

EUGENE PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CENTER

1193 PEARL STREET EUGENE OREGON 97401 343-1937

October 4, 1983

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

RE: Christy DOWNS DOB 10-7-74
 Case # 49 AM7266 1

Dear Ms. Staffel:

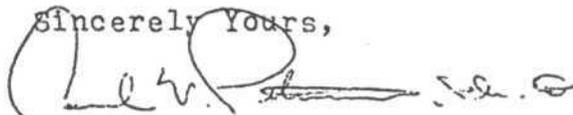
In light of my professional contacts with Christy Downs you recently asked that I address the court regarding the appropriateness of visits between Christy and her mother, Ms. Elizabeth Downs. This letter is in response to that request.

As you know, I have seen Christy on an approximate weekly basis since therapy was initiated on 6-29-83. A letter to your office on 9-14-83 outlined progress through that date. I have since seen Christy ~~three~~ additional sessions. In the course of those contacts I have helped Christy to access some of the feelings she associates with her sister's death. Throughout the duration of that work I have continued to be struck by the strength of Christy's resistance or blockage to accessing feelings she undoubtedly associates with the perpetrator of this crime. In part because of her blocked feelings, I am of the opinion that Christy is currently incapable of adequately protecting herself from the prospect of further emotional damage. As if sensing her own emotional vulnerability, Christy does not display the near universal strong desire to be reunited with her mother that typically follows a separation. I am led by concerned professionals to believe that Ms. Downs may have served a causal role in this tragedy, in which case her potential to inflict both physical and emotional damage is considerable. Because of the foregoing, I cannot on the basis of my contacts with Christy and complete lack of contact with Ms. Downs in good conscience recommend to the court that visits

between Christy and her mother be reinstated. Christy's obvious needs at this time are for ongoing therapeutic contact and a stable home environment with a trustworthy, hopefully familiar caretaker. It seems ludicrous to argue, although it could benefit the legal process, that Christy's personal needs would be served by placing her in a key witness role in a murder trial.

I have the utmost compassion for Ms. Downs who, I fully hope, sincerely desires to have access to her children and is innocent of any malicious actions. If in the court's wisdom there exists insufficient evidence to implicate Ms. Downs as having had a causal role in this tragedy and visits are ordered, I would respectfully request that those visits be closely supervised and that I be given the opportunity to meet with Ms. Downs prior to any visits in order that her manner with Christy could be guided in such a way as to serve a therapeutic function.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. V. Peterson', written over a large, circular flourish.

Carl V. Peterson, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist