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Questions before this Committee is how does agency who is supposed to protect children get way with such destruction to families and sweep their actions under the rug as if this child never exists before.

Chelsey was failed in so many ways.
She was failed by DCF
The doctors
The office of child advocacy
The judicial system.
Attorney General
Lawyers etc....

They can't bring her back now and all they have to offer to her mom is we are sorry go sue the doctors involve.
Not to mention her siblings and family friends

I recommend that this agency be broken up.



*Chelsey Marie Cruz
Born May 10 1992
Died March 11 2008*

WHO IS CHELSEY MARIE CRUZ?

Chelsey is a 15 year old, brilliant young lady who attended capital preparatory school. She believe in god first foremost. She also believed that we had the right to choose treatment. Chelsey was diagnosed with lupus when she was nine years old. Chelsey was being forced by DCF take the experimental procedures and treatments that they gave her. These treatments were experimental very dangerous and proven to be fatal. Chelsey and her Kimberly learned that she was giving experimental treatments after they saw Chelsey's physical decline and begin to research them. This sparked them to want to seek out other treatment. But the doctors in CT became angered by this. Kimberly wanted her weaned off the medicines. DCF was called by these doctors in CT and they unsubstantiated these charges twice, But DCF wanted to escort Kimberly still to Boston Children Hospital in Massachusetts. Why did they want to do this? They wanted to still hear from the Doctors that they agreed with Kimberly to wean her off experimental medicines. Boston

agreed with her to begin weaning Chelsey off the medicines. Chelsey look better; felt better and clinically she was better. Unbeknown to Kimberly the DCF supervisor sent a letter to the doctors telling them to notify her should they have any problems with Kimberly. Also this social worker is the one who recommended this hospital because she lived there. Eventually the doctors who were working with Chelsey just vanished and a chief doctor came on the seen. He demanded that Chelsey be put back on the experimental medications or he would call dcf. Kimberly wanted to seek another opinion but they were not allowed to. A guard was placed outside Chelsey's room and dcf was called. In fact these treatments were force on chelsey which caused more complications and life threatening side effects. Dcf got involved to force Chelsey to take the experimental medications. This state agency that was supposed to advocate for her, but instead of advocating, they really provided the doctor with the clearance to use Chelsey as a guinea pig. They refuse to listen to Chelsey and refuse to listen to Kimberly the mother of Chelsey who knew her best. Guards were place outside of her room and host of other events happened. Because Chelsey was refusing to take the meds that caused her kidneys to fail kept her body riddled with infections and countless hospitalizations DCF hired nursing agencies that forced her to take experimental medications. Two of the nursing agencies quit because they disagreed with the aggressive treatments, the medicines given, the

way they had to force her to take the medicines and the constant sickness Chelsey had from taking them. They too witness her pleas to her lawyers, dcf and the judge to hear her concerns. But no one listen to Kimberly and no one listen to Chelsey's cries for help. Sadly Chelsey felt like she was imprisoned. She was in fact enslaved to the faulty system that does not truly seek the benefit of the child but the benefit of these agencies that thrive off of them. The system howbeit DCF judge, nursing agency, doctors failed Kimberly and more importantly failed Chelsey. But that didn't stop Chelsey from speaking and it didn't stop Kimberly either. They begged them to listen before something awful happened Chelsey wanted go to court to explain her concerns the judge never allowed her to so she wrote a letter to the judge and it was ignored. Chelsey words" I don't want to come to back to this hospital", " I don't want to take these medications any more" "What has to happen for u guys to listen?" "Do I have to die first for you to listen to me?" She said to her dcf worker. The tragic part is that Chelsey said this on Friday to the Doctors at Boston children's hospital and to DCF and the following Monday she Passed. Chelsey deserved to be heard all the parties have went on as though its just another day another dollar but the injustices need to stop.



Chelsey Marie Cruz
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The truth be told.. their rights were violated?

Disagreed with the experimental

Treatment that the doctors gave Chelsey without informed consent.

Massachusetts DSS and DCF in CT worked to entrap Chelsey and Kimberly OTC was obtained for Chelsey

Kimberly was told she couldn't make any medical decisions. Chelsey was held in hospital beyond medical necessity until they gave to her grandfather.

Kimberly rights letter to DCF, judge and attorney general

The Doctor increased the chemotherapy medicines and Chelsey got sicker and required hospitalization again.

Chelsey was hospitalized on Wed October 31, 2007. Chelsey and my father waited in the dialysis unit at Boston Children's from 10:00am -8:00pm and then she was admitted to the hospital floor unit. Chelsey spent all day Thursday 11/01/07 and Friday 11/02/07 with out treatment. DCF didn't notified Kimberly nor did the doctor, social worker or Dcf. The hospital's administration department called Kimberly and they said they needed consent to treat Chelsey.

Chelsey called Kimberly too on 11/2/07 to say she felt like she was going to die. Grandfather stated that she had still been untreated On Friday morning 11/3/07. Kimberly called DCF supervisor to ask why Chelsey had not been treated and why hasn't permission to treat Chelsey been given, she said why are you calling me.

Chelsey's medical condition worsens and she hadn't been treated.

Dcf supervisor lied and said the hospital said Kimberly refused treatment, instead

It was that DCF hadn't been to see about Chelsey since she had been admitted and told Kimberly she wasn't allowed to go up there. Worker asked Kimberly why was she calling her she thought Kimberly wanted all communication to go through her lawyer Kimberly said this is an emergency. The dcf supervisor said to Kimberly you better call your lawyer.

Shortly after hanging up with DCF the hospital called Kimberly for permission to treat Chelsey stating that the reason she had been there without care and no could give consent but Kimberly, So Kimberly gave consent.

DCF supervisor never mentioned to her that the delay in Chelsey receiving treatment was they needed consent from Kimberly.

Ultimately they convinced a judge through lies to consent to DCF taking over medical care. Nursing agency was hired by dcf 3 times 2 of them quit. Because Chelsey did not want to take the medications, they threaten Chelsey of removing her from family if she didn't take medicines, they felt it was excessive doses of medicines and that they were experimental. The third nursing agency continued to give Chelsey the medications under dcf orders. Chelsey words " I don't want to come to back to this hospital", " I don't want to take these medications any more" "What has to happen for u guys to listen"? "Do I have to die first for you to listen to me?" She said to her dcf worker.

Chelsey called her lawyer the night before her death all night long. Chelsey's Marie Cruz to die on March 11, 2008.

How were their rights violated?

- Ct doctors called dcf twice because Kimberly wanted to take Chelsey and bring her to another doctor who could wean her off the doctors in CT called DCF.
- DCF unsubstantiated her both times and Chelsey lupus was in remission.
- The doctors in Boston agreed to wean her off the chemotherapy medicines and dcf in ct left the picture so we thought. Chelsey Lupus for 1st time in remission for a year.
- Unbeknown to Kimberly correspondence had taken placed
- DCF wrote a letter to doctors to give them the heads up that they should be called if they had any problems.
- The chief nephrologists took over treatment.. Took her current doctors off Chelsey case and demanded that Chelsey take the experimental treatment.
- He threaten that he knew DCF had been called before that if she didn't cooperate or go along with the experimental treatment. H would call DCF and he did.
- DCF they got involved in Kimberly's and Chelsey's life and a guard was placed outside her hospital door only because she

- Kimberly rights letter to DCF, judge and attorney general
- The Doctor increased the chemotherapy medicines and Chelsey got sicker and required hospitalization again.
- Chelsey was hospitalized on Wed October 31, 2007. Chelsey and my father waited in the dialysis unit at Boston Children's from 10:00am -8:00pm and then she was admitted to the hospital floor unit. Chelsey spent all day Thursday 11/01/07 and Friday 11/02/07 with out treatment. DCF didn't notified Kimberly nor did the doctor, social worker or Dcf. The hospital's administration department called Kimberly and they said they needed consent to treat Chelsey.
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Chelsey Cruz's Law?

What would Chelsey Cruz's Law entail?

- It is a law that we want passed to prevent the violation of the Parents right/Children's which would allow them the right to be given inform consent as well as the right to choose the treatment without and intervening of any state agency or courts to determine this rights
- Prevent Drs from righting false 51-A's just because a parents wants other alternatives.
- Prevents courts and the state agencies from forcing a parent and their child to take any medical procedures treatments and medicines i.e. experimental ones.
- To change the laws that allowed these tragic events to happen and
- Close any and all loop holes that exist for DCF that infringes on their parental rights that prevents a parent from the right to be able to make any choices on behalf of their child be it of physical, mental, educational, emotional, medical treatment , medicines

,therapy second opinions third fourth fifth etc

- Fortify parents rights
- Fortify a parents right to choose any course of physical, mental, educational, emotional, medical treatment ,medicines ,therapy second opinions third fourth fifth etc without any backlash from the medical community DCF.... etc

What is Chelsey's Law Group?

How do I contact someone about joining?

- Call Chelsey's Law group at:
(860) 983-1208 or (860)-614-0347

GIRL IN MEDICAL DISPUTE DIES

LUPUS TREATMENT PITTED MOTHER, STATE

Hartford Courant - Hartford, Conn.

Author: HILARY WALDMAN; COLIN POITRAS

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Document Text

Chelsey Cruz, a 15-year-old who ended up at the center of a custody battle between her mother and the state that left each side accusing the other of harming her, died suddenly Tuesday.

The state Department of Children and Families last August filed charges of medical neglect against the girl's mother, Kimberly Castro, and took custody of the East Hartford teenager.

Castro had disagreed with three teams of doctors who treated Chelsey for lupus.

DCF stepped in following a complaint by child welfare authorities in Massachusetts. Chelsey at the time was being treated at Children's Hospital Boston.

Doctors from Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford and Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital had filed complaints with Connecticut authorities, contending that Kimberly Castro was hurting her daughter by objecting to the treatment they recommended. Those charges did not stick.

After the Boston complaint, however, DCF placed Chelsey in the custody of her grandfather, who agreed to follow the doctor's orders. Both sides were awaiting a final ruling in the case when Chelsey died.

In an interview last autumn, Chelsey, an honors student, said she felt her mother was acting in her best interest. She said her biggest wish was to go home and be healthy.

"I feel kind of angry that I'm not able to be with my mom right now," Chelsey said in October.

Michael Perez, Castro's court-appointed lawyer, said Chelsey was taken to Connecticut Children's Medical Center Tuesday morning and probably died of cardiac arrest caused by sepsis, an overwhelming infection that can shut down the body's organ systems very rapidly. Perez said an autopsy is planned to determine the exact cause of death.

Perez said he last saw Chelsey in January at her grandfather's house and she was talkative and well enough to do dishes and join a conversation at the kitchen table. Although she continued to travel to Boston for treatment, she finally felt strong enough to return to school at Capital Prep Magnet School in Hartford, he said.

"The whole thing is just a huge shock to us all," Perez said.

The dispute over Chelsey's care began almost six years ago, when doctors at Connecticut Children's Medical Center diagnosed the girl with lupus, a disease in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the body's healthy tissue. The attacks can be unpredictable, with milder forms affecting the skin and joints and more severe forms targeting crucial organs such as the kidneys, heart, brain and lungs.

Chelsey, her doctors said, had a serious complication called lupus nephritis, which can cause devastating kidney damage. They prescribed steroids and an immediate intravenous infusion of Cytoxan, a drug approved for cancer treatment that has shown promise in stopping or slowing immune system attacks in lupus patients.

When Chelsey continued to be wracked by complications, including abdominal pain and diarrhea, her mother lost faith in the doctors at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Castro transferred Chelsey to Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital. There, the doctors found that Chelsey's kidneys had failed.

They blamed the lupus, but Kimberly Castro blamed the medication.

At Castro's request, the Yale doctors switched Chelsey to a newer form of treatment. But that, too, caused serious side effects and Castro objected to that, too. That's when Yale called DCF, accusing the mother of medical neglect.

After an investigation, DCF determined that Castro simply no longer trusted the doctors. As a compromise, DCF and Castro agreed that Chelsey's care be transferred to Children's Hospital Boston.

But it wasn't long before the same fight Castro had at Connecticut Children's and Yale broke out in Boston. Castro did not want any more Cytosar or the alternative drug, Cellcept. The drugs, she said, were killing her daughter.

After a lot of angry back-and-forth, an order of protection was signed in Massachusetts in late August. Until Chelsey was returned to her grandfather's home in East Hartford, a uniformed guard was posted outside her room in Boston to prevent Castro from taking her daughter out of the hospital.

Perez said Tuesday that he and Castro plan to collect Chelsey's medical records. Castro has not yet decided whether she may take legal action against the state, he said. For the moment, Perez said, Castro is grieving.

Perez said a Superior Court trial on the medical neglect charges had just concluded in February and that Castro was awaiting a ruling. And he said, she remains convinced that the strong medications were too much for her daughter.

"Ms. Castro strongly believes there is a connection between the drugs that were being used and the results today," Perez said.

In a statement, officials at the Connecticut Department of Children and Families expressed sadness about Chelsey's death.

"The young girl had a variety of medical complications and Department staff did everything possible to ensure that she got the best medical care," the statement said. "The department extends its deepest condolences to the girl's family."

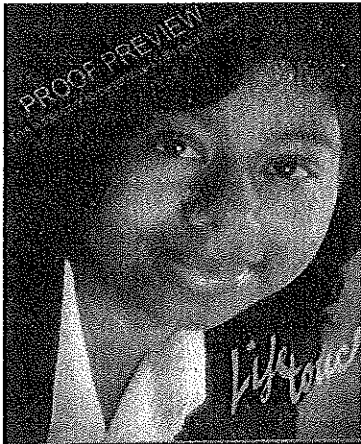
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Abstract (Document Summary)

The dispute over Chelsey's care began almost six years ago, when doctors at Connecticut Children's Medical Center diagnosed the girl with lupus, a disease in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the body's healthy tissue.

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Dear Your Honor,

It was of great importance that I speak to you. Since I was denied the request to speak to you in person, I'm taking the opportunity to address my concerns about this matter.

The first thing I would like to mention is that I believe that this time that I have been separated from my family has taken an emotional toll on me. To be separated from the family I know and love, that have been my only true advocate and support was in no way beneficial to me because at a time like this is when I need my family the most. My parents have truly been there for me since the beginning and besides me, they know more about me than anyone else. They have been the only one that has been listening to how I feel about my illness and the effect of the treatments that I have been receiving. The conflict that I am having is that according to the law my parents are supposed to have the right to be making all decisions for my medical care.

Now if this is true and I have been telling my parents how I feel and they address my concerns to the doctors but the doctors ignore how the treatments are affecting my body and my life, as a result my parents are being penalized for voicing my concerns and respecting

the fact that I do know how these treatments are affecting me and the everyday struggles I endure because of them. For example, since starting these treatments I'm very fatigued most of the time because of constant diarrhea. I used to have so much hair that I couldn't even put it into a ponytail and now it's so thin, that I can see my scalp. Not to mention the infections that I get often due to my suppressed immune system that is caused by the prednisone and Cellcept. Even though I have expressed to the doctors my concerns as well as I needed to be hospitalized because of the complications to these treatments they continue to keep giving them to me. It's as though they are ignoring me. They continue to force these treatments on me and they don't care what happens to me. I feel that without my parents who are my advocates, I now have no one to advocate for me properly.

In a few months I will be 16 years old and I feel that I am able to make a sound decision about the medical treatment and physician that I would like to choose. I feel that I have carefully thought about and weighed the pros and cons of the treatment for lupus. I have already tried what the doctors consider to be standard of care for the past 5 years. I have experienced the horrifying side effects of them and realized that they have not helped me in any way in fact I feel I have gotten worse and now require dialysis. In light of this, I no longer want to use them. The reason why I can say this is because I know that I have tried a lot of their recommended medications and treatments and they keep changing which means the doctors are still looking to try to see what will work. I have read about Dr Fuhrman and found he has successfully treated many lupus patients in fact he has treated a girl my age with lupus and end stage renal failure and she no longer has any evidence of lupus or renal disease. This gives me a lot of hope that he can help me to get better so I can go on living a normal life. I would also like to be back with my mom and brothers without any interference from any agency. I hope that you reading this letter gives you a better understanding of me and my situation and I'm optimistic that you will make the right decision.

Sincerely, Chelsey Cruz