

MY NAME IS JENNIFER VERRANEALT AND I AM FROM EAST HAVEN. I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME OF MY OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES WITH THE NEW HAVEN FAMILY COURT SYSTEM AND HOW ANY LEGISLATION WILL NOT WORK IF JUDGES, GUARDIAN AD LITEMS, AMC'S AND ALL FAMILY LAWYERS ARE NOT EDUCATED. I AM A CERTIFIED GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT. HAVING BEEN EDUCATED AS SUCH, I AM AWARE OF THE DUTIES OF A GUARDIAN AD LITEM, AS WELL AS THOSE OF AN ATTORNEY FOR THE MINOR CHILDREN. HOWEVER, I AM EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED BY THE DESTRUCTION THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM HAS CAUSED THE MASTRANGELO V MASTRANGELO CASE. THE ROLE OF A GUARDIAN AD LITEM IS TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT BACK TO THE COURT THEIR FINDINGS. THEY'RE TO VOICE THEIR UNBIASED OPINION TO THE COURT BASED ON THEIR OBSERVATIONS, SO THAT THE JUDGE IS ABLE TO MAKE A DECISION THAT'S IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILDREN. AS I LEARNED IN THE GAL TRAINING, LITIGATION IS NOT IN A CHILD'S BEST INTEREST. CHILDREN CANNOT THRIVE WHEN THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THEIR LIVES ARE ENGAGED IN A CUSTODY WAR. THE ROLE OF A GUARDIAN AD LITEM IS TO PRESENT INFORMATION TO THE COURT SO THAT EACH CHILD CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE IS PROTECTED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. WELL, THE GAL IN THE MASTRANGELO CASE DID NOTHING TO PROTECT CARLY, CHRISTOPHER OR ANTHONY; THE CHILDREN INVOLVED. IN FACT, THE GAL HAD AT

LEAST THREE OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE COURT THAT COURT ORDERS WERE NOT BEING FOLLOWED BY A PARENT RELATED TO THE CUSTODY AGREEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT COURT ORDERS, BUT SHE FAILED TO DO SO. AS A RESULT, THREE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARILY EXPOSED TO EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM HAD DONE HER JOB. SHE, ALONG WITH THE CONNECTICUT FAMILY COURT SYSTEM HAS FAILED THE MASTRANGELO CHILDREN. ALSO IN THE GAL TRAINING, WE LEARNED THAT THERE'S NO PLACE FOR BIASES. WE NEED TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND AT ALL TIMES. WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE, INTERVIEW THOSE INVOLVED IN THE CHILDREN'S LIVES, WE NEED TO VISIT BOTH PARENTS HOMES AND WE NEED TO LOOK TO COLLEAGUES IF WE FEEL WE'RE NOT "GETTING IT." LET ME TELL YOU HOW THE GAL IN THE MASTRANGELO CASE CONDUCTED HER INVESTIGATION. AFTER 6 MONTHS OF THESE CHILDREN REFUSING TO SEE THEIR FATHER, TO SPEAK TO THEIR FATHER AND TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR FATHER, I CONTACTED THE GAL SO THAT I COULD SHARE MY PERSPECTIVE AND FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THIS FAMILY AND SHE REFUSED TO RETURN MY CALL. WHEN I ASKED THE GAL WHY SHE MADE THIS DECISION NOT TO INTERVIEW ME, SHE LIED TO ME BY SAYING SHE DID RETURN MY CALL AND THAT SHE DID SPEAK TO ME. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN THESE STATEMENTS BECAME A BIG

ISSUE IN THE MEDIA, THIS GAL CHANGED HER STORY BY SAYING SHE NEVER SAID SHE CALLED AND THAT SHE DIDN'T FEEL IT WAS NECESSARY TO INTERVIEW ME. IF SHE GAVE ME A CHANCE IN MARCH OF 2011, ONLY 6 MONTHS SINCE CONTACT STOPPED BETWEEN A GOOD FATHER AND HIS CHILDREN, PERHAPS I COULD HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. PERHAPS SHE COULD HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. ALL I KNOW IS THAT I WOULD HAVE SHOWN HER TONS OF VIDEOS AND PICTURES OF THREE CHILDREN WHO CLEARLY LOVED THEIR FATHER BUT WERE TAUGHT NOT SHARE THIS WITH ANYONE CONNECTED TO THEIR MOTHER. I WOULD HAVE SHARED WITH THIS GAL THAT THESE CHILDREN WANT TO BE WITH THEIR DAD BUT AFTER 5 YEARS OF LITIGATION AND PARENTAL ALIENATION, THEY HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN THEIR MOTHER AND FATHER SO IT WOULD END; THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THEY COULD SURVIVE. THESE CHILDREN HAD TO MAKE A DECISION THAT NO CHILD SHOULD EVER HAVE TO MAKE AND ALL BECAUSE NO ONE WAS MAKING DECISIONS FOR THEM. THE GAL LEFT IT TO 11 YEAR OLD TRIPLETS TO DECIDE THEIR FATE. THIS IS SO WRONG! THIS GAL WAS A VERY EXPENSIVE NOTE TAKER AND BENEFITTED GREATLY BY BILLING OVER \$50,000 TO THESE CHILDREN'S PARENTS. THERE'S NO ACCOUNTABILITY WHEN IT COMES TO GAL'S OR AMC'S. ALTHOUGH A GAL IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ANY AND ALL INFORMATION IN HER FILE TO THE PARENTS, THE ONE INVOLVED IN THIS CASE HAS CONVENIENTLY MISPLACED NOTES IN WHICH SHE

INTERVIEWED THE PARENTS. ONE BILL TOTALED OVER \$18,000 BUT YET THIS GAL COULD ONLY PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION FOR A FEW HOURS. CLEARLY, THERE'S NO ACCOUNTABILITY. I KNOW CERTIFIED GAL'S WHO GOT INTO THIS WORK TO HELP CHILDREN BUT THEY CAN'T HELP CHILDREN DUE TO THOSE LIKE THE MASTRANGELO GAL. I APPLAUD THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND JUDGE LYNDA MUNRO FOR IMPLEMENTING TRAINING FOR GAL'S AND AMC'S BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE'S MANY WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE IMMUNITY AND LACK OF OVERSIGHT AT THE EMOTIONAL EXPENSE AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CHILDREN. I HOPE THIS HEARING OPENS THE DOOR TO A SYSTEM THAT IS HORRIBLY BROKEN AND UNTIL WE ADDRESS IT AND FIX IT, WE WILL HAVE A LOT OF YOUNG CHILDREN GROWING UP TO BE ANGRY AND DYSFUNCTIONAL; AND I DON'T NEED TO TELL ANYONE WHAT HAPPENS TO ANGRY AND EMOTIONALLY STUNTED CHILDRENTHEY GROW UP TO BE ANGRY AND EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE ADULTS.

THANK YOU.

PLEASE SUPPORT RAISED BILLS 6685, 6688 AND 1155

