

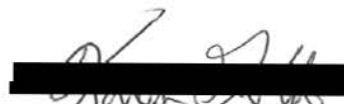
Affidavit of Karen Gotto

STATE OF IOWA
IN THE COUNTY OF CHEROKEE

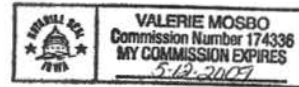
I Karen Gotto of Plains Area Mental Health of 900 N. 2nd St., Suite A Cherokee, IA 51012, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state that I have read the foregoing Affidavit, I know the content thereof, and that the same are true as I verily believe.

I have been providing therapy for N [REDACTED] and M [REDACTED] Roberts since April 4th 2006 when their mother Tracey Richter Roberts initiated therapy on their behalf.

I certify that the attached account of my July 11 2007 session with N [REDACTED] & M [REDACTED] and their father is true and correct.



Karen Gotto



SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 31st day of August 2007



NOTARY PUBLIC

Summary of July 11 2007 Counseling Session

Present:

1. Karen Gotto
2. N■■■■ Roberts
3. M■■■■ Roberts
4. Michael Roberts

- Karen Gotto was present at all times.
- Michael Roberts was present for some of the session.
- Both children were present for most of the time, however N■■■■ was asked to leave when he attempted to influence some of M■■■■s responses.

Purpose: Reconciliation of the children and their father with respect to abuse the children have previously alleged were perpetrated by their father and for which their father asserted were false accusations.

Mrs. Gotto introduced the session "to clear up a few things". After initial small talk Mrs. Gotto began asking the children about specific allegations in no particular order made in the DHS reports dated March 21 2007 by Michelle Shyrock and April 5th 2006 by Barb Veit respectively. The March 21 2007 DHS report founded Michael Roberts for abuse of both N■■■■ & M■■■■.

1. The 2007 report cited M■■■■ as saying:
 - a. Her Dad spansks her with a wooden spoon, specifically a "glow in the dark spoon"
 - i. M■■■■ denied that her father spanked her with a wooden spoon and could not recall ever seeing a glow in the dark spoon. When Mr. Roberts was present M■■■■ reiterated her inability to recall a single instance of being spanked by her father. Mr. Roberts went so far as to remind her of one or two occasions in years past when he gave her "little spankings". He also told M■■■■ that *"Karen is your friend and she is my friend too, she wants to help me be the best father I can. I won't get in trouble if you tell her all the times I spanked you because I am asking for her help"*. Mr. Roberts then left the room. M■■■■ still could not recall any spankings and emphatically denied any use of a spoon.
 - b. M■■■■ could not recall anything to do with the alleged abuse of N■■■■ using a twig in the back yard shortly before the parent's separation; despite the fact that she gave specific details three months previously during the DHS interview.
 - c. In M■■■■s DHS interview she stated that "when he (father) is mad, she (M■■■■) hides from him" and that "he yells a lot, is mean, and chases them to give spankings".
 - i. During the session M■■■■ was unable to recall and times that she hid from Mr. Roberts; she was unable to identify or describe any hiding places that she had used.
 - ii. During the session M■■■■ could not recall or describe the details of Mr. Roberts chasing and or spanking her/them.

- d. In M■■■■'s DHS interview she stated that "Mom's fighting over me and N■■■■ but Dad's fighting over N■■■■ only. I think that Dad was yelling at my Mom that she could have me and he wanted to keep N■■■■"
 - i. Mrs. Gotto raised this issue and quoted the DHS report. M■■■■'s response was an emphatic denial of ever saying this; her reaction appeared to be one of genuine surprise and disbelief. When Mrs. Gotto explained to M■■■■ what she told DHS, M■■■■ reiterated very clearly that it was not true and that she did not say this.
- 2. The DHS report cited N■■■■ three months previously as follows:
 - a. "Dad used to spank them on the hiney too, but he would use a long green stick or a wooden spoon"
 - i. N■■■■ had no recollection of the rod or spoon. When present, Mr. Roberts reminded him of a tradition where he would get a wooden spoon and place it on the kitchen table. He asked if N■■■■ could remember. N■■■■ did not recall; Mr. Roberts then told him how he "drew something on both sides of the spoon". At this point N■■■■ recalled "a sad face and a smiley face on each side. If they were naughty dad would place the spoon smiley face up; if they were still naughty he showed the sad face; and then they would be really good."
 - b. N■■■■ could not recall any details of the alleged 2004 abuse by Mr. Roberts with a twig except for what he had been told. "It was too long ago and was all fuzzy". Mrs. Gotto told N■■■■ that he gave lots of details only three months prior to DHS; N■■■■ did not change his position.
 - c. N■■■■ also told DHS that he "used to hide under the table sometimes when his dad was mad".
 - i. N■■■■ could not describe any such instance during this interview.
- 3. Other issues unrelated to the DHS reports:
 - a. Mrs. Gotto asked both children why they gave so much detail three months earlier and yet had no recollection now. Neither child attempted to explain.
 - b. N■■■■ expressed surprise that his father had access to the DHS reports.
 - c. It was noted that the children were promised a visit to "Chuckee Cheezes" after one, possibly both DHS interviews. The children described this venue as a treat that was traditionally a reward for doing something well.
 - d. While Mr. Roberts was present he asked M■■■■ where they went for N■■■■'s birthday in May 2007. M■■■■ had her back to N■■■■ and was playing with toys, she said "nowhere, we stayed at home"; at this point N■■■■ became agitated and attempted to get M■■■■'s attention. N■■■■ was asked to leave the room. M■■■■ was asked if she N■■■■ and Mom went to Adventureland in Des Moines. She said "no, we stayed at home; N■■■■ hasn't had a party yet".
 - e. The topic of Mr. Roberts' current summer visitation was raised with N■■■■. N■■■■ gave an account of how they first saw their dad in the Wal-Mart car park the previous week and that the children and their mother waved to Mr. Roberts and

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drove away because he had not arranged visitation. He stated that they then went to Mr. Movies where N returned a video and that his dad had followed and asked N to get in his car. N said that he rebuked his father for not making visitation arrangements. They then went to the Storm Lake public library where Tracey dropped off N to play computer games and left with M for the doctor. Mr. Roberts then took N by his hand from the Library and met with some police outside. The Police spoke to N and Mr. Roberts and followed Mr. Roberts to the doctor's office where Tracey had taken M. Mrs. Roberts apparently refused to exchange M for several more days.

- i. In session, Mr. Roberts asked N about some of the phone calls they had in the months prior to his arrival for summer. N recounted the following:
 1. *"You were originally going to get us on the 3rd or 4th of July but Mommy wanted to take us to fireworks in Rembrandt"*
 2. *"Then you said you'd pick us up on the 5th, but you didn't tell Mommy, just me on the phone". (defensively)*
 - ii. After further questioning N recalled Mr. Roberts asking on several occasions to speak with their mother, but she refused each time asking N to relay to his father that he should email her.
 - iii. N recalled relaying the original 3rd or 4th exchange dates to his Mom's and her relaying a refusal due to plans for the 4th which N then relayed to his father.
 - iv. N also recalled relaying to Mrs. Roberts that the final date for the exchange would be the 5th and that the issue had apparently been settled by all concerned.
 - v. N's eventually summarized the situation by stating that *"Mommy was playing games"*.
4. After returning from his excusal during M's account of the Adventureland issues, N was asked about his birthday and the alleged visit to Adventureland. He adopted a defensive position explaining that they usually go to Adventure land for his birthday. After further discussion he admitted that they did not go this year (2007)
- a. When asked why his Dad could not speak to them on the phone for about 10 days before, on and after his birthday; he said that *"we were supposed to go to Adventureland"*.
 - i. N stated that *"we just let the phone ring and that caller ID said 'Mike'".*
 - ii. N stated that they were not allowed to return Dad's call because it *"cost money"*. He understood that his Dad has an Iowa phone number when he is abroad and that it doesn't cost any more to call than his home in Aurelia.
 - iii. When Mrs. Gotto reviewed the 10 day Birthday issues he hesitantly stated that *"I lied and Mommy fibbed"*. It was summarized again by N as *"Mommy was playing games"*.