

September 14, 1983

Ms. Susan Staffel, caseworker  
Children's Services Division  
1102 Lincoln Street  
Eugene, Oregon 97401

REG: Authorization for continuation of therapy on  
Christy DOWNS

Dear Ms. Staffel:

As you know I have been working with Christy Downs in one-to-one therapy from June 29, 1983 to the present. From the onset difficulties with coordination, expressive language, and memory served to impede progress in therapy. In the beginning, her undirected play was unusually restricted. Of recent, her play has become increasingly spontaneous and increasingly analagous to the events surrounding the trauma. When her play in therapy mimics the events of the trauma, in her shelter home she exhibits reactivity in the form of night terrors.

Because of her apparent pre-trauma role in the family as parental child, I have been working to help alleviate Christy's feelings of responsibility and attendant guilt associated with her inability to protect her younger sister, Cheryl. I have also worked to reinterpret her own hand wound from her previous view of it as a reminder of her vulnerability to a reminder of her ability to protect herself from even graver harm.

At this point in treatment my goal is to further elicit Christy's natural role of protector vis-a-vis her younger brother, Daniel. Eventually, I anticipate that this strategy will serve to evoke sufficient anger toward the perpetrator to overcome Christy's current blockage or resistance in this area. It seems unusual that Christy experiences so much difficulty identifying and expressing anger toward someone who took her sister's life, paralyzed her brother, and traumatized her. While Christy's therapy needs seem readily apparent, I would like this letter to be considered as a formal request for continuation of treatment. While the final prognosis remains guarded, I feel that continuation of treatment is essential.

Sincerely,



Carl V. Peterson, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist