

James LaGuardia

I am here to speak about my divorce case and the custody of my children, in particular the GAL involved in the case. I believe the GAL has at best acted unprofessionally and more to the point unethically.

I received an email from her claiming a soccer coach called her with complaints about my behavior. I believe the email was a clear attempt at intimidating me to not go to the soccer games that I had been to every one of for about 6 years until I received the following email:

Jim

As a preface to my email, I ask that you please call me to discuss this email in greater detail and I am happy to meet with you and your attorney at a mutually convenient time to discuss this email and my phone calls regarding your children. I also ask that you not confront the Coach or Edward but rather discuss this matter with counsel.

I spoke with Jim Gill today - Edward's soccer coach. Coach Gill does not wish to have your assistance on the field during practices and, as I am sure you already know, you are not permitted on the field during games as the rules dictate. I understand from Mr. Gill that he has been your son's soccer coach for seven years. I understand from him that you are vocal and loud and that you make negative comments towards your son and that your comments and/or behavior may be affecting other children on the field. Coach Gill explained that you yell at every practice and game, and that your comments are not positive but rather negative, obnoxious and abusive.

I recommend that if you attend soccer practices or games for Edward that you do so as a "passive observer" and quiet spectator offering positive and appropriate comments.

Lisa Knopf

Well I have been suspicious of the GAL being biased from day one (most of the problems I had were he said/she said type things) and happen to know the coach so I sent him an email asking if this was in fact what he told her. He replied with the following email:

Dear Jim,

First, I just want to say that I am truly sorry that your family and especially the children are going thru this situation.

I am writing in response to your request to speak about Lisa Knoph's email to you regarding my conversation with her as well as your attorney's phone call to me.

She did call me to ask questions and she chose to take my answers out of context, misrepresent my opinions and embellish for her own purposes. By doing so she has put me in an extremely awkward position. My wife went to her office earlier this week and did not meet with her in-person but had a phone conversation. She certainly did not ask permission or obtain my consent to share the conversation we had with anyone. In fact, she said that she would not, another misleading statement.

As I am sure you can understand, I will not be speaking or having any correspondences with anyone concerning this situation in the future.

I look forward to coaching Edward and having a great soccer season.

As if it was not bad enough that she chose to send me this email filled with "misrepresentations, embellishments" etc... she also included it in an official letter to the psychological evaluator who has been court ordered in the custody battle, in my opinion if the GAL had done her duty to represent the best interest of the children in the first place we would not have had to spend an extra \$6,000 on the psych evaluation. Here is an excerpt from her letter to the evaluator:

I also spoke with Edward's soccer coach. He described the Father as being the loudest parent on the soccer field, always offering commentary that was not constructive, but rather negative and not helpful. He described the Father's participation as abusive, negative, and a yeller, who yelled at Edward to such a great extent that the Coach felt compelled to intervene. According to the Coach, the Father yelled to his son to hustle and to try harder. The Coach was sincerely concerned that the Father's behavior was affecting the other players on the field as well as Edward's.

I do not understand how it is the children's best interest for the GAL to go out of her way to contact a soccer coach and then as the coach put it "*she chose to take my answers out of context, misrepresent my opinions and embellish for her own purposes.*" And pass that information along to a psychological evaluator as part of her findings?

Also I find it highly illogical that one day in court she was arguing for her client (who was never married, never lived with the mother etc...) to have equal visitation with his child on all holidays. 5 minutes later and after moving 5 feet over acting as the GAL in our case she was arguing that I (the primary care giver for the first 11 ½ and 8 ½ years of my children's lives) to not have ANY contact AT ALL with my children. I think it is a great conflict of interest for attorneys to be GAL'S since on one day they may be the attorney for a plaintiff working with a fellow attorney as a GAL on that case, and the next day the roles could be reversed. It just does not make sense.

My case number is FBT-FA-13-4042545-S

Thank You

James Laguardia

