on physical discipline. I’m sorry for the additional work. You are free to notify any authority as you see fit. And let us know what’s next. Sincerely, Josh and Rachel Piland.” (emphasis added) [see Appendix E.78.]

Returning to September 21, 2017, Judge Laura Baird reported, “They were then returned to the parents. And the parents objected to the standard provision prohibiting physical discipline.” It’s important to note here that, in 1997, *then* State Representative Laura Baird tried unsuccessfully to change MCL 750.136b(6) in HB 4178 which she sponsored. That law at that time stated, “This section shall not be construed to prohibit a parent or guardian, or other person permitted by law or authorized by the parent or guardian, from taking steps to reasonably discipline a child, including the use of reasonable force.” We knew this law⁶⁹ that restricts Government—not *Parents*—which is why we lawfully objected via motion and proposed language to amend the specific “*physical discipline*” condition of her *Ex Parte Order*’s terms so that our children could return home. And while they are home, we raise them. The Bible explicitly states, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes,”⁷⁰ and, “Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying,”⁷¹ and, “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”⁷² We knew this Scripture and our conscience bears witness. No one can violate his conscience in *good faith*. One of the Biblical definitions of sin is, “for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”⁷³

Returning again to September 21, 2017, Josh Piland’s Counsel, Keith Watson, stated, “Your Honor, on this issue of physical discipline, I kind of get the feeling, based on having gotten to know the Pilands quite well during the course of my representation, that the only reason why that even came up is because of their careful reading of the order that was—that was submitted, that was granted concerning replacement with the parents. I think that they were being very cautious about what it is they felt they could and could not do. And they wanted to abide strictly to your Honor’s orders. ... But I think that they were at that time surprised to find that in the order, and that is what ultimately resulted. ... I think really that the spirit of it was that they were still—I think their delicate sensitivities to some extent were offended by that order of your Honor.” Yes, agreeing to it would have violated our Conscience in disobedience to God’s Word. Judge Laura Baird replied on record, “Yes. I realize that. And I imagine that being charged with a criminal event from the same set of circumstances might change their sensitivities about that—... But for the present time I am going to continue to have supervised parenting time in place. There will be absolutely no physical disciplining of these children as long as they’re under the jurisdiction of this court. ... There’s no physical discipline. Kids don’t like it. It makes them angry. It does not build respect. It builds things we don’t want built as to the character of the children, so absolutely

⁶⁷ Appendix E.11. May 24, 2017, Judge Laura Baird *Ex Parte Order*, (c.) “Rachel Piland and Joshua Piland Shall not use physical discipline of any kind upon the children.”

⁶⁸ May 25, 2017, Email, Subject: *Ex Parte Order*, From: Josh Piland, To: Dave and Steve Kallman

⁶⁹ MCL 750.136b(9) “This section does not prohibit a parent or guardian, or other person permitted by law or authorized by the parent or guardian, from taking steps to reasonably discipline a child, including the use of reasonable force.” Note: this is one of the laws State Representative Laura Baird tried to change in HB 4178 (see Appendix E.3.).

⁷⁰ KJV Proverbs 13:24

⁷¹ KJV Proverbs 19:18

⁷² KJV Proverbs 23:13-14

⁷³ KJV Romans 14:23b

no physical discipline.” However, the Scripture states the opposite: that *physical* discipline with *agapē* love—which is the end of all God’s commandments⁷⁴—builds the *spiritual* character that delivers their soul from hell, if he or she continues in the Way.

We should revisit the June 12, 2017, hearing where, at our expense, we proposed language which ought to have satisfied the concerns of all parties and would have allowed our children to remain home with us during the subsequent 30 months of litigation before our first trial. Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Michael Staake: “Your Honor, Based—in consideration of my clients I would certainly state on the record that I agree with the comments of Mr. Kallman, specifically the Pilands have been compliant with the safety plan. I do believe that they have done that. They’ve taken the steps necessary, based on the document that was drafted with input from all parties. I have no concerns about that aspect of the case. And I have no doubt that there is love and affection between the parents and the children. That’s not a concern of mine at all. I would also agree that physical discipline was not entered into the safety plan—it was not a term of the safety plan. ...The only solution that I could see to this, your Honor, would be to tell the parents that they should follow court orders from now on and that they—we can just eliminate the physical discipline standard term and condition. That would be the only solution that I could see, because otherwise if we didn’t eliminate that, if we say it’s fine that you can use corporal punishment—which I agree with Mr. Kallman, it’s not illegal in the State of Michigan to use corporal punishment, and there’s no allegation that there’s been specific injuries, welts, bruises, based on corporate [sic] punishment—but failure to comply with the terms and conditions, that’s a concern of mine. ...At the present time I don’t see the—I will reiterate that I don’t see the parents harming the children with their corporal punishment.” Later, Mr. Kallman, argued, “I didn’t hear any evidence that my clients failed to comply with the order. What I heard was their openness of saying we have religious convictions here, and we can’t comply with the order. ...We’re not asking for you to remove the physical discipline—I think our suggested language was only doing it in accordance with Michigan Law.” Judge Laura Baird denied our motion to amend the language agreeable to our conscience—that is, *the least restrictive means*. The Judge stated, “Well, I’m going to deny your motion, Mr. Kallman. ...I appreciate the fact that—that Mrs. Piland reported the child’s fever and followed the directions of the court regarding that. I don’t know the Pilands. They don’t know the court. I enter this order in virtually all cases. Part of the reason I order it is because it’s very hard to quantitate physical discipline. What might be considered normal in your family could be different in another family. Someone might look at the same words, allowing reasonable physical discipline, and take that to an extreme no one intended. So it’s altogether simpler, from the court’s point of view, to prohibit physical discipline, which I do in all cases regardless of Michigan Law, and then we don’t get into that. Plus, I want parents to build a relationship with their children where the children respect the parents, not because they have fear of consequences of pain from them, but because of how they see the parents behaving, and that’s possible.” With all due respect, our children *will* see our faithful obedience to the Word of God as our behavior and not violating our conscience or fearing consequences is appropriate. Judge Baird: “I think anyone who has child development background knows that, which I have.⁷⁵ There is current research that indicates that even time outs are damaging for children. So it’s the expectation of this court that parents in this court will develop the ability to raise their children without any physical discipline. So the court doesn’t place children with people it doesn’t trust. And part of how that trust is built between the court is by having orders entered and by the compliance with orders.” Would this pattern resemble how Citizens enter laws by their Elected Representatives which the Government then complies with and respects in order to build trust with its Citizens? It’s absurd for any branch of Government to expect its Citizens to violate their conscience—their Primary Relationship. Fundamentally, that’s what all of our contention with our Government comes down to: it’s all about *Conscience* and fidelity in our Primary Relationships.

We agree that our children are not our *property*—they are the LORD’s—and they, like we, are not the Government’s property. But we, unlike the Government, are charged by Almighty God as their *parents* and our conscience, which is *our property*, bears witness to this fact. We are free to choose to depend upon God for all of our need and place no confidence in our fellow man. We cannot be forced to *bad faith* actions in violation of our own conscience. We cannot be forced by the Government to trust it or its agents. We oppose it *lawfully*.

Primary Relationships injured by Government

The covenants between the Michigan **Department of Health** and Human Services (MDHHS)—including *Child Protective Services (CPS)*—its Medical System, and Family Division do not justify its trespasses upon our Primary Relationships.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) of 1974—pleasant sounding enough—set in motion an inevitable conflict between Parents and a newly-funded “expert” class. Parents are not mentioned in the legislation but their replacement is (e.g. *guardian ad litem*) along with grants to social workers and medical *experts* who set out to prevent, identify and treat child abuse and neglect. Per the Act, “To provide financial assistance for a demonstration program for the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect, to establish a National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, and for other purposes” (emphasis added). We’ll note *Campbell’s Law*,⁷⁶ “The more any quantitative social indicator is used for social decision-making,

⁷⁴ KJV I Timothy 1:5, “Now the end of the commandment is *charity*^{G26} out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:” (emphasis added) *charity* is translated from the Koine Greek word, ^{G26} *agapē*—“affection or benevolence” (Strong’s Concordance). That is *benevolent*, to the *benefit* of all—God, fellow man, and self.

⁷⁵ “...that the opinions of men are not the object of civil government, nor under its jurisdiction; that to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles on supposition of their ill tendency is a dangerous fallacy, which at once destroys all religious liberty, because *he being of course judge of that tendency will make his opinions the rule of judgement, and approve or condemn the sentiments of others only as they shall square with or differ from his own;*” (emphasis added) - Thomas Jefferson, *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom*, January 16, 1786

⁷⁶ Donal T. Campbell (1979). “Assessing the impact of planned social change”. *Evaluation and Program Planning*

the more subject it will be to **corruption pressures** and the more apt it will be to distort and corrupt the social processes it is intended to monitor" (emphasis added). Although an *economic* law, it rightly discerns the gaming of funding and opening the gates to *moral hazards*⁷⁷ and *perverse incentives*.⁷⁸ "The **good sought in unconstitutional legislation is an insidious feature**, because it leads citizens and legislators of good purpose to promote it, without thought of the serious breach it will make in the ark of our covenant, or the harm which will come from breaking down recognized standards." (emphasis added) *Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co.*, 259 U.S. 20 (1922).

MDHHS CPS

Consider the analogy of a plant. First a seed is planted. It takes root, receives nourishment, grows, and becomes fruitful. The cycle should repeat. Sometimes a plant is uprooted and we must ask, "*Why?*" There could be a good reason (e.g. the plant couldn't survive in its original environment or if a plant is injurious⁷⁹) or a bad reason from bad incentives.

Saccharine Euphemisms and Equivocation Fallacies

In order to begin to understand the harm done by MDHHS and CPS, we must look at the terms *saccharine euphemism* and *equivocation fallacy*. A saccharine euphemism is a cloyingly sweet replacement for a term, such as "Replanted" instead of "Uprooted and Traumatized," or "*forever* home" instead of "home," "A *new* Family," and the traffickers' "Gotcha Day." Other euphemisms include terms like "Family Team Meeting," or "Parent Agency Treatment Plan." Equivocation fallacy involves deploying a word or phrase with multiple meanings with the intent to mislead, such as "Your Parental Rights are still intact," "Respondent," or our favorite, "We're seeking reunification of your Family and termination of your Parental Rights at the same time." In our assessment, the title of the *self-declared* child guardians, "Child Protective Services," is both a saccharine euphemism and a *misnomer* since *God's declared* Guardians of children are their own Parents.

Family Team Meetings?

Similarly, Family Team Meetings (FTMs) sound wholesomely collaborative but are, in reality, an assembly of people who are not us—not our Natural Family (i.e. not any of our Primary Relationships)—and *are* people who are not on our *team*. They're people who have their *own* families but claim authority to make decisions for *our* family. The *Case Worker*, a contracted MDHHS CPS agent, controls the invitees and agenda and reports the feigned collaborative outcomes—all while we are absent by choice, since we do not *co-parent* with our Government. In this FTM echo chamber, false statements are affirmed and schemes of division advanced. We recall the initial hearing, before CPS hired Family & Community Services, Inc. (FCS Inc.)—another sweet-sounding entity—to document a *termination* case against us. In good faith, on March 7, 2017, we attended an FTM at the request of MDHHS CPS where a CPS Employee argued about *resurrection* from his own beliefs or the religious beliefs of MDHHS CPS. Our good-faith answers to their questions then appeared the following day in their petition to terminate our parental rights.

Process of Destroying a Family

And thus plays out MDHHS CPS' deceptive process of destroying a Family. First, hold an FTM and take advantage of Citizens who in good faith submit to their Government and answer questions willingly, but wrest all answers into a petition to terminate their Parental Rights. File a petition with Family Division. Hire an agency to rule the Family (e.g. controls all Parenting Time [2 hours per week—*think* about that], supervises, and writes reports for MDHHS CPS. An unelected, subcontracted, private incorporation [i.e. Family & Community Services, Inc.]—not government—has rule over U.S. Citizens prior to trial?) Hold more FTMs to continue to build a case to terminate Parental Rights. Amend the petition for which they've been waiting years to have a trial, incorporating the purchased reports, with approval of the court (Note: The petition read on-record contains innumerable errors. There's no incentive for MDHHS CPS workers to be accurate, especially given such a low bar for the court to take jurisdiction; they already have *temporary* jurisdiction which equates to *temporary termination* of your Parental Rights, right?) The jury reviews a parade of experts on retainer for the Prosecutor or paid directly or indirectly by MDHHS CPS—or salaried in Family Division. Case Workers avoid answering questions by saying they don't know or they weren't the Case Worker then (MDHHS CPS Staff utilizes the same tactic—stating "you'd have to ask the Case Worker," because CPS only supervises a handful of visits. [See transcripts of answers in cross examinations.]). The Prosecutor (counsel for MDHHS CPS) writes the jury instructions and funnels the jurors towards a benign-sounding *jurisdiction*—to save children from the Respondent illth. Jurors are instructed not to consider what Family *Division* will do if the jury awards jurisdiction. Not responsible for jurisdiction, the judge orders termination of Parental Rights—and voilà, Parents and Children are divided on paper. Bad Faith

We notified MDHHS CPS⁸⁰ that, since we learned of their intent to destroy our family, we determined it best not to comply with them. Our stance of no longer complying with our adversarial party was used against us and it only confirmed that MDHHS CPS was operating in bad faith.

⁷⁷ Wikipedia, In economics, a Moral Hazard is a situation where an economic actor has an incentive to increase its exposure to risk because it does not bear the full costs of that risk.

⁷⁸ Wikipedia, A Perverse Incentive is an incentive that has an unintended and undesirable result that is contrary to the intentions of its designers. The **Cobra Effect** is the most direct kind of Perverse Incentive, typically because the incentive unintentionally rewards people for making the issue worse.

⁷⁹ KJV Matthew 15:13 "But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up."

⁸⁰ March 10, 2017, Text to Janette Brown, CPS Investigator

Moral Hazards

It's fascinating to us, in a repugnant sort of way, that our Government thinks it may violate our Primary Relationships, then place our Natural Family under the power of a *non*-governmental organization (i.e. FCS Inc.) found nowhere in our social pact. The *case workers*, similar to all of the CAPTA-funded "experts," acquit themselves of answering to any authority but their own. "Individuals may create moral hazards in job environments. Employees may take less care of office technology like laptops or even incentives like company cars because their employer will pay for them if damaged."⁸¹ How do you think employees care for *people* who are not *their* Primary Relationships? And neither bear the cost when they're damaged. This applies to the entire "Cartel of Family Law"⁸² and not just the case worker. There's an apathetic attitude towards the litigants—different day, different families—but the same employees and colleagues doing Family Division for *salary*.

Perverse Incentives

If Families were whole (e.g. both Natural Parents in a loving environment), then the Family Law Cartel would have no employment. There's at least \$60B⁸³ of Perverse Incentives for breaking Families annually in our nation alone. "4,000 children are being ripped from their parents in American courtrooms every day."⁸⁴ Shame. Federalist 51 "if men were angels," makes it clear that there will be ample supply of men and women willing to take money to do anything. The money from CAPTA federal funds isn't deployed for nothing. Each one of those 4,000 children per day above will be formally reported by the Cartel to the very representatives of the people who bear the actual *inestimable cost* of their destruction, as 1,460,000 children "protected" this year—for even more investment—follow-on funding for the next fiscal year for as long as the funding spigot flows. We've personally heard from Foster Parents, "It's an income," and it infuriates us. It's *not* an income; it's our Family.

How is it that someone outside of our Primary Relationships, outside of our Natural Family, can move MDHHS CPS to petition Family Division to *terminate* our Parental Rights—God-given Natural Rights—and then get preference by that court over the Primary Relationships (i.e. us the Parents) and over *our* preference⁸⁵ that, IF our children cannot be home with us, then let them be with their *paternal* grandparents? Our children were trafficked to the very people who supported⁸⁶ or urged MDHHS CPS to petition for our family's physical division and to terminate our parental rights—and were then *paid* by MDHHS CPS for taking our children. Our Founders considered their Liberty *injured* by tyrants when their interests were not represented on this side of the Atlantic. How much *greater* is the impassable gulf fixed between our Primary Relationships and those without who've injured our Religious Parental Liberty? "No human being is born with a right to rule other human beings."⁸⁷ What about collectively? Is the *collective* permitted intrusion into Citizens' Primary Relationships? It's been our experience that MDHHS CPS will cite laws it claims grants it authority but will not acknowledge any laws that limit its assumed powers, restricts its authority, and forbids its transgressions, like MCL 722.127 and 722.634, the *Religious Freedom and Restoration Act*, or the *Opinions* of this Court.

MDHHS CPS has an annual budget of approximately \$33.4B; 72% of that is Federal Funds.⁸⁸ *The Foster Parent, Guardianship, and Adoption Daily Subsidy Rate* is \$17.24 per child. Multiplied by our four children in foster care, this amount adds up to >\$25k a year which doesn't include tax credits for our children, mileage reimbursements, fuel cards, and other stipends. You'll note that we filed this petition *in forma pauperis*...contending with the government on <\$19K per year. This is about one fifth of the compensation Josh was earning before criminal charges were filed in September 2021 by the prosecutor representing MDHHS CPS. We do not receive nor want any welfare money from our Government. We want *our* Family.

Human Trafficking and Shopping Convenience

Children are not responsible (e.g. *Vacatur Laws*) for this Amazon-like website for shopping children where strangers can browse children for who they want. Children have been taken from their parents—who are charged by God for them—and shipped to people with no Primary Relationship, perhaps no relationships at all, with the child. The fact that children are adaptive and resilient does not justify crimes against the Family that place them in situations where they must be adaptive and resilient.

Office of Children's Ombudsman

On March 8, 2017, the very day the MDHHS CPS' petition was denied citing MCL 722.634, the Office of Children's Ombudsman⁸⁹ entered the fray, which led to "legal analysis" for MDHHS CPS to file their second petition. This was a coordination of parties.

⁸¹ October 12, 2022, *All About Moral Hazard: 3 Examples of Moral Hazard*, <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/what-is-moral-hazard>

⁸² Greg Ellis (2021), *The Respondent: Exposing the Cartel of Family Law* (We challenge anyone to simply read and *consider* the Chapter Titles alone. Several resonated with us.)

⁸³ Greg Ellis (2021), *The Respondent: Exposing the Cartel of Family Law*, p.XV

⁸⁴ Greg Ellis (2021), *The Respondent: Exposing the Cartel of Family Law*, p.XV

⁸⁵ See March 31, 2017, *2nd Preliminary Hearing Transcript*

⁸⁶ MDHHS CPS met with Glenn and Rebecca Kerr on March 6, 2017, planning to take *our* Children, but their 1st petition was denied on March 8, 2017, due to MCL 722.634.

⁸⁷ Thomas G. West, *The Real American Founding: A Conversation*, <https://online.hillsdale.edu/landing/real-american-founding>

⁸⁸ February 15, 2022, *MDHHS: FY23 Budget Executive Recommendation*, p. 8

⁸⁹ Benchbook, see March 8, 2017, email regarding MCL 722.634, From: Don Owens, Michigan Court of Appeals (Ret.), To: Tobin Miller, Office of Children's Ombudsman and Megan Mertens, Referee, 30th Circuit Court (Note: Tobin Miller produced the *Child Protective Proceedings Benchbook*, Third Edition, *A Guide to Abuse & Neglect*, Michigan Judicial Institute©)

CAPTA and MCL 722.634

Like the federal funds to MDHHS CPS, CAPTA is inextricably linked to MCL 722.634.⁹⁰ Vivek S. Sankaran, who represented us before the Michigan Supreme Court, noted in our January 21, 2019, brief: “The legislative history of MCL 722.634, which was enacted because of a requirement by the federal government in the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act of 1974 (“CAPTA”), further supports this interpretation. The regulations developed for CAPTA by the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare required states to enact a religious exemption to receive federal child welfare funding.⁶ In drafting this requirement, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare noted: “It is not the intent of the Committee that a parent or guardian legitimately practicing his religious beliefs who thereby does not provide specific medical treatment for a child is for that reason alone considered to be a negligent parent. To clarify further, **no parent** or guardian **who in good faith is providing to a child treatment solely by spiritual means such as prayer** ...shall for that reason alone be considered to have neglected the child. (emphasis added).⁷

⁶ Michigan enacted MCL 722.634 in 1975, a year after CAPTA was passed. 1975 PA 238.

⁷ Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Program, 48 Fed Reg 3698, 3699 (Jan 26, 1983) (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 93-685, at 4-5 (1973)).” (emphasis added)

As a prescient dampener to the Liberty threats posed by the CAPTA debate, Michigan enacted MCL 722.127⁹¹ in 1973. Twenty years later, the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act was enacted even further protecting U.S. Citizens’ Liberty. MDHHS CPS is using *Federal* resources to condemn Parents for praying to God alone for the healing for their children.

Even *if* Congress intended to delegate such authority in CAPTA—which we are convinced they did not—is Congress permitted to violate the Constitution via CAPTA? Consider *West Virginia v. EPA*, 597 U. S. ____ (2022) equivalents: first, HHS is reengineering the American Nuclear Family via a radical agenda of Family Division; second, HHS wedged itself by state proxy into our Family and held our children hostage to compel us to place faith in the *HHS*-certified Medical System; and third, HHS far exceeded its CAPTA-intended role by assuming authority for itself to terminate natural, God-given Parental Rights, and to place Parents on a Centralized Database⁹² for Child Abuse without them having ever been convicted of any crime [Appendices E.32., E.33., E.66.]. Under the pretense of “Child Protectors,” HHS CPS enjoys unbridled power to terrorize Children and Parents by breaking their Families—and Family Division Courts sanction it. MDHHS CPS and Family Division are indeed a mighty draft team—pulling towards despotism.

CPS and Police

After observing the devastation of totalitarian socialism—both *national right* and *international left*—in the Second World War, Winston Churchill warned of similar socialism in the west, stating, “They would have to fall back on some form of gestapo, no doubt very humanely directed in the first instance.”⁹³ After observing how CPS formed with Police, we fully understand what he meant. All our lives, we’ve been taught to dial 911 in the event of a kidnapping. On [REDACTED], 2018, and January 1, 2022, the police accompanied the kidnappers to our door. Police are the overwhelming *force* element for the CPS abduction of children. *Unfit Parents?*

Returning to the plant analogy, who determines “fitness” of a plot of land for the plants? The agent paid to uproot them—“save them”—from the plot they’re in? What does MDHHS CPS say in their petition—what are the allegations that we are *unfit* parents? What are the facts? What does the law say? In our case, the vast majority of social workers were not Natural Parents. What “parenting classes” are we U.S. Citizens required by our Government to take in order to raise our own children?

Let us consider the CPS arguments that we are unfit. First, the petition presents the argument of *Criminality*, yet we have not been convicted of any crime. We also have a history and tradition of a *presumption of innocence* until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. It’s taken years for the Prosecutor’s Office to decide what to even charge us with, and only after they hired a law firm from without our County Government was their adopted legal theory designed. Second, *Abuse*. Again, we have not been convicted of any crime, merely charged. The same prosecutor who is representing *CPS* (and *not* “the People of the State of Michigan” as claimed), charged us with crimes only *after* the prosecutor had engaged with CPS. The timing of the charging decision is curious, too, following our interlocutory appeal to have MCL 722.634 included as a jury instruction. MCL 722.634, which is inextricably linked to the CAPTA Federal Law, states “A parent or guardian legitimately practicing his religious beliefs who thereby does not provide specified medical treatment for a child, for that reason alone shall not be considered a negligent parent or guardian. This section shall not preclude a court from ordering the provision of medical services or nonmedical remedial services recognized by state law to a child where the child’s health requires it nor does it abrogate the responsibility of a person

⁹⁰ MCL 722.634 *Religious beliefs*. Sec. 14. “A parent or guardian **legitimately practicing his religious beliefs** who thereby does not provide specified medical treatment for a child, for that reason alone **shall not be considered a negligent parent** or guardian. This section shall not preclude a court from ordering the provision of medical services or nonmedical remedial services recognized by state law to a child where the child’s health requires it nor does it abrogate the responsibility of a person required to report child abuse or neglect.” (emphasis added)

⁹¹ MCL 722.127 *Objection on religious grounds to medical examination, immunization, or treatment of child*. Sec. 17. “Nothing in the rules adopted pursuant to this act shall authorize or require medical examination, immunization, or treatment for any child **whose parent objects thereto on religious grounds**.” (emphasis added)

⁹² MDHHS CPS claims you may appeal to them (Judicial) their action (Executive), based on their definitions/regulations/“law?” (Legislative). We did not appeal through their **illegitimate process**—consolidating powers that they do not possess. We chose to appeal to this Court, the legitimate Judicial Branch of our Nation.

⁹³ June 4, 1945, Radio Address

required to report child abuse or neglect.” CPS argues that our religious beliefs in practice (i.e. our faith) for the divine healing of our daughter AJP by Resurrection is “*mental*” abuse. They’ve also repeatedly implied that our Biblical use of loving correction in the form of physical discipline is abuse. This court should know that our first two sons received full body scans within 72 hours of AJP’s passing (by CPS request)—and there were no issues per the discharge papers. The only argument they have is our legitimate practice of our religious beliefs for divine healing. Healing is a covenant promise in Jesus Christ the Physician. What evidence is there against us besides our faith—our religious beliefs—and no *faith* in the HHS Medical System?

Foster Parent Fitness

We reported every concern regarding the foster parents’ care—or lack thereof—of our children because these are the licensed “parents” approved by MDHHS CPS and we are not. The case is fat with documented issues, but FCS Inc., acting on the authority of MDHHS CPS, repeatedly condoned behavior such as leaving children unattended in vehicles, leaving out adult prescription medications that were ingested by our son, improperly transporting children, moldy sippy cups, unexplained marks, unclean children, documented injuries, etc. All of these events occurred to our children in foster care—not our care—but foster parents enjoy immunity granted by MDHHS CPS because they’re on *team termination*.

MDHHS CPS and Religious Beliefs

MDHHS CPS has zero respect for Religious Liberty and aided the foster parents in enrolling our children in a religious education and out-of-state religious seminars against our explicit preemptive objections⁹⁴ and even reminding them of the law.

Our faith for our daughter’s healing by resurrection was cited as inappropriate conversation⁹⁵ by FCS Inc. and at the behest of the MDHHS CPS Foster Parents, Glenn and Becky Kerr of *Berean Baptist Church of Grand Rapids Kent County Mich.*, who do not share *our* faith. That’s their business. Our faith, however, is not the concern of any MDHHS CPS contracted agent, nor is what Scripture we share with our children when they ask us questions about where AJP is, or our faith for her healing by the Resurrection and Life himself: Jesus Christ—including the Gospel account of Jairus’ daughter being raised from death in this temporal life.⁹⁶ Please note that all of these trespasses occurred before our Parental Rights had been *unconstitutionally* terminated.

At our first preliminary hearing, March 8, 2017, our counsel Mr. Sam Reedy stated, “The law requires that—that your agency render reasonable efforts to correct whatever deficit there is?” Jannette Brown, MDHHS CPS Investigator answered, “Correct.” Mr. Reedy then asked, “**Do you have a service to change someone’s religious beliefs?**” (emphasis added) Ms. Brown answered, “I am not aware of any.” Mr. Reedy asked, “Then what is the long range plan?” Ms. Brown answered, “Well our petition is a termination petition so we’re seeking termination of parental rights.”⁹⁷

Stating the obvious again, children should not be taken hostage by government to compel parents to violate their conscience. CPS did not respect any of our Primary Relationships but did regard nearly any secondary relationship—or of no relation or acquaintance at all. It was clear to us that anyone in the world could see *our* children—except us *their* parents.

All three Primary Relationships in Agapē will Endure *any* Onslaught

CPS Investigator Janette Brown, despite only observing us with our children several times in our years of parenting time, stated under oath to the court at the dispositional hearing on December 29, 2022, that our bonds with our children had “deteriorated.” She made this assertion despite prior years of case workers’ testimony and the GAL’s to the contrary and despite never asking us or our children if our bonds of affection had deteriorated. Ms. Brown had not seen us with our children for years, but we had been seeing our children regularly prior to our first trial. Assistant Prosecutor Laurie Freed: “Do you believe there is love, affection, or emotional ties between the parents and the children?” CPS Investigator Janette Brown: “At this time, they — they have not had a lot of recent interactions with the children. I — I guess I don’t know how to — due to them not being with their parents for an extended period of time, um, that is definitely, I think, deteriorated.” MDHHS CPS is pursuing termination and is also the *expert* on our third Primary Relationship?

Diana Piland, MQP, JUP, AJP, VLP, SSP’s paternal grandmother, who supervised significantly more hours of our parenting time than the numerous case workers, noted, “While doing respite care in late 2017 or in 2018 for [MQP] and [JUP], I took the boys to Culver’s in our truck. [MQP] and [JUP] were in the backseat in their car seats talking to me about various things. [MQP] talked about Grandma (Becky Kerr) taking them to someone’s house to stay while she was gone somewhere and he said he didn’t like it. He went on to say he tells people he wants to go home (in Lansing) but no one listens to him. Both boys repeatedly asked to go home and be with their Mom and Dad whenever we took care of them doing respite care for Glenn and Becky Kerr.”

Biological is the antonym to adoptive but biology only refers to the physical flesh, not the spirit—which is the greater aspect of a parent or their child. Adoptive parents are non-biological and without natural, *spiritual* bonds of affection. If a non-biological person is charged by Almighty God to step in to the role of a parent (e.g. Joseph with Jesus Christ), then God is able to grant spiritual bonds of affection. As our children’s parents, we are not only biologically but also spiritually connected to them. We are

⁹⁴ October 22, 2018, Letter to the State of Michigan and Its Contracted Agents (Exhibit at Trial) [Appendix E.34. and E.35.]

⁹⁵ January 28, 2019, Letter to Agency and GAL, Re: Inappropriate Conversations and Appropriating Faith (Exhibit at Trial) [Appendix E.39.]

⁹⁶ KJV Mark 5:22-43 and Luke 8:41-56

⁹⁷ March 8, 2017, Preliminary Hearing Transcript

not adoptive, nor are we only biological, *we* are Our Childrens' Parents. Again, **this is not a custody case between two parents.** This is a custody case between *both* Parents and our Government.

Natural spiritual bonds of affection are eternally greater than any physical connection. Our children—we're certain—are already seeking⁹⁸ their Natural Parents and Natural Family—they have been since they were taken by our Government despite the lies they've been told about why we cannot physically be with them at this time. They're intelligent and quick studies; they'll identify the incoherence of the falsehoods they've been given and it won't satisfy them, so they *will* seek the Truth. It is our duty to make certain that when they find us, they find both of us—married and faithful to each other, faithful to God, and eternally faithful to them—with our natural bonds of affection still fully intact as they remembered, and even more—because love feels keenly in absence. They'll be rewarded for their search when they learn the whole truth about these cases and how we remained faithful to God, to each other, to them, and to our country and our laws with a good conscience and faith unfeigned. And God will reward our Family.

Injury

Our constant prayer to God Almighty has been that he will not only maintain but also strengthen our bond with our children despite time apart. Nevertheless, the injury caused by MDHHS CPS, the medical system, and Family Division is acute.

The quotes below were gathered from only a handful of the hundreds of parenting time visits held since our children were removed from our care and demonstrate our Primary Relationship with our children: "[MQP] said he was worried about not seeing mom again until next week," Rebekah Kinney, 2/16/18. "Appropriate conversation throughout visit. Parents engaged kids throughout visit. No concerns noted," Lisa Molloy, 5/24/18. "Both boys loved being around parents and loved the activities," Kenneth Laetz, 8/6/18. "[MQP] started crying at the end of the visit because he didn't want to leave," Rachel Piland 11/19/18. "The children were excited to see Mom and Dad. Lots of excitement and smiles," Diana Piland 1/16/19. "[JUP] said he didn't want to leave but boys picked up Match box cars and got ready to go," Lauren Phelps 3/12/19. "Lots of laughter and happiness had by all. Everyone enjoyed each other," Cassie Young, 4/15/19. "Happily (smiles) came to parents, wanted to play/interact... responded positively to parents' interactions, nurturing, encouragement, and redirection...[VLP] is able to recognize each person of the family by name," Alicia Mattiuzzo, 2/4/2020.

Contrast these interactions with the following account written by a child counsellor who never observed our Family: "I have been seeing [MQP] and [JUP] individually since January of 2021. They have made progress connecting with the couple they are with, whom they now call mom and dad. At first [MQP] would not call them mom and dad but has in the last few months...[JUP] used to hide behind the drapes in my office for the first 5-10 minutes and would go back to them throughout the session. He is not doing that nearly as much. Just a little in the beginning of the session[.] This show[s] to be that he is gaining... more attachment to me and to his 'mom' who is in the room." —An excerpt of the professional opinion of Dorothy Wintz, M.A. L.P., Counseling Care, Burnsville, MN.

Ms. Wintz' *opinion* was solicited and purchased by MDHHS CPS directly or via their paid agency, Family and Community Services, Inc., in June 2021 for a justification of why parenting time should not be reinstated despite Josh and Rachel Piland's parental rights being restored again on paper. Note: she never once spelled our eldest son's name correctly in her letter.

MDHHS Delay of Jury Trials

In 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, when her Executive Order was ruled *unconstitutional* by our Judicial Branch, pointed to one of her reporting Executive Branch departments, MDHHS, and continued essentially the same unconstitutional policy—as unto "a higher medical authority." Per their own Press Release⁹⁹ "Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon today issued an Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 restricting gathering sizes, requiring face coverings in public spaces and places limitations on bars and other venues. The order follows the Michigan Supreme Court decision on Friday, Oct 2, that invalidated COVID-19 related executive orders. Today's order relies on authorities that were first enacted after the Spanish Flu of 1918, and that were not at issue in the Michigan Supreme Court's decision. 'When it comes to fighting COVID-19, we are all in this together. We need Michiganders everywhere to do their part by wearing masks and practicing safe physical distancing so we can keep our schools and small businesses open and protect the brave men and women serving on the front lines of this crisis,' said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. 'The epidemic order that Director Gordon issued today is an important step to protect Michiganders across the state from the spread of COVID-19. Let's all mask up and stay safe.' Under MCL 333.2253, if the MDHHS director determines that control of an epidemic is necessary to protect the public health, the director by emergency order may prohibit the gathering of people for any purpose and may establish procedures to be followed during the epidemic to insure continuation of essential public health services and enforcement of health laws."

⁹⁸ It's so common for children to seek their Natural Parents that the case worker records *physical characteristics* so the children may find their parents later. Those responsible for their family's division are sometimes confronted by children as well. Their *spirit's* thirst for truth and justice drives them.

⁹⁹ MDHHS Press Release, Issued October 5, 2020

The *Hegelian* MDHHS Emergency Order states, “Michigan law imposes on the [MDHHS] a duty to continually and diligently endeavor to ‘prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health,’ and gives the Department ‘general supervision of the interests of the health and life of the people of this state.’ MCL 333.2221. MDHHS may ‘[e]xercise authority and promulgate rules to safeguard properly the public health; to prevent the spread of diseases and the existence of sources of contamination; and to implement and carry out the powers and duties vested by law in the department.’ MCL 333.2226(d). The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. **It is caused by a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans and easily spread from person to person**”¹⁰⁰ (emphasis added). Might the Wuhan Institute of Virology lab¹⁰¹ where Dr. Shi Zenghli (aka “bat lady”), who published their gain of function work to make *novel* coronaviruses that are more transferrable to humans, have anything to do with a “new strain” easily spread from “person to person”? This doesn’t bolster our trust in literally manmade “*medicine(?)*.” We bring all of this up because MDHHS’ rules regarding this manmade medical disaster—*not force majeure*—is what delayed our criminal trial. The same MDHHS *party* petitioning to terminate our parental rights also has the power to shut down the Judicial Branch and our access to justice for our civil and criminal cases? *Pact sunt servanda*. Then, when our parental rights were legally intact, MDHHS CPS cited *those years delayed by their orders* to argue we have not had contact with our children for such an extended period of time that it’s not in our children’s best interest to have time with their Parents. This is an Executive Branch injury added to the Judicial Branch injury of unconstitutionally erring by denying our request for the jury instruction with our name literally written on it.¹⁰² This, too, did not build trust in our relationship with our Government.

Medical System

Without judging the motives nor intents of any of its practitioners, mankind’s Medical System is inherently flawed. Humans in a fallible, limited, compulsory, Secular Humanistic system pressured for profit may *intend* to save lives, but cannot address the root cause of all sickness, disease, and death: sin.¹⁰³ Human beings are flawed. The systems they create are flawed. Medicine and Law are a *practice*—not a perfection. In general, we Americans are checked and balanced to prohibit too much power in anyone’s hands, including the majority—even if that majority is hailed *expert*.

Standard Medical Care?

The prosecution kept referring to mankind’s Medical System as “Standard,” which is ironic, since standard medical care began with *Standard* Oil monopolist John D. Rockefeller’s “Medicine Men”¹⁰⁴ model, which influenced bodies like the American Medical Association (AMA) and others to legitimize a uniformed allopathic professional class prescribing a petroleum-based pharmacology only considered *standard* by some, since the last century. Certainly not a standard of our Founding.

By the way, what’s *standard now*?¹⁰⁵ Which discipline or industry? The Medical System is certainly not *our* standard. It’s not *God’s* standard. God’s standard is Jesus and God is our standard—and no system of men lives up to him. God is our health care provider and our health plan is Jesus Christ, our “all in all.”¹⁰⁶

“Mankind’s *standard* Medical System” is the Department of Health’s standard—the same entity petitioning to terminate our parental rights for “medical neglect,” that is, neglecting their Medical System. It’s blatantly self-serving and self-preserving to criminalize any dissent—that is, criminalize not trusting *its* “standard medical care” and *its* licensed practitioners. Yet few in our case acknowledge that even experts disagree, can be wrong, and routinely error. Medicine Men are still *men*.

Reno v. Flores, 507 U. S. 292 (1993) “when the parents ...of that child are nonexistent or unavailable”—please note that *we* very much exist and have been available—“The best interests of the child,” a venerable phrase familiar from divorce proceedings, is a proper and feasible criterion for making the decision as to which of two parents will be accorded custody. But it is not traditionally the sole criterion—much less the sole *constitutional* criterion—for other, less narrowly channeled judgments involving children, where their interests conflict in varying degrees with the interests of others. Even if it were shown, for example, that a particular couple desirous of adopting a child would *best* provide for the child’s welfare, the child would nonetheless not be removed from the custody of its parents so long as they were providing for the child *adequately*. See *Quilloin v. Walcott*, 434 U. S. 246, 255 (1978). Similarly, ‘the best interests of the child’ is not the legal standard that governs parents’ or guardians’ exercise of their custody: So long as certain minimum requirements of child care are met, the interests of the child may be subordinated to the interests of other children, or indeed even to the interests of the parents or guardians themselves. See, e. g., *R. C. N. v. State*, 141 Ga. App. 490, 491, 233 S. E. 2d 866, 867 (1977). ‘The best interests of the child’ is likewise not an absolute and exclusive constitutional criterion for the government’s exercise of the custodial responsibilities that it undertakes, which must be reconciled with many other responsibilities.” (emphasis added)

¹⁰⁰ MDHHS Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order, Issued January 22, 2021

¹⁰¹ Joshua Philipp, Investigative Reporter, Epoch Times / NTD, (April 7, 2020) *CROSSROADS: The first documentary movie on CCP virus, Tracking Down the Origin of the Wuhan Coronavirus* [start at 18:55] <https://youtu.be/3bXWGxhd7ic>

¹⁰² Appendix E.48. - *Michigan Model Civil Jury Instructions, M Civ JI 97.43A Legitimate Practice of Religious Beliefs*, Chapter 97, p.56, Note on use: *In Re Piland*

¹⁰³ KJV Romans 5:12a “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;” Also see Genesis 3 contrasted with Matthew 4 and Luke 4.

¹⁰⁴ E. Richard Brown (1979), *Rockefeller Medicine Men: Medicine and Capitalism in America*

¹⁰⁵ Thomas S. Kuhn (1962), *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

¹⁰⁶ KJV Ephesians 1:23b

Fallible

In 2011, Dr. Atul Gawande wrote *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right*, because the Medical System was not getting things right. He points out the sheer complexity of one unique individual patient and their own complex history of choices, genetics, situation, stress, habits, etc. No medical professional possesses all knowledge and even if all *known* knowledge is available, who is the one expert of all the expertises that can rightly interpret, diagnose, and then apply that knowledge in the right sequence without creating unintended side effects, collateral damage, or death—by therapy or *medical error*? Medical error by their own knowledge *today* does not include what will be considered a *premodern medicine* error by future generations. Standard medical protocol applied to every patient, like the “one size fits all” in 2020 from militarized top down directives rather than acknowledging the complexity of each individual patient, does not build trust from individual patients. Furthermore, that claim of the health of public—at the expense of the individual patient—has been done before. Dr. Aaron Kheriaty,¹⁰⁷ a former Medical Ethics Professor, UC Irvine, studied the Weimar Republic’s Constitution and a health clause seized upon by Nazi successors to justify—in the name of the public health—their medical crimes against humanity. Dr. Kheriaty was fired from his post for challenging the *medical ethics* of requiring *experimental* injectables for everyone without consideration for each individual patient’s history or their personal beliefs.

Limitations

Both in terms of knowledge and capacity, mankind’s Medical System cannot help everyone. 2020 lockdowns—not *quarantines*—were to protect the “health heroes” of the Medical System who feared too many people coming to them for health. That’s a capacity issue. Why must we place confidence in a system that cannot save all? The Lord is Savior to all who come to him—even physically healing all that were sick.¹⁰⁸ What happens when the Medical System is overwhelmed? Again in 2020, A “standard” Medical System in Michigan, the Henry Ford Health System, published a document outlining a hierarchy list of who would receive life-saving treatment and who would not. Can MDHHS certified practitioners save everyone?

Compulsory Participation

If mankind’s Medical System is the *best* option, then why don’t *we* want it? Shouldn’t citizens be free to choose it and even inspired to choose it—if it is indeed the most excellent health care offered to mankind?

While at a CPS-ordered medical visit and with a foster parent present, Cherry Hill Medical Center in Grand Rapids called CPS on us for our skepticism of their Medical System because every agent in their system is a mandatory reporter to MDHHS.

Every Citizen has been required to buy health insurance, or, be taxed for health insurance, but can our Government force its citizens to use it? Does every citizen want exposure to medical error which is at least the third leading cause of death?¹⁰⁹

As a Marine veteran, Josh has Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care Benefits and coverage—but will not use it. He can’t because of conscience; he knows too many accounts of malpractice and scandals of the VA Medical System. Can our government make us have confidence in a system in which we have no confidence?

Is Health Profitable?

“Health” isn’t the right label for Health Care, or MDHHS, because health isn’t the real goal. Healthy, independent people are unprofitable to the Medical System. Nor do they require dictates or programs from large bureaucracies to be healthy.

Perverse Incentives

“Paying medical professionals and reimbursing insured patients for treatment but not prevention encourages medical conditions to be ignored until treatment is required.” (emphasis added) “Under the American Medicare program, doctors are reimbursed at a higher rate if they administer more expensive medications to treat a condition.”¹¹⁰

Health Stigma

Health is a stigma in a population where the majority of people are fearfully dependent upon a pharmaceutical regimen. In *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville warned America of the *tyranny of the majority* and its treatment of unpopular minorities once the majority had made up its mind on an issue. We saw this again in 2020 when the unvaccinated were demonized. They trusted their own judgment and God-given immune systems more than Big Pharma. We’re considered criminal dissenters for not entrusting our children to the Medical System. In fact, a Medical System *doctor* might label us as *mentally* unfit—for a fee, of course. CPS and judges wanted us to get psychological evaluations from the MDHHS Medical System that claims authority to declare us unfit for refusing it.

¹⁰⁷ Aaron Kheriaty (2022), *The New Abnormal: The Rise of the Biomedical Security State*

¹⁰⁸ KJV Matthew 8:15-17 “And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.” (emphasis added) (Note: Jesus did not compel the Roman Prefect to place the people under lockdown.)

¹⁰⁹ Makary MA, Daniel M. *Medical error-the third leading cause of death in the US*. BMJ. 2016 May 3;353:i2139. doi: 10.1136/bmj.i2139. PMID: 27143499.

¹¹⁰ Wikipedia, Perverse Incentive Examples

Department of Health

A moral hazard exists when the government agency that defines medical care also licenses medical providers. Colloquially, this might be called “having a horse in the race.” Do you ever root against your team? MDHHS CPS calls the doctors and the doctors—that is, “mandatory reporters” exempt from consequence for inaccurate or even false reports about parents—call CPS with devastating real consequences to Natural Families. We are just one family. How many families has CPS terrorized across our nation since CAPTA funded them? How many children have been traumatized in separation from their parents? And how many have financially profited from these “child protective services”?

Child Protection Law states that parents must provide adequate medical care for their children, but who determines the definitions of “medical care” and “adequate”? Is it MDHHS CPS? Do they recognize *Christ the Healer*?¹¹¹

Oracles

MDHHS CPS, the Prosecutor, the GAL, the Judge, and the Case Workers point to the Medical System, despite what the Law says. We’ve seen instant obedience to the expert class and an attitude that asks, “Who is more *expert* than a Medical Doctor?” Didn’t we see Dr. Anthony Fauci¹¹² in *front* of the President of the United States of America nearly every day for two years? We’ve seen people believe the word of experts like it’s the Gospel—and it’s not. We’ve read the Gospels and Jesus commands, “Have faith in God.”¹¹³ We’ve also seen people treat the Gospel like it’s the word of men—and it’s not; it’s the Word of God. “Thus saith the LORD; **Cursed be the man that trusteth in man**, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD”¹¹⁴ (emphasis added).

Secular Humanism and Scientism

Which morals govern the board of a godless Medical System? We don’t believe the Medical *System* is on your side; there’s simply too much money at stake.

Neither scientism nor secular humanist medical care is the established religion of the United States of America. Or is secular humanism our Government’s established religion? Do we have a priest class which can scribble a note making someone mentally unfit due to their “religiosity”?¹¹⁵ New terms from “on high”¹¹⁶ could be used to discredit anyone. New disciplines are invented to *prove* anything scientifically for those who fund their research and the sophistry continues until it collapses when the fraud is known. If it is, even in part, a *belief system* with a sacred temple (e.g. clinic, hospital) of a hierarchical priest class, then it’s part religion—and has no standing with a citizen whose faith exalts *the Physician’s Word* above the report of all other physicians of men.

Man’s medical system is a religion: who cares about the outcome as long as a doctor is sought? The state only cares that we solicit the MDHHS Medical System. This, too, is a conflict of interest since the state holds all licensing authority over doctors and makes money off HHS “healthcare.”

A doctor from Sparrow Hospital testified that she would have liked to get our *parental consent* before performing a complete blood exchange transfusion on VLP as a newborn, but she couldn’t reach us. When asked what she would have done if she had been able to reach us but we denied our consent to treat, she said she would have obtained permission from the hospital’s ethics board to go ahead with her procedures—against the Parents’ wishes. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why we don’t solicit the Medical System. Parents versus physicians is at issue. Parents are charged by Almighty God and physicians can be purchased with a charge card. Parents are not recognized in the Medical System [see D.2. Relationship Figures].

The AMA endorses abortion¹¹⁷ which is not “health” care. It’s not the death of a child by natural causes; it’s factual murder and mass murder for profit. These are the bodies of innocent murdered babies processed for “injectable treatments”¹¹⁸ of the Medical System for a fee from the wicked who fund it. Despite the ICP’s attempts to label us as *child murderers*, we don’t shed innocent blood.

The Prosecutor and MDHHS CPS argue that it’s child abuse if you don’t have a *conviction* to seek MDHHS’s Medical System for your children. This is where Conscience and *reason* must come into focus. The Prosecutor and MDHHS do not acknowledge Christ as the Physician. The only physicians they’ll recognize are ones that MDHHS authorizes, directly or via their authorized Medical System schools. However, we do recognize the Author of all medical authority on the human body is the Creator of it and, more importantly, of the human spirit. Christ’s *blood* and *body* were sacrificed for the wholeness of both. Consider communion—it is two parts for the dual nature of man. No physician certified from MDHHS claims they can resurrect a fallen spirit or our daughter AJP—but Jesus Christ does.

¹¹¹ F.F. Bosworth (1924), *Christ the Healer*

¹¹² Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (2021), *The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health*

¹¹³ KJV Mark 11:22 “And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.**” (emphasis added)

¹¹⁴ KJV Jeremiah 17:5

¹¹⁵ February 24, 2020, Judge Richard Garcia *Opinion* regarding our faith for the resurrection of our daughter AJP

¹¹⁶ American Psychiatric Association (2013), *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fifth Edition (DSM-5-TR™)

¹¹⁷ <https://www.lifenews.com/2023/01/31/pro-life-doctors-slam-american-medical-association-for-promoting-abortion/>

¹¹⁸ <https://rozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/06.02.21-warp-speed-vaccines-June.pdf>

Parent Agency Treatment Plan

A *Parent Agency Treatment Plan*—it even sounds like a medical prescription—is when the case worker practices some *family medicine* and prescribes cutting off parenting time and separation of children from their parents. It's certainly "treatment" from the case worker's parent agency: MDHHS CPS.

Our Governments' Medical System *Authority Bias*

We believe U.S. Citizens have a Right to literally *face* their accusers. Citizens ought to have that same right in Family Division where Natural Rights—where Fundamental Liberty—is in jeopardy. We shouldn't be faceless, nor should we be masked like bandits. Our jurors and counsel ought to have access to sufficient oxygen to do their jobs—and do them well—whether listening or speaking. Masks were required by the court, except when speaking (e.g. on the stand), for many of our post-lockdown hearings. This affects a person's ability to connect emotionally with another spirit. Non-conformity to the mask mandate is punished. This practice by our government enhanced bias towards the authority of the MDHHS Medical System.

Child Counsellor

A "Child Counselor" in Burnsville, Minnesota, at *Counseling Care*, named Dorothy Wintz, on retainer with MDHHS CPS, wrote a letter (circa July 28, 2021) for the CPS Caseworker to block our Parenting Time after our first trial was set aside (i.e. due to Judge Richard Garcia unconstitutionally erring by denying our request for the MCL 722.634 jury instruction).

Child Counsellor? Who is this person outside of our family that is selling her voice to keep our family divided—who has this kind of power over U.S. Citizens? The letter to Ms. Pennington ends with "Let me know if this is sufficient for what you need." Remember the same MDHHS CPS who is petitioning to terminate our Parental Rights, which are fully and legally intact at this time, is paying this Child Counselor to write the letter. We cannot express our anger. The letter transcripts also state, "They attend church." Our Children are again being indoctrinated by foster parents in a religion that is not *our* family's faith. This is meant to be one of the loudest exclamatory sentences we can write—but no characters on the keyboard can communicate our heart.

Ms. Wintz advised that the children can't see their parents because they're calling the foster parents "Mom" and "Dad," while their actual Mom and Dad have their Parental Rights legally intact, but are being physically prevented from seeing their own children.

Our Children's **Counsellor**¹¹⁹ is Jesus Christ. At "Neglect Pretrial" on July 28, 2021, Assistant Prosecutor Laurie Freed questioned the witness, Jennifer Pennington, "Ms. Pennington, you are the Foster Care Worker in this case is that correct?" Ms. Pennington answered, "That is correct." Ms. Freed, "And you've had an opportunity to speak with the counselor in this matter, is that correct?" Ms. Pennington, "That is correct." Ms. Freed, "And [Ms. Wintz] also authored a letter to the Court and to the parties in regards to her recommendations, is that correct?" Ms. Pennington, "Yes. That is correct." Ms. Freed, "In speaking with her, um, did she give you any recommendations in regards to whether parenting time should resume, whether it be video or in person?" Ms. Pennington, "Yes. She stated that her recommendations was that, um, until the cases were settled, uh, she thought it would be detrimental to the children if we did either in person or via video visitations." Ms. Freed, "Okay. And did she give a reasoning?" Ms. Pennington, "She believed that, uh, the—the children would digress if, um, if they did have parenting time, um, either way. They had struggled with some aggressive behavior and bedwetting." Family Division has caused trauma to our children by physically dividing our family and then attributes their actions' consequences to us, in preventing reunification of our family. Our children have been harmed by division from their real Mom and Dad—not reunification. Ms. Pennington added, "... and since being in therapy that has, um, improved greatly." This claim of "improvement" was made by Ms. Wintz, the person who is paid by the Petitioner for this "therapy." Ms. Pennington continued, "that would, um, set the children back if another change was to occur. Additional to that, she stated that she felt it would be detrimental. Also, because it would be, I think, their fourth transition in two years, if they were to have to move placements again." Ms. Wintz's letter states, "Then if the parents are convicted the children would go back to this family, yet another transition." That's a pretty big hypothetical without any presumption of innocence.

Child Abuse Pediatrician?

The ICP, on behalf of MDHHS CPS, hired "Child Abuse Pediatrician" Sarah Brown to testify against us in both the criminal and the civil cases. Just like a police vehicle bearing the words "Crime Scene Investigation" announces to the whole neighborhood that a *crime* has occurred, *Child Abuse Pediatrician* announces that a child has been *abused* to those swayed by authority bias because the jurors expect a Child Abuse Pediatrician: (1) only to be called in events of actual child abuse; and (2) to possess infallibility in her field. The ICP only selected those witnesses and jury members who favored their desired outcome. Consider the conflict of interest when one testifies in support of *her own profession*: a doctor is the hired "expert" on whether or not it is child abuse not to go to a *doctor*? The same medical industry we refuse to hire claims the authority to declare us unfit for not hiring them? The Medical Examiner listed our daughter AJP's manner of death as *Natural*,¹²⁰ so what child abuse?

¹¹⁹ KJV Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (emphasis added)

¹²⁰ Appendix E.6. AJP - Certificate of Death

When asked about the discord between the Pilands having given birth to two healthy boys before AJP and the diagnosis of Hemolytic Disease of the Newborn, rather than admit potential fallibility of her diagnosis, Dr. Sarah Brown slandered the character of Rachel Piland by insinuating she had committed adultery: "...we can't assume that we always know exactly who a biological parent is" (January 2020 Jury Trial Transcript). Her testimony ought to have been discredited by unresponsive counsel.

Furthermore, it is a miscarriage of medical privacy when a doctor discloses personal information from our children's medical records on public record. The injury is magnified in the event that the court does not take jurisdiction or exceptional clearance is later found. In today's information age, very present threats exist regarding individual DNA/MRNA for purposes of gain-of-function research. If a loophole to medical privacy laws exists by the filing of a petition by CPS, then a gateway for wide-scale, irreparable injury is open. Married Citizens possess the right to privacy within their marriage.¹²¹ Parents likewise possess the authority to make decisions concerning their children's health and well-being. The Prosecutor's *hired* witness gives one-sided testimony without ever having spoken to either of us. What evidence does the ICP have that our children are not our children? Practicing Medicine without a License?

Judge Richard Garcia performed a diagnosis in his initial termination opinion from February 24, 2020. He claimed that "A highlighted state of religiosity can form the basis of various mental health disorders. While the Court does not have the benefit of psychological evaluations, the hubris of breathing life into A [REDACTED] or expecting her to rise from the dead before judgment day raises serious concerns regarding Respondents mental health." We remind this court of the Gospel account of Jairus' daughter. Note Judge Garcia is asserting his own religious beliefs¹²² about our daughter's resurrection. Now if that same judge ordered us to get psychological evaluations—for the purpose of supporting his "medical" opinion—the evaluation would be paid for by the same Family Division Court or MDHHS CPS who is pursuing the termination of our parental rights. What do you think a psychologist would have to say for their paycheck? To discredit a witness—or us as witnesses—for *our* religious beliefs, violates our State's Constitution¹²³ and our Nation's.

Prediction Pitfall

MDHHS CPS and ICP rely on a *hindsight prediction* that AJP would've lived if we took her to the Medical System, yet no one has ever been able to guarantee that AJP would have lived if we had sought manmade medical care. They've also bet everything on their prediction that God will not resurrect AJP—as that must be impossible since the *Medical System cannot* raise the dead from their grave. Assuming the current evidence will forever remain unchanged—with no possibility of exceptional clearance—is quite an assumption. MDHHS CPS also predicts that harm will come to our children if our family is not divided. Harm in separation is guaranteed; harm in staying together is hypothetical.

Modern Medicine

What exactly is "modern medicine"? 2020 Modern Medicine was physical separation (e.g. lockdowns and "social distancing") and masks. How is that *modern*? The ancients achieved these. How is that *medicine*? Separation, isolation and facelessness *harm* the human spirit. Is the temporal physical body of more import than the eternal spirit? Is Modern Medicine "the science" (e.g. *gain of function*)? Modern Medicine can't be all science—it doesn't acknowledge the science pertaining to the *spirits* and morals of mankind. Is Modern Medicine government? We weren't framed as an iatrarchy.¹²⁴ If not government, then what authority does the transnational *Modern Medical System* have over individual U.S. Citizens and their Primary Relationships? Are doctors our *priest* class? Do medical doctors govern our Government and, by extension, us?

Medical Examiner

The temptation to take vengeance into your own hand in the Old Testament is still a very real temptation in the New Testament. We did not do to Dr. Patrick Hansma what Patrick Hansma did to our daughter AJP's body—without our knowledge or consent. Our sacred honor remains intact; his dishonorable conduct is a stain on his character and profession. Our baby daughter's body is sacred to us. We learned, hours after burying our daughter AJP, that her body had been buried without her brain. The Medical Examiner—without our knowledge or permission—performed an invasive autopsy that desecrated our daughter's body *while we're standing in faith for her healing by resurrection*. Shame. If you found out that your loved one's body—your child's body—had been desecrated, how would you respond? We felt violated beyond expression. In no way did this event build trust or confidence in the Medical System. We prayed that the Lord himself would judge these trespasses. We take comfort in the fact that after Jesus had commended his Spirit into God the Father's hand, Christ's body was also desecrated. His side was pierced and that not preventing Jesus' resurrection. "For with God nothing shall be impossible."¹²⁵ That said, desecrating bodies is not justified or moral conduct.

¹²¹ *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 381 U. S. 479 (1965)

¹²² "...that the opinions of men are not the object of civil government, nor under its jurisdiction; that to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles on supposition of their ill tendency is a dangerous fallacy, which at once destroys all religious liberty, because **he being of course judge of that tendency will make his opinions the rule of judgement, and approve or condemn the sentiments of others only as they shall square with or differ from his own;**" (emphasis added) - Thomas Jefferson, *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom*, January 16, 1786

¹²³ Constitution of the State of Michigan, Article 1, Section 18 *Witnesses; competency, religious beliefs*. "**No person** shall be rendered incompetent to be a witness on account of his opinions on matters of **religious belief**." (emphasis added)

¹²⁴ government by physicians

¹²⁵ KJV Luke 1:37

God's Word says that "All flesh is not the same flesh: but *there is one kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, *and* another of birds."¹²⁶ The dissection of and experiments on human bodies is irreverent unjustifiable criminal conduct and yet, in our case, the "authorities" involved callously considered it commonplace. Dishonorable.

Profit Pressures

The fundamental *standard* point of parity among each part of the Medical System is filthy lucre. Since *annus horribilis*¹²⁷ 2020, it's no longer veiled that money is the highest goal—not health. The World "Health" Organization (WHO) is in large part privately funded and an entity outside of our governing body, yet the WHO—representing private donor ambitions—is presently vying for dictation of policy controlling U.S. Citizens in times of "medical crisis"¹²⁸ which the WHO will also declare. Like the man-made Medical System crisis of 2020 generating the greatest wealth transfer in human history, this is a repeating model (see James Corbett,¹²⁹ Whitney Webb,¹³⁰ and Ryan Christian's¹³¹ respective *independent* investigative work—especially on medical crisis profiteering). We're persuaded the Medical System is about money and *not* the health or morals of its patients. Are there exceptions, we're sure, on an individual basis, but the system is evidently rotten—whatever the original intentions were.

Our son, MQP, while in the care of foster "parents," was given the prescription of carrying an EPIPEN®. This prescription followed no diagnosis; he tested negative for anaphylaxis. Every EPIPEN® diagnosis involves the *diagnosed* to purchase two EPIPEN®s which expire every 6 months. That's a lucrative diagnosis for *our* Child with "no known allergies"¹³² per DeVos Childrens Hospital. Our refusal to inject our healthy son MQP with substances that could harm him (see EPIPEN® side effects) led to a *drastic punitive reduction* in our parenting time, injuring our entire family.

Throughout VLP's hospitalization, we observed many miscarriages of *science*—or what we expected to be the scientific method. One day, the hospital ran a test for a cow's milk allergy and, on the same day, forbade Rachel from nursing VLP anymore, despite receiving no lab results of the test. But *Mother's milk* doesn't pad Big Formula's profits. VLP didn't like the formula prescribed to her and had to be *force fed* via a feeding tube. Feeding issues—not hemolytic disease of the newborn—is why VLP endured a 49-day hospitalization (compare VLP's little brother SSP's *seven* day hospitalization where he ate breastmilk exclusively, often nursing from Rachel). Once the hospital had milked VLP's Medicare account for every drop, only then was VLP discharged. Weeks later, when an outside pediatric practice allowed VLP to have breastmilk, VLP ate voraciously with no signs of having ever had a "cow's milk allergy." Sparrow Hospital's blocking of breastmilk prevented Rachel and VLP from having the priceless bond of nursing and also robbed VLP of the far superior nutrition. It's inhuman to prevent a mother from feeding her child.

Immunizations—or Vaccines?

In order to have our children returned home under a "Safety Plan," we agreed to the courts requirement that our children would receive certain immunizations.¹³³ We agreed as it did not violate our conscience *at that time* to agree to the requirements Judge Baird set forth, similar to when CPS asked that we take our children to a doctor to receive full body scans. We complied as it was not us putting our faith in doctors, it was us submitting ourselves unto authorities as unto God. However, the judge promptly removed our children from our care because we could not in good conscience agree to her terms of no physical discipline¹³⁴ while our case was litigated. We knew our case was primed to take multiple years to litigate and although we wanted our children to remain home during the coming years, we could not violate our Primary Relationship with God by violating his commands of loving physical discipline. As parents we would not give up the parenting tool of physical punishments as our sons would advance in age over the course of trial and correction would be required for their own training and safety (e.g. disobedience like not listening near traffic, or playing with an electrical outlet at home; physical pain from a spanking associated with an act of disobedience would help obedience and avoiding more serious consequences of disobedience in the aforementioned examples). One last note regarding our 2017 agreement to immunizations in the Safety Plan: we could not agree to those terms in *good conscience* today based on what we've learned about the Childhood Vaccine Schedule and the Vaccine Injury Court. We were under the impression that children were not being injured by these injectables, but we are no longer naive.

We were curious why MDHHS CPS and Judge Baird were so adamant about injecting our elder children who had zero health issues.¹³⁵ We're both business majors by education (Josh is an MBA), but it doesn't take an MBA to be aware of the extremely lucrative "life sciences" equations. We were unaware and even surprised learning about the profit scheme that is the Child Vaccine Schedule.¹³⁶ Products on the schedule are not exposed to nearly the liability that other pharmaceuticals are. And having an organization like MDHHS CPS enforcing their own program, then every child is a mandatory customer. The profit scheme is

¹²⁶ KJV I Corinthians 15:39

¹²⁷ Victor Davis Hanson (2021), *The Dying Citizen: How Progressive Elites, Tribalism, and Globalization are Destroying the Idea of America*, Epilogue, p.323

¹²⁸ Remember Hegelian Dialectic, *Crisis... Thesis... Antithesis...Synthesis*

¹²⁹ CorbettReport.com

¹³⁰ UnlimitedHangout.com

¹³¹ TheLastAmericanVagabond.com

¹³² May 29, 2019, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, After Visit Summary "no known allergies" *after* the EPIPEN®s were prescribed...

¹³³ May 18, 2017, Pretrial Hearing Transcript

¹³⁴ Email to our Attorney, David Kallman, regarding Judge Laura Baird's Ex Parte Order signed after we'd already signed the Safety Plan

¹³⁵ February 11, 2017, Sparrow Hospital, General Medical Exam for MQP and JUP

¹³⁶ H.R.5546 - National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) of 1986 (see ChildrensHealthDefense.org)

enriched with private donor-controlled groups like Gavi¹³⁷ that protect the vaccine *market*, and vaccine injury courts shield profits from injured children.

Following the second removal of our boys from our care, we have adamantly objected to all vaccines for all of our children. Yet following the termination of our Parental Rights, subsequent reports by the MDHHS CPS agency stated that our children have since become up-to-date on vaccines. But when the termination was overturned on appeal and our Parental Rights were reinstated, could CPS *unvaccinate* our Children? MDHHS CPS has no respect for Parents' objections, religious beliefs, or our Laws.

In his 2015 book, *Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology*, Kentaro Toyama concludes that *technology amplifies human behavior*. God's Word states, "For the love of money is the root of all evil."¹³⁸ That behavior hasn't changed—and look how it's been amplified in the Modern Medical System.

We're not serial felons, *but Pfizer is*. Crime is just a cost of doing business and NCVA are the frameworks, along with "medical crisis" "emergency" use authorizations—like the MILVAX anthrax vaccinations¹³⁹ back in Josh's service days.

Even RhoGAM® is for-profit *mammon circa* \$120 per 300mg, this money made off of research and blood *donations*. All of this "house of merchandise"¹⁴⁰ is a counterfeit substitute for the *blood* and *body* of Jesus Christ—the house of God is a house of prayer.¹⁴¹

Life-Saving

What, save the *body* while the *spirit* goes to hell? Throughout the pendency of our case, mankind's Modern Medical System has only been referred to as "life-saving." But what about all the times when it is life-ending? We've already mentioned medical error took the bronze for leading cause of death in 2016. In 2020, it took the gold. Studies have demonstrated that mortality rates drop most significantly when doctors or nurses go on strike—of course the *trusty* NIH¹⁴² explains that fact away. Across a spectrum ranging from accident to murder, death occurs like clockwork in the Modern Medical System despite science, technology, or a Hippocratic oath. Consider the conviction of Michigan physician Farad Fatah who prescribed chemotherapy to his patients—who were healthy—for millions in Medicare fraud.

Planned Parenthood is famous for baby murder and yet, during the 2020 lockdowns, former Ingham County Prosecutor, now Governor, Gretchen Whitmer ordered Planned Parenthood to remain open as essential "life-sustaining."

Prince v. Massachusetts, 321 U. S. 158 (1944), has been quoted in an opinion on our case: "Parents may be free to become martyrs themselves. But it does not follow they are free, in identical circumstances, to make martyrs of their children before they have reached the age of full and legal discretion when they can make that choice for themselves." The context of this statement is important. The child was out in public with their parent handing out tracts to strangers. The trial court has utilized the above text to imply that we made a martyr out of our daughter. We disagree with that characterization of the facts and our faith in Jesus Christ for the *healing*—not death—of our daughter. Their premise is that our action of prayer is *not reasonable action*. That is false. Prayer is always the most reasonable action. In reasonable and unreasonable situations, it is to our mutual advantage to secure help from God—help that he only provides if we humble ourselves and *pray*. In addition to our prayer of faith, we provided sunlight and worked hard to ensure AJP had food, hydration, comfort, and the rest she required to latch and suck. AJP is our *third* child—not our *first*—consider MQP who was also jaundiced and JUP who had breathing issues following birth. **We prayed** for each of them.

Nonetheless, let's consider their argument of martyrdom of children. If "parents may be free to become martyrs themselves... but it does not follow they are free, in identical circumstances, to make martyrs of their children" then that applies to all parents and all *risks* of their decision for their children. If parents exalt a medical doctor's report and act on it and their child dies from medical error or by therapy (e.g. chemotherapy) in which they placed their faith and child—is their child not then a *martyr* "before they have reached the age of full and legal discretion when they can make that choice for themselves"? The same could apply to experimental injectable therapies (e.g. Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer), EPIPEN®, RhoGAM®, or blood transfusions. Faith is decisive and they, choosing to act upon *their conviction*, placed their faith in mankind's Modern Medical System—and their child died. Was their hope to save their child? When those children die at the hand of a medical association are those parents murderers or child abusers? If they were acting according to the dictates of their conscience—and did not violate their conscience—then we say no they are not murderers or child abusers. We empathize with the death of their child. Even the doctor whom they paid to help might have done their very best effort, but there's a dead child—and no murderer. Again, "there is a presumption that fit parents act in the best interest of their children" and "that natural bonds of affection lead parents to act in the best interests of their children." The "fundamental right to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control" of their children first resides with

¹³⁷ Gavi The Vaccine Alliance

¹³⁸ KJV I Timothy 6:10a "For the love of money is the root of all evil."

¹³⁹ <https://unlimitedhangout.com/2020/09/podcasts/emergent-biosolutions-the-anthrax-vaccine-with-dr-meryl-nass/>

¹⁴⁰ KJV John 2:16 "And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make **not** my Father's house an **house of merchandise**." (emphasis added)

¹⁴¹ KJV Matthew 21:13 "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; **but ye have made it a den of thieves**." (emphasis added)

¹⁴² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18849101/#:~:text=The%20paradoxical%20finding%20that%20physician,during%20all%20of%20the%20strikes>

Natural Parents (*Santosky v. Kramer*, 455 U. S. 745 (1982) “the fundamental liberty interest of **natural parents** in the care, custody, and management of their child” (emphasis added) *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000).

Parents whose children become martyrs¹⁴³ for “life sciences” are preferred above *Consciences*, yet *United States v. Ballard*, 322 U. S. 78 (1944) holds “The **First Amendment does not select any one group or any one type of religion for preferred treatment**. It puts them all in that position. *Murdock v. Pennsylvania*, 319 U. S. 105. As stated in *Davis v. Beason*, 133 U. S. 333, 133 U. S. 342: ‘With man’s relations to his Maker and the obligations he may think they impose, and the manner in which an expression shall be made by him of his belief on those subjects, no interference can be permitted, provided always the laws of society, designed to secure its peace and prosperity, and the morals of its people, are not interfered with’” (emphasis added). Morals of a society can change radically—inverting good and evil. Consider children martyred for Pfizer, Planned Parenthood, and gender “transitions.”

While Rachel was in the womb, her parents received a report from man-made medical care that Rachel had Down’s Syndrome. The Kerrs were given the option to “terminate the pregnancy,” but, to their credit, refused. Is it not understandable that we would object to a system that offered to murder Rachel in the womb due to their own medical error?

Root Cause

The Medical System cannot address the depravity of sin: the root cause of all sickness, disease, and death. It may be able to identify physical consequences and causes, but not the spiritual causes with physical consequences. Only the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and his holy blood atonement addresses the root cause. Standard medical care acknowledges neither Christ nor the *spirit of infirmity*.¹⁴⁴ Who would both cause the infirmity and sell you a “cure”? The *snake* and the snake’s oil salesman. The Modern Medical System is just a marketplace for it.

It’s curious, though, that persons will transgress *spiritual* boundaries in a quest to obtain *physical* evidence to condemn spirits who have not transgressed physically or spiritually. Or does their end—termination of our parental rights—justify their means?

Rh Incompatibility

Consider implications of their claimed physical findings. If our blood type was different, then our faith would be okay, meaning we’re charged as murderers—a crime of *spiritual* intent—for our *physical* characteristics, our blood types. Does an inherent natural physical characteristic that you’re born with determine your spiritual character?

Our Midwife had recorded an incorrect blood type for Josh Piland and, thus, determined Rh incompatibility to be a non factor. As with our first two children, we signed RhoGAM® waivers during prenatal care for AJP. Josh discovered the typo while cooperating with LPD Detectives, but Rachel Piland told Midwife Sandra McCurdy we still would have refused RhoGAM® even if our blood types had been recorded accurately. Josh Piland stated the same to the LPD Detectives. Our faith is in Jesus Christ, not injectables.

A blood draw warrant was issued for Rachel Piland on June 25, 2018. Rachel complied on June 29, 2018. Would our Religious Liberty be under attack if our blood types were different?

It is mankind’s Medical System that we could not support in *good conscience* for the reasons above and that has caused our family untold injury for our decision not to support it.

Jehovah Rapha

It’s important to note that our faith for divine healing is not rooted in the fallibility of medical professionals—it’s rooted in the *infallibility* and *fidelity* of Jesus Christ. God’s standard of care for physical mankind has always been Himself, the Creator. Man is not the standard. In the Old Testament, God reveals his name Jehovah Rapha¹⁴⁵—I AM the Lord that healeth thee—and in the New Testament, Jesus Christ’s name is Physician.¹⁴⁶ This makes sense, since both *medic* and *physic* refer to his physical creations. God’s medical system involves no surgeries, syringes, drugs, evil actors, tests, experiments, or accidents. Jairus’ daughter’s resurrection spread the fame of Jesus’ healing. Even in the middle of that Gospel account, there’s a woman that interrupts Jesus and Jairus, who “had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse.” God’s whole system of Life has existed for eternity and will outlive mankind’s Medical System. Mock us, condemn us, do what *you* will, but we know what the Word of God says about healing.

Prayer of Faith

In the KJV, *faith* translated from the word *pistis*, is a convictional confidence that cannot be bought or manipulated. A requirement to have it is not having what you’re standing in faith for: “Now faith¹⁴⁷ is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” To have faith, there must be contradictory evidence to God’s Word, and we must choose to “walk by faith, not by sight.”¹⁴⁸ Money is not to buy our confidence, nor are we to *purchase* “healing,” when Christ has freely given his

¹⁴³ e.g. Planned Parenthood, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, “gender transitions?”, vaccine schedule, medical error, death by therapy, *research*

¹⁴⁴ KJV Luke 13:11-13

¹⁴⁵ KJV Exodus 15:26

¹⁴⁶ KJV Luke 4:23

¹⁴⁷ G4102 *pistis*, moral conviction, especially a reliance on Jesus Christ for salvation [spirit and body], constancy in such profession, fidelity to the system of Gospel truth. Faithful.

¹⁴⁸ KJV II Corinthians 5:7b

own physical life for our healing—body *and* spirit. Faith is a trust and confidence in Almighty God—a conviction that you live by—based on *Logos* himself with our will, speech, and action—through habits, to character and, ultimately, to Jesus Christ.

How did Jesus heal when he was upon the earth? How did his apostles heal? Was it by *physicians* or was it “gifts of healings”¹⁴⁹ as the *Holy Spirit* worked through them? Is Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever?¹⁵⁰ A house of prayer is a *house of faith*¹⁵¹ and we are that temple—“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?”¹⁵²

*Prayers of faith*¹⁵³ are part of our American History and Traditions. Toqueville observed the counter to any threat of tyranny of the majority is *traditional religion in America*. Consider John Jay, our first Chief Justice of the United States of America, on that *traditional religion*, “The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts,”¹⁵⁴ and, “It will then be of more importance to me to have governed myself, than to have governed the state.”¹⁵⁵

We recognize our Biblical faith for *divine healing* is unpopular to the majority. Nevertheless, “We ought to obey God rather than men,” and live by the convictions of our own conscience. The book of James states, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” Our faith—if not lived out—is dead. Consider the verses preceding, “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”¹⁵⁶ Was not God justified when he offered *his* Son?

It is not a difficult work for God to regenerate your dead spirit by your faith in the blood atonement of Jesus’ death on the cross, his resurrection, and ascension. An even easier work for God is to rejoin an innocent child’s *spirit* with her healed *body* via resurrection. Resurrection is something only God can do—it’s a genuine *miracle*. Do we require government permission to believe this? No. Do we need approval by the majority to believe every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God? Nope.

Unbelievers have always ridiculed Believers, each convinced the other is mad. One believes the Word of God; the other does not. The Apostle Paul said, “**of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question**”¹⁵⁷ (emphasis added). Resurrection from death is fundamental to the Christian faith and Christ may employ resurrection *as he sees fit* to encourage his Bride, fulfill his promise, and get the attention of unbelievers while judging the systems of mankind that are not of him.

If you believe mankind’s Medical System is the best we humans have, then that’s your belief—not ours. We have not vacillated in our faith for Divine Healing—for ourselves and our children. We believe because of our faithfulness in our Primary Relationships, in their proper order, God will completely heal our family. Injury caused to our family by the Medical System will be healed by God. This does not excuse MDHHS and its licensed practitioners who’ve transgressed against our Family. MDHHS and its medical practitioners are still subject to our laws the highest of which is our Constitution. The United States Government is not subject to medical *experts*—informed by, perhaps, but not subject to.

Family Division

“Family Division.” Do you think such a body in name and function suggests the government *preservation* of Primary Relationships? In practice, Family Division does not respect Primary Relationships. How is a court of limited jurisdiction able to terminate Natural Rights? How may Parental Religious Liberty be terminated by a court of limited jurisdiction (e.g. Family Division)? Where is such power and authority granted in our Declaration or Constitution?

Primary Relationship One

Judge Baird would not acknowledge that her verbal order was removing our children from one religious group to a different religious group—and *their* religious schools. She dismissed our objections as being a “Protestant religion”¹⁵⁸ issue, without acknowledging that the foster parents practice a different religious belief than we do. How many thousands of doctrinal issues have arisen between thousands of Protestant denominations? Judge Baird executed an Order¹⁵⁹ to take our children out of state to participate in *the foster parent’s religious beliefs* and events. Is this “the least restrictive means”?

Primary Relationship Two

Inadequate representation of a Family is also an issue. Appointed by the Family Division and paid by the Family Division, our Representative answers to the Court—not us. Government has more resources than we do. And how can someone outside of the Primary Relationships adequately represent those within the Primary Relationships? We’ve experienced unresponsive counsel and representation that failed to raise key issues at critical moments. For a stretch of time we were appointed separate representation, even though we’re a Marriage with the same interests of preserving our Primary Relationships.

¹⁴⁹ KJV I Corinthians 12:28

¹⁵⁰ KJV Hebrews 13:8

¹⁵¹ Robert L. Reid, Founder (1976), Faith Tech Ministries and International Bible Schools, *The House of Faith*

¹⁵² KJV I Corinthians 6:19a

¹⁵³ June 25, 2016, Healing Conference, Josh Piland taught, *The Prayer of Faith* (Rachel Piland also gave testimony of her Prayer of Faith for divine healing too.)

¹⁵⁴ April 9, 1784, Letter to Peter Augustus Jay

¹⁵⁵ City Journal, *The Education of John Jay: America’s Indispensable Diplomat*, Winter 2010, Myron Magnet

¹⁵⁶ KJV James 2:21-23

¹⁵⁷ KJV Acts of the Apostles 23:6b

¹⁵⁸ November 8, 2018, 30th Circuit Court Pretrial Transcript

¹⁵⁹ Appendix E.25. Out of State Travel Request and Order for a Temporary or Permanent Court Ward - Laura L. Baird

We hold a Marriage License issued by Ingham County. This is not a divorce. We did not come to the court via divorce proceedings. Persons *outside of our marriage* filed paperwork to terminate our Parental Rights and destroy our family. The custody dispute in our cases is not between Parents; it is between Parents and *their* Government. Neither we the parents nor *our* children petitioned the Family Division to be divided from each other. The petition is from outside of our Primary Relationships. We are not divided in Marriage. We are not divided from God. Which is why our Family will not remain physically divided.

There certainly is a place for a child in a family that is not their Natural Family when their Natural Parents are deceased or have abandoned them, but neither of those circumstances applies to our cases. We are very much alive and have never renounced our standing as parents to our children and we continue to fight for our family's unity.

Primary Relationship Three

Inappropriate representation is a problem as well. The GAL claims to represent *our* children, but the Office of Parent is superior to all other offices in regards to their own family. Parents are unlike any other office for their own children. Parents are greater than a GAL, a mentor, a teacher, a pastor, a physician, a social worker, a police officer, a judge, or foster parents. Parents fulfilling an office for *their* children are greater than the President of the United States of America and greater than all other offices combined. Parents are the "subject matter experts" and legitimate authority of *their own* family and *their own* children. Parents *to their own natural children* are of greater importance than all other offices combined—and this is obvious. Parents who serve our Creator in *spirit* and *truth* have not abdicated their Office of Parent—neither has anyone else *rightly* assumed their Office of Parent. There is no true substitute for Natural Parents. There certainly can be bonds, but *not* natural spiritual bonds of affection that are only between the Children and *their* Natural Parents. Parents alone—not Government—are charged by God for their child's wellbeing—spiritually and physically—like no one else. No two individuals are linked to a child like their own Natural Parents. No other office aforementioned has two—unpaid—advocates with natural bonds of affection for our children. God Almighty recognizes us as the parents of our children, and, thus, we can intercede on their behalf through prayer.

Santosky v. Kramer, 455 U. S. 745 (1982) "the fundamental liberty interest of **natural parents** in the care, custody, and management of their child" (emphasis added). *Prince v. Massachusetts*, 321 U. S. 158 (1944) "It is cardinal with us that the custody, care and nurture of the child reside first in the parents."

A state-appointed GAL does not supersede the constitutionally- and Naturally-appointed guardians of children: their Natural Parents. Nor does the GAL have *Natural Rights* superseding the Parental Religious Liberties of the Natural Parents. The GAL does not fight for free. We do. Our children are a file to the GAL and state; our children are *Our Children* to us. We will not cease to fight for the healing of our entire family. Is that an inordinate desire or an evil cause?

The very appointment and presence of a "guardian" figure implies that the parents are unfit to make decisions, and communicates as much to the jury. The GAL title, in the courtroom at trial, suggests to the jury that the Natural Parents are unfit to guard their own children—whether true or false. It's not an a or b choice for the jury. The jury is presented with a two-to-one Authority Bias (i.e. Prosecutor/CPS, Guardian Ad Litem) weighted against the Natural Parents. This 2:1 ratio is confusion and a structural disadvantage to Parents. By our observation of six years on this case, it's a double-team in practice. Remember, the GAL tried to block our MCL 722.634 jury instruction at every opportunity with each argument by the prosecution or the bench.

The GAL has admitted to us that removal of children from their parents causes trauma. Two questions: Why is the State permitted to knowingly cause trauma to children? And why is the GAL permitted to authorize trauma to children? The GAL guards his own position and the court that funds it.

Constitutionality of Family Division

Even the Prosecutor recognized AJP as our daughter. We don't possess parenting licenses; therefore, the fact that we are being held responsible for AJP demonstrates that our authority to make decisions for our children comes from a Natural, higher authority. The parental rights we possess are inalienable rights and cannot be terminated by a lesser authority. Is what our government has done to our Family lawful—constitutional? *Quilloin v. Walcott*, 434 U. S. 246 (1978) "We have recognized on numerous occasions that **the relationship between parent and child is constitutionally protected**" (emphasis added). Termination of an inalienable right seems marvelously arrogant. Inalienable rights are endowed by our Creator—not our Government. Upon receipt of the Trial Court's termination order, nothing changed in the hearts of Josh and Rachel Piland regarding the charge we've received from Almighty God to raise our children. Government cannot terminate the love Parents have for their Children.

We honestly do not recognize this institution of Family Division in our social compact. We do not consent. We Citizens challenge it via this petition and we request relief from this Court. If Natural Rights are at stake, ought not the counsel be up to the standard of a Criminal Court? An Office of Public Defender offers Trial Court assistance. Where is that for Natural Parents? We are not advocating for more Government.

Injury to our Family

The injuries of Family Division are beyond our count but we've felt them all. A Family is more than a grouping of individuals. A Family has health, it can be wounded, and it can be healed. A Family with young is a precious thing. It should not be trampled upon. We are unable to convey the pain of our children being taken from our home.

Our eldest MQP is being denied his birthright as the eldest child in our family by being placed in a home where he is not the eldest child. Josh is the only male grandson who bears the Piland name for WWII veteran Lt. Col. Louis Piland, a surname dating back to Missouri and the Civil War and Virginian service in our War for Independence.¹⁶⁰ Will the nation he served cut it off? JUP and Rachel have an incredibly special bond. We were just getting to know the little personality of VLP and we were robbed of knowing SSP too. We've lost time which is forever past. We're being prevented from homeschooling and teaching our children the Bible. We're being prevented from being a Family.

Our children suffered spiritual and physical injuries in Foster Care, under the Family Division's jurisdiction. Our children were made *merchandise*, seized, poked, packaged, and shipped off out of Michigan.

Material Injury

Unlike the flowing funds that employ so many above, the label of *criminal* brings to its bearer severe economic consequences. The more heinous the label, the greater the structural barriers to employment are—regardless of education, experience, knowledge, skills, or abilities. Once your background check returns “*pending criminal charges*” you don't get the job. Your economic contributions to society are neutralized, and, until you've served your time and debt to society or you're exonerated, you're in social purgatory. These past six years have instilled in us a great empathy for Citizens who have been charged with crimes of which their conscience is clear.

The Unnatural receives preference over the Natural

Persons who have chosen same sex unions cannot have sex and procreate children by Natural Family. They require male or female assistance from the Modern Medical System—or *Family Division*. This is not the Biblical precedent of Family nor the Way prescribed by Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, “And great multitudes followed him; and **he healed them** there. The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave **father** and **mother**, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”¹⁶¹ (emphasis added). Marriage should not be negated and their family should not to be violated.

Due Process

Cannot Appeal Jurisdiction?

We cannot appeal Jurisdiction? We requested appellate counsel to appeal the order of adjudication entered December 2, 2021. Judge Garcia denied our request stating it, “is not an Order appealable by right. (MCR 3.993).”¹⁶²

There's a difference between what the jury believes to be true versus what the law actually says and how it's to be applied. What if the jurors failed to apply MCL 722.634 and MCL 722.127? What if the jurors failed to apply the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act? What if the judge failed also in termination? A verdict ought to be able to be appealed—especially since there's the possibility it should be set aside in consideration of all law. A verdict can be set aside in criminal court. We believe this violates our due process rights, since termination of Parental Rights *cannot occur without jurisdiction*. Indigent Citizens ought to be afforded counsel to appeal jurisdiction, termination, or both before any significant injury occurs to the Natural Family. “It is presumed, that juries are the best judges of **facts**; it is, on the other hand, presumed that courts are the best judges of **law**. But still both objects are within your power of decision ... You have a right to take it upon yourselves to **judge of both**, and to determine the law as well as the fact in controversy” (emphasis added) *Georgia v. Brailsford*, 3 Dall. 1 (1794). This court has the power of Judicial Review. *Marbury v. Madison*, 1 Cranch 137 (1803). We believe we aren't the only U.S. Family affected by HHS CPS.

And is Judge Garcia rightly applying the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act when he terminated our Parental Rights? Was termination of our Parental Rights *the least restrictive means*? The Trial Court Judge told the jury that he may return the kids or that the Natural Family might continue under the jurisdiction of the court—and not to worry about what might happen. All the while the jury was kept in the dark by the Judge about the same Judge's own history of unconstitutionally terminating our Parental Rights—despite our Religious Parental Liberty and our original MCL 722.634 jury instruction appeal. Due to the unconstitutional error of the Trial Court *our* parenting time ceased—even after setting aside the first trial. Shameful. Would the jury have returned a different jurisdiction verdict had they known that historical reality? Jurisdiction ought to be correctable.

Criminality

The Prosecutor threatened to drop charges and recharge us if we would not permit the ICP to amend the original charges by waiving our right to a speedy trial. We waived our right to a speedy trial under the threat of rebooking, bond review for the new severer charges, and the threat of not being able to have parenting time with our children. The ICP stated in early 2019 that the delay for amending the charges would only be a matter of a couple months—not multiple years. We've had three civil trials since—without the possibility of a not guilty verdict in criminal court. It's our understanding that we're the oldest case in Lansing and we're still waiting for our day in criminal court.

¹⁶⁰ William Piland, Continental Army, Virginia

¹⁶¹ KJV Matthew 19:2-6

¹⁶² Appendix E.59. December 13, 2021, Order for Court Appointed Appellate Counsel Denied - MCR3.993

“Respondents” is bad enough, but to be called “Defendants” on record—without a correction by Judge Richard Garcia—and to ask the jury to find **Criminality**¹⁶³ is, in practice, a Criminal Trial without the “privileges or immunities,” protections, or criminal evidence standard of *beyond a reasonable doubt*—to deprive U.S. Citizens of their Fundamental¹⁶⁴ Liberty.¹⁶⁵ This is the physical separation of our Natural Family. The physical bonds have confined us to the State of Michigan for the last five and a half years. Even within Michigan, we’ve been restricted in movement due to our penury. Josh had been employed with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for almost nine years before his employment was terminated—his employer cited the criminal charge as the reason for termination of employment. We have not been convicted of any crime, though originally charged on September 21, 2017.

The Prosecutor’s consolidated powers of a criminal charging decision while simultaneously representing MDHHS CPS for its petition to *terminate* our Parental Rights are coordinated levers of power deployed against Married Citizens and the Natural Family.

The Prosecutor asked the jury to assess the “mental harm” of our religious beliefs. Remember the earlier quote from *United States v. Ballard*, 322 U. S. 78 (1944) “Religious experiences which are as real as life to some may be incomprehensible to others. ...The religious views espoused by respondents might seem incredible, if not preposterous, to most people. But if those doctrines are subject to trial before a jury charged with finding their truth or falsity, then the same can be done with the religious beliefs of any sect. **When the triers of fact undertake that task, they enter a forbidden domain**” (emphasis added).

MDHHS CPS Central Registry for Child Abuse

Citizens who have not been convicted of any crime are placed on an MDHHS CPS **Central Registry** for Child Abuse—that’s not *Due Process*. Note, in addition to their Executive powers assuming *Legislative* and *Judicial* powers, our Framers warned of this consolidation, forbade it in our Constitution, and gave us Citizens the tools to checkmate it.

In 2008 the National Legal Aid & Defender Association produced an Evaluation of Trial-Level Indigent Defense Systems in Michigan, titled, *A Race to the Bottom: Speed & Savings Over Due Process*. The scathing review led to the funding of Office of the Public Defender, eventually including Ingham County. Being *paupers* we recently asked our Office of Public Defender for help obtaining transcripts pertinent to our case for this Court’s reference. We received this reply, “All transcript requests, if our office is going to pay for them, must be approved by my boss, Mr. Watson.¹⁶⁶ Further, the process can be time consuming and expensive... Certain pretrials are ‘off the record,’ meaning there will not be any transcripts available.” Speed and savings over Due Process, well maybe not speed. We apologize that we are unable to purchase and provide everything this Court should have.

Justice

Impartial Jury Pool?

The majority of either the Jury Pool or their spouse was employed by the Medical System. Partial? A juror or their spouse working for the Medical System is not grounds for a challenge with cause. An impartial jury was unachievable in the Family Division due to the Prosecutor’s jury instructions, jury pool employments, and the Judge’s jury forms. All assisted in funneling the jury towards jurisdiction.

The Prosecutor’s Jury Instructions

The Prosecutor’s jury instructions and jury form were *designed* to take jurisdiction. Our counsel failed to address the concerns we raised with him prior to and during trial. We raised this issue with the Michigan Supreme Court on October 13, 2022. The Prosecutor’s jury instructions are constructed to funnel jurors to a choice of jurisdiction. Although there is not a false choice offered, because the Prosecutor did give an either/or, our issue is how the deck is stacked and the language used. For MQP, JUP, and VLP the Jury Instruction states:

None of the statutory ground alleged in the petition concerning ...has been proven.

OR

One or more of the following statutory ground alleged in the petition concerning ...has/have been proven:

...when able to do so, neglected or refused to provide proper medical, surgical, or other care necessary for ...’s health or morals.

...is subject to a substantial risk or harm to his/her mental well-being.

...’s home or environment, by reason of neglect on the part of ..., is an unfit place for...to live in.

...’s home or environment, by reason of cruelty on the part of ..., is an unfit place for... to live in.

...’s home or environment, by reason of criminality on the part of ..., is an unfit place for ... to live in.

¹⁶³ See Jury Instructions

¹⁶⁴ *Santosky v. Kramer*, 455 U. S. 745 (1982) “the **fundamental liberty interest of natural parents in the care, custody, and management of their child**” and *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U. S. 57 (2000) Natural Parents’ “fundamental right to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control” of their children.” (emphasis added)

¹⁶⁵ Amendment V of the Constitution of the United States of America especially, “...nor be deprived of ...liberty without due process of law”. Constitution of the United States of America, Amendment XIV, Article I “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” (emphasis added)

¹⁶⁶ Keith Watson, the Guardian Ad Litem at our March 8, 2017, Preliminary Hearing, appointed counsel by Judge Laura Baird to represent Josh Piland.

Look at the built-in odds to increase the likelihood of jurisdiction. First, a multiple of five by three children by two parents. Also consider that the jury instructions divide our Marriage—this doubles the chances of the Trial Court obtaining jurisdiction. The first ground is intentionally obfuscated with language already litigated before the Michigan Supreme Court for our Jury Instruction interlocutory appeal that settled that there is no argument of “refused” versus “neglected.” Even though this was settled—in this very case—the prosecutor included the misleading language. The second part of the first distinct argument is the phrase “provide proper medical, or surgical, or other care necessary for ...’s health or morals” this is a scatter shot, and it’s a false choice of “proper medical,” meaning you cannot choose anything other than MDHHS CPS recognized care; not Almighty God. They argue that prayer is not *proper*. Only manmade standard medical care is proper. We challenge this narrow definition that leaves no room for Parental Religious Liberty. This is a blatant attack on the MCL 722.634 Jury Instruction and an argument designed to obtain jurisdiction.

The second ground is anchored in man-made medical in regard to “mental health.” The Judge’s Opinion of “religiosity” comes to mind.

The third ground is an open-ended environment or home times three possibilities.

Now go back and look at the word “None” in point one (1.). That is zero, or inversely a 100%. While point two (2.) and all of its sub-points require slightly more than a coin toss. We asked our attorney to address this prior to trial. Our Counsel failed to change these in the least. Nor did our Counsel ensure that, “Citizens enjoy a *presumption of innocence* until convicted in Criminal Court” was included in the Jury Instructions. Or “a presumption that fit parents act in the best interest of their children”¹⁶⁷ which means that, until proven otherwise, this is the presumption.

When coupled with the facts that the Prosecutor (1) argued criminality, (2) repeatedly told the jury that we were charged with multiple crimes—named those crimes, and (3) called us “Defendants,” it’s difficult to know why we are not required to have a “beyond a reasonable doubt” standard to deprive us of our Parental Rights.

Throughout the jury selection process, the Prosecutor sought a jury that was biased toward the manmade Medical System. The Prosecutor instructs the jury not to consider what would happen to the children if the court takes jurisdiction; jurors are not instructed *not* to consider what would happen to the children if the court doesn’t take jurisdiction. This is one-sided.

Laurie Freed argued that MCL 722.634 didn’t apply because the Appellants didn’t refuse “specified” medical treatment, but refused “all” medical treatment. We refused all *specified* Medical System treatment due to our sincere religious beliefs.

The Prosecutor claimed he wasn’t going to call the Appellants as witnesses since the burden is on us to prove that we were legitimately practicing our religious beliefs. This is observable bias; not truth-seeking. We believe all of this poisoned any possibility of even an impartial jury coming to their own conclusion.

Jurors were encouraged by the GAL to consider AJP but not her two older brothers MQP and JUP when the GAL quoted, “treatment of one child as evidence of treatment of another child” M Civ JI 97.43A. GAL Prosecutor tag team.

Consider who notified the Trial Court, the Guardian Ad Litem, and MDHHS CPS following the births of VLP and SSP. It’s on the record that Josh Piland did.

MDHHS CPS Ignored the Law from the Outset

March 8, 2017, MDHHS CPS files a petition despite MCL 722.634 and MCL 722.127 that *permits* Parents to lawfully object to the Medical System. Law is requested as a jury instruction and denied. We appeal.

Cruel and Unusual Punishment?

Is there a more cruel punishment than being separated from your loved ones? Than being parents who can’t hold and comfort their children? Do you think a prison sentence is worse than the last six years we’ve endured?

Liberty Issues

- I. Consent/Parental Liberty—AJP’s body was seized and desecrated without our permission or knowledge. On the Medical Examiner’s report AJP is listed as “patient” after her decease. Where is the Parental Consent for treatment?
- II. Moral Law limits Liberty—Authorities lied to Josh and Rachel Piland about taking AJP’s body. Government does not have *Liberty to violate Citizens’ Rights*, it has a Moral Duty to secure and defend them.
- III. Religious Liberty/Parental Liberty—The Ingham County Medical Examiner informed us via a letter that he had dissected our daughter AJP’s body and removed her brain. This desecration of our daughter’s body violates morality and our Parental and Religious Liberty. We never consented nor were we informed until after this trespass occurred. Where is the Government granted the right to desecrate our child’s body? Especially, when we’re standing in faith for her divine healing via resurrection?
- IV. Unlawful Search and Seizure—AJP’s body seized and desecrated.

¹⁶⁷ *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U. S. 57 (2000)

MCL 722.634 Religious Beliefs

Judge Laura Baird who denied our motion for MCL 722.634 to be included as a jury instruction had—only months before—signed the very order to deny the first petition CPS filed against us due to *the application of MCL 722.634*. What about this law changed in those passing months? It is important to note that State Representative Laura Baird introduced legislation years earlier to repeal MCL 722.634 and also change the legal language regarding physical discipline.¹⁶⁸ Rachel's counsel, Antionette Frazho argued on August 24, 2017: "Your honor, we believe it's key that the jury receive the instruction with respect to MCL 722.634 with regards to religious beliefs. That section is specifically in the child protection law. There's a reason for it. These parents, and I think it's clear to everyone here, acted based on their faith. And it's true, the first amendment says you have freedom of religion and to have your faith, but faith also involves action. Faith is not just what's in your mind. You act on your beliefs, and you act on those beliefs in order to carry out your faith. And that's exactly what these parents did. We believe it's imperative this jury understands that. And, in addition, they are provided that sentence with respect to that section that a parent or guardian legitimately practicing his religious beliefs — now just stopping there. The reason — part of the reason for citing U.S. Versus Ballard as well is to indicate that to define — the definition of religion. It relates to their sincerity and depth of their belief. It doesn't relate to anyone else's sincerity and depth of belief. It doesn't relate to whether it's true or false. So when that statute says a parent or guardian legitimately practicing his or her religious beliefs, no one else's, and does not provide specified medical treatment, for that reason alone shall not be considered a negligent parent, **that's the only reason here.** That's why the jury instruction is imperative. This is the lynchpin to the entire matter. And I believe that the jury need to hear that versus it being excluded from this case, **because there is no other basis.** To exclude religion from this case because they did act on their faith. They carried out their faith. They didn't just have it in their minds, kept it secret from the world, but they stepped forward and said we believe that's what occurred in this situation. I believe that the jury needs to hear that. The jury needs to receive that information. It shouldn't be excluded from this trial, because it would be a gross injustice, particularly given what the statute provides. There's a reason the statute provides that, that we utilize it. I understand what Ms. Freed indicated with respect to what Judge Owens indicated in the bench book. That's to offer guidance. That's not the rule of law. We have a statute for a reason. The legislature passed it. It's there to utilize. It's not up to us to say we're not going to include it because we don't like it, don't agree with or it doesn't apply. Let the jury decide. That's why we have them. Let them decide if it's what they believe is appropriate. **This is a constitutional issue. When it comes to faith it always becomes a constitutional issue,** because when people practice their religion, it should be in the mind of the individuals judging them at that moment to determine whether they had the intention to truly and honestly practice their faith as is allowed by our country."¹⁶⁹ (emphasis added)

It should also be noted here that Judge Laura Baird's husband is acknowledged as "George Zulakis, Attorney at Law, Baird & Zulakis, PC, Okemos" in the benchbook¹⁷⁰ cited by the Assistant Prosecutor Laurie Freed—who argued to exclude MCL 722.634 as a jury instruction. The Prosecutor, Carol Siemon, her former husband is also acknowledged as "Thomas P. Fruechtenicht, Attorney at Law, Lansing." Mr. Fruechtenicht was the Head Referee for Judge Laura Baird until Ms. Siemon was elected Ingham County Prosecutor. One last note on Judge Laura Baird. Her daughter, Zoe Zulakis, was employed by MDHHS as a CPS Investigator at this time. Ms. Zulakis made public posts on Facebook about working with her mother at various times. These proximate relations are very concerning to us regarding our family and justice with no clear *separations of power* between the Executive Branch and Judicial Branch of our Government. Upon discovery of the aforementioned in early 2018 we immediately alerted the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission. Later, when the jurisdiction of our case was placed by the Michigan Supreme Court back into the jurisdiction of Judge Laura Baird, we also motioned to have Judge Baird disqualified because the higher court's Order¹⁷¹ left granting the MCL 722.634 jury instruction *in hands of the Trial Court Judge*.

Termination of Parental Rights, the least restrictive means?

Even if you conclude that you agree with the Family Division taking jurisdiction, the *Religious Freedom and Restoration Act* is still the Law and applies to our case. Even if there is a compelling governmental issue, the Trial Court did not use "the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest." It is our position that affirming termination of Parental Rights is clearly wrong and will cause material injustice and further injury to our family, per the individual issues we've raised and their collective argument. The Trial Court did not use the least restrictive means of furthering its claimed compelling governmental interest. The judge could have allowed the children to remain at home under provisions of a safety plan during the pendency of this case and after jurisdiction.

¹⁶⁸ Michigan House Bill No. 4178, introduced by Laura Baird on January 30, 1997 (see Appendix E.3. 1997.01.30 House Bill 4178 Summary As Introduced)

¹⁶⁹ August 24, 2017, 30th Circuit Court Transcript

¹⁷⁰ *Child Protective Proceedings Benchbook*, Third Edition, *A Guide to Abuse & Neglect*, Michigan Judicial Institute©

¹⁷¹ see Appendix E.41. 2019.05.23. Michigan Supreme Court Order and Opinion t57918

Conclusion

Primary Relationships should not be violated by anyone—people or Government. Blessings follow maintaining *integrity of conscience*. Curses follow violation of conscience. The temporal and eternal benefits of maintaining a good conscience infinitely outweigh any pleasures of sin for a season. Citizens with a good conscience make better citizens than those who will violate their integrity for filthy lucre. Consequences of the violation of conscience are eternally serious. There are severe consequences to betraying any of your Primary Relationships—especially your Primary Relationship.

The negation of Marriage and the Natural Family has dreadful implications to our nation. Deviations from Nature never lead to prosperity. More radical deviations lead to ever more radical deviants. However, no tyrannical majority of deviants will ever change the original state of the Natural Family and Parents and Children. There's a saying, "You can throw nature out with a pitchfork and it will still come back." Parents are *the* check against anyone else who is not their Child's Parent. Is there anything more rewarding than fulfilling your potential in what you were created to do? The Natural Family is critical to preserving our nation; as the Natural Family goes so does the Country. There's an entire body of knowledge describing the maladies that come with the destruction of the Nuclear Family. Preserving Natural Family is right. Returning our Family to its original state is right—and justice requires it. Laws are for criminals, not saints.¹⁷² Crimes against the Family should be prosecuted—the Family should not be.

Preserving means maintaining in its *original* state of nature. Whether our nation, our Family, our Marriage, or our Primary Relationship—it's advantageous to all of us to preserve all. Government's duty to its Citizens is to preserve an environment of genuine Liberty to love God, our Families, and fellow man. Defending that environment is critical for the health of our nation and its Citizens. That begins with acknowledging and preserving our Primary Relationships. Respecting the Primary Relationships as ordained by God is the solution. We can only meet on this truth. We yearn to be united again—but we can only unite in the Truth. We are persuaded there are two ways this can go, a return to the Truth, or the Truth returns for final judgment. We seek assistance from this Court to help return our Family to its natural state.

What is our Nation's future with the negation of the Natural Family? Divided and conquered? We the people of the United States of America secured our freedom fighting upon the legal "maxims of eternal justice"¹⁷³ as beautifully outlined in the Declaration of Independence, which specifically cites mankind's Natural Rights endowed by our Creator and self-evident in the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God himself. This legal *appeal to heaven* is our nation's birth certificate. It is the first writ of all of our legal power and it begins with a direct appeal to Almighty God. The Spirit of Liberty¹⁷⁴ legitimizes a government. Our Constitution of the United States of America follows the Declaration of Independence¹⁷⁵ as a rearguard in time and season, as Constitution Day follows Independence Day. Our Constitution limits Government and empowers it to one end alone: to insure the Natural Rights of its Citizens. A limited Government by consent of *We the People* for *We the People*. We the People were not created by the Government for the Government. It was under these terms and principles that our beloved Michigan became the twenty-sixth State of our Union. Michigan Citizens are also U.S. Citizens.

We challenge the very constitutionality of our Government's claim that it can terminate our Natural Parental Rights, especially since the crux of our case comes down to *our direct appeal to heaven* for the life of our daughter AJP—to the same Almighty God of our Declaration of Independence by whom we were endowed with our inalienable Natural Parental Rights. Equally unconstitutional to the court's claiming authority to terminate Parental Rights is its claiming authority to endow our rights upon another party. Inalienable rights are non-transferrable.

Remember that *your* beliefs about our beliefs are *your* beliefs—not our beliefs. The importance of an Individual Citizen's Conscience is a well-documented American Doctrine although less perfectly understood by the main of Americans today. "That the guarantee of the **rights of conscience**, as found in our Constitution, is most sacred and inviolable, and one that belongs no less to the Catholic, than to the Protestant; and that all attempts to abridge or interfere with these rights, either of Catholic or Protestant, directly or indirectly, have our decided disapprobation, and shall ever have our most effective opposition."¹⁷⁶ (emphasis added) – Abraham Lincoln, Springfield, Illinois, June 1844.

Josh and Rachel Piland are two distinct Individual Citizens. Josh Piland's conscience remains intact. Rachel Piland's conscience remains intact. Which means we've each independently maintained our "integrity of heart."¹⁷⁷ Our individual *spirits* continue to commune in our Primary Relationship with God. We've remained faithful to our Creator and our relationship with

¹⁷² KJV Philippians 4:21a "Salute every **saint** in Christ Jesus." (emphasis added)

¹⁷³ *Fletcher v. Peck*, 6 Cranch 87 (1810).

¹⁷⁴ KJV II Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty."

¹⁷⁵ "About the Declaration there is a finality that is exceedingly restful. It is often asserted that the world has made a great deal of progress since 1776, that we have had new thoughts and new experiences which have given us a great advance over the people of that day, and that we may therefore very well discard their conclusions for something more modern. But that reasoning can not be applied to this great charter. If all men are created equal, that is final. If they are endowed with inalienable rights, that is final. If governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, that is final. No advance, no progress can be made beyond these propositions. If anyone wishes to deny their truth or their soundness, the only direction in which he can proceed historically is not forward, but backward toward the time when there was no equality, no rights of the individual, no rule of the people. Those who wish to proceed in that direction can not lay claim to progress. They are reactionary. Their ideas are not more modern, but more ancient, than those of the Revolutionary fathers."

- Calvin Coolidge, Excerpt from Speech on the 150th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Philadelphia, PA July 5, 1926

¹⁷⁶ John Wesley Hill (1920) *Abraham Lincoln, Man of God*

¹⁷⁷ I Kings 9:4

God remains intact. We are Married—not divorced. Our Marriage—like our conscience—is intact through multiple trials (literally and figuratively) with absolute integrity despite these past six years of tribulation. Thus, our second Primary Relationship of Marriage is healthy and whole. We remain faithful to our children despite physical separation. God knows we've never abandoned them nor stopped fighting for them. Citizens that live according to the Word of GOD, the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Law, the Constitution of Michigan and Michigan Law—ought not be displaced by those who do not. What will become of the Citizen if we do not recover the Fundamental Liberty in our Primary Relationships?

Primary Relationships should not be separated. The consequence of doing so is already apparent to those who can see. We must remain defiant towards any Government or Citizen whose design is the destruction of our Primary Relationships. What line should Government never cross with you? With us, it's demanding we sin—violate our conscience—one against God, two against our Spouse, three against our Children, four against our Country—our Law. Due to our injured liberty it is our necessary posture to stand our ground—in Citizenship, in conscience, in Marriage, in Family, and in Jesus Christ who is the Resurrection and the Life.

Why the Supreme Court of the United States of America should Grant this Petition

Supreme Court Rule 10. Considerations Governing Review on Certiorari

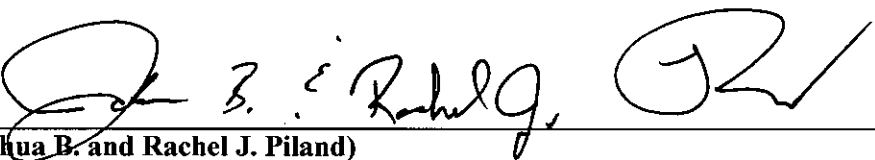
(c) a state court or a United States court of appeals has decided an important question of federal law...

Michigan Compiled Law, specifically MCL 722.634 is inextricably linked to Federal Law and Federal Funding, specifically the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act.

Our Constitution and other Federal Law is the check and balance of Federal Protections for U.S. Citizens against transgressions of the States and vice versa. Additionally, the Citizen is a check against their own Government—as the Government is a check against him.

The petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,



(Joshua B. and Rachel J. Piland)

Date: June 23, 2023

IV. Appendices

- Appendix A — 2022.09.15** **Michigan Court of Appeals Opinion 360062**
- Appendix B — 2021.12.29** **Order and Opinion Following Hearing to Terminate Parental Rights - Richard J. Garcia - 30th Judicial**
- Appendix C — 2022.12.29** **Michigan Supreme Court Order Denying Discretionary Review 164908**
- Appendix D — Original Documents**
- D.1. Chronology of Facts
 - D.2. Relationship Figures
- Appendix E — Other Material Essential to Understand the Petition**
- E.1. 1973 MCL 722.127 from Child Care Organization Act 116
 - E.2. 1975 MCL 722.634 Child Protection Law Act 238
 - E.3. 1997.01.30 House Bill 4178 Summary As Introduced
 - E.4. 2009.12.12 Josh and Rachel Piland Marriage License
 - E.5. 2016.06.24 Divine Healing Conference — Josh Piland
 - E.6. 2017.03.06 AJP - Certificate of Death
 - E.7. 2017.03.08 1st MI DHHS Petition
 - E.8. 2017.03.08 Order After Preliminary Hearing - Scott Etzel and Laura L. Baird
 - E.9. 2017.03.31 2nd MI DHHS Petition
 - E.10. 2017.03.31 2nd Post Preliminary Hearing Court Order - Megan E. Mertens and Laura L. Baird
 - E.11. 2017.05.24 Ex Parte Order Forbids Any Physical Discipline - Laura L. Baird
 - E.12. 2017.06.12 Court Order After Custody Review Hearing - Laura L. Baird
 - E.13. 2017.06.29 Court Order Reassigning Counsel- Laura L. Baird
 - E.14. 2017.08.31 Order Denying Parents' Motion for Jury Instruction - Laura L. Baird
 - E.15. 2017.09.15 Order Appointing Attorney David Zoglio - Laura L. Baird
 - E.16. 2017.12.20 Michigan Court of Appeals Order Granting Expedited Leave for Appeal
 - E.17. 2018.02.12 Court Order for Supervised Parenting Time- Laura L. Baird
 - E.18. 2018.02.13 Michigan Court of Appeals Order Denying Disqualification - Amy Ronayne Kraus
 - E.19. 2018.02.15 Court Order Prohibiting Respite Care from Paternal Grandparents - Laura L. Baird
 - E.20. 2018.02.21 Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Judge Order Denying Disqualification - Amy Ronayne Kraus
 - E.21. 2018.05.15 Michigan Court of Appeals - 340754 - Opinion Majority
 - E.22. 2018.05.15 Michigan Court of Appeals - 340754 - Opinion Minority
 - E.23. 2018.05.31 Court Order Parenting Time Location- Laura L. Baird
 - E.24. 2018.06.07 Order Appointing Attorney Melanie Wandji - Laura L. Baird
 - E.25. 2018.06.13 Out of State Travel Request and Order for a Temporary or Permanent Court Ward -Laura L. Baird
 - E.26. 2018.06.25 Search Warrant for Rachel Piland blood draw - Magistrate P6147
 - E.27. 2018.07.17 Order to Take Child Into Protective Custody - Laura L. Baird
 - E.28. 2018.07.18 MI DHHS Petition
 - E.29. 2018.07.18 Order After Preliminary Hearing - Referee Rod Porter and Judge Laura L. Baird
 - E.30. 2018.07.18 Court Ex Parte Order Granting All Medical Decisions for VLP to MDHHS - Laura L. Baird
 - E.31. 2018.08.09 Court Order - Staying the Case - Laura L. Baird
 - E.32. 2018.08.16 MDHHS CPS Notice of Placement on Central Registry - Josh Piland
 - E.33. 2018.08.16 MDHHS CPS Notice of Placement on Central Registry - Rachel Piland
 - E.34. 2018.10.22 Email to Government Officials
 - E.35. 2018.10.22 Letter to the State of Michigan and its Contracted Agents
 - E.36. 2018.11.07 Michigan Supreme Court Order 157918 Granting Leave to Appeal

Appendix E — Other Material Essential to Understand the Petition - continued

E.37.	2018.12.21	Michigan Supreme Court Order 157918 Granting Time Extension
E.38.	2019.01.28	Email to Family and Community Services, Inc. employees and Guardian ad Litem
E.39.	2019.01.28	Email attachment titled Inappropriate Conversations and Appropriating Faith
E.40.	2019.02.12	Court Order Appointing Attorney Robert Ochodnický - Laura L. Baird
E.41.	2019.05.23	Michigan Supreme Court Order and Opinion 157918
E.42.	2019.06.13	Court Order - Laura L. Baird - Pretrial matters and Jury Trial Date (inaccurate doc date)
E.43.	2019.06.26	Ex Parte Order
E.44.	2019.07.11	Order Denying Respondents' Motion for Disqualification - Laura L. Baird
E.45.	2019.09.12	Order after Pretrial Hearing - Disqualification Motion Denied - Laura L. Baird
E.46.	2019.10.22	MI DHHS Amended Petition
E.47.	2019.12.20	Order Transferring Case from Laura L. Baird to Richard J. Garcia
E.48.	2020.01	Michigan Supreme Court MI Model Civil Jury Instructions - In re: Piland Minors
E.49.	2020.01.13	Order of Adjudication, Request for Appellate Counsel Form, and Advice of Rights
E.50.	2020.02.24	Termination Opinion - Richard J. Garcia
E.51.	2020.02.25	Order Following Hearing to Terminate Parental Rights - Richard J. Garcia
E.52.	2020.03.16	Claim of Appeal and Order Appointing Appellate Counsel
E.53.	2020.06.09	Order Regarding Reassignment to Richard J. Garcia
E.54.	2021.04.15	Michigan Court of Appeals Opinion 353436
E.55.	2021.07.28	Order After Dispositional Review Hearing - Richard J. Garcia
E.56.	2021.08.03	Summons: Order to Appear - Joshua Piland
E.57.	2021.11.10	Order After Dispositional Review Hearing - Richard J. Garcia
E.58.	2021.12.02	Order of Adjudication and Zoom Instructions - Richard J. Garcia
E.59.	2021.12.13	Order for Court Appointed Appellate Counsel Denied - MCR3.993
E.60.	2021.12.29	Order Following Hearing to Terminate Parental Rights - Richard J. Garcia
E.61.	2022.01.01	Order to Take Child Into Protective Custody - Richard J. Garcia
E.62.	2022.01.03	Order After Preliminary Hearing - Referee Peter N. Brown
E.63.	2022.01.03	Termination Opinion - Richard J. Garcia
E.64.	2022.01.06	Summons: Order to Appear - Joshua Piland
E.65.	2022.01.18	Claim of Appeal and Order Appointing Appellate Counsel
E.66.	2022.02.03	MI DHHS Notice of Placement on Central Registry - Josh and Rachel Piland
E.67.	2022.02.10	Stipulation and Order to Adjourn Jury Trial - Richard J. Garcia
E.68.	2022.03.04	MI DHHS Amended Petition - Stephanie Roberts and Richard J. Garcia
E.69.	2022.05.11	Order of Adjudication - Richard J. Garcia
E.70.	2022.07.06	Termination Opinion - Richard J. Garcia
E.71.	2022.07.06	Order Following Hearing to Terminate Parental Rights - Richard J. Garcia
E.72.	2022.07.20	Claim of Appeal and Order Appointing Appellate Counsel
E.73.	2022.08.05	Michigan Court of Appeals Order for Consolidating 360062 and 362338
E.74.	2022.08.15	Michigan Court of Appeals Order for Consolidating 360062 and 362338 Vacated
E.75.	2022.09.15	Michigan Court of Appeals Opinion 360062
E.76.	2022.10.26	Michigan Supreme Court Order Granting Appellants' Motion to Waive Filing Fee
E.77.	2022.12.29	Michigan Supreme Court Order Denying Discretionary Review 164908
E.78.	Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 14.i.vi We submit a flash drive containing extensive file materials	

[Note: The Clerk of the United States Supreme Court returned E.78., as electronic files are not permitted per the Clerk's letter dated April 5, 2023.]