

This is a PDF copy of an email that was sent on January 22, 2009 by Chameleon Aconitum to Child Protective Services with Jake Gustafson acting as an intermediary at Chameleon's request. Jake was in possession of the letter subsequently due to it necessarily being present in his outbox. This copy was posted publicly in Fall 2021 for legitimate and reasonable purposes that were consistent with U.S. laws.

This copy has been reformatted and/or modified as follows relative to the 2009 original copy:

- (a) The names of two children, son and daughter of Chameleon, have been redacted
- (b) Page margins have been decreased
- (c) Page header and footer have been added
- (d) Font has been changed
- (e) Paragraphs are now justified
- (f) Blank lines have been inserted to improve readability
- (g) A few annotations have been added and are marked as such
- (h) This note has been added

In the letter, Chameleon refers to a "Central Registry". She seems to be referring to Pennsylvania's "Central Register" (sic).

Dear Ms. Truran,

I am writing in regards to three matters. The first is the CPS investigation report dated 12/18/2007, the second is CPS investigation report dated 08/06/2008 and the third is regarding my placement in the Central Registry.

I am very concerned at the number of inaccuracies and biased information in the reports filed by Ms. Neeka Thomas. They have caused legal repercussions that cannot be reversed.

I will start by listing the inaccurate information:

Report 1 - 12/18/2007

Contrary to the 12/18/2007 report, this is what actually happened:

1. My car was not running
2. The keys were not in the car
3. The car was locked
4. I could see the children at ALL times from the window of the Walled Lake DHS building. I could see my car the entire time. I am not saying what did was right, but I felt strongly compelled to advise you of this.
5. I was not MORE concerned that I wasn't getting help from DHS than I was about my children, I was concerned that the childcare assistance I wasn't receiving would place myself and my children in a dire situation of possibly being evicted.
6. I was absolutely not advised that I would have an open case with CPS, I was not advised I was REQUIRED to take parenting classes.
7. That first case was supposed to be closed. On September 15, 2008, I was told by Neeka Thomas that my CPS Log #1890374 and 1977584 cases would be closed if I would sign up for

a parenting class by the end of the week. She said this was her last day due to a promotion and really wanted to get my case closed. By Wednesday, September 17, 2008, I had signed up for Love and Logic parenting class with Natalie Rea of Common Grounds Sanctuary. I left this information on Ms. Thomas's voicemail and followed up with 2 more calls to ensure she had received the information.

8. In early October, I contacted Ms. Thomas because my case had not yet been closed. Ms. Thomas advised me she was now "off the case and could do nothing about it" and to contact Andrea Perry. When I contacted Andrea Perry, she said she could do nothing about the guarantee Ms. Thomas had made to me about the cases closing. Ms Perry also advised me that she wasn't closing my cases until she received information from Children and Youth in Scranton, PA.

Report 2 – 08/06/2008

I would like to start with the list of people that Ms. Thomas felt would be her best choice to compile an accurate investigation into the events that led up to August 8, 2008.

1. Leah Baker—this is my mother. On 12/18/2008, I had an extensive discussion with Ms. Thomas regarding the actions of my mother and the lack of support she had shown in the first three months of my coming to Michigan.
 - a. Leah Baker had thrown myself and my 18 month old son [name redacted] and my newborn daughter [name redacted] out of the house three times between August 14, 2006 and December 25, 2006.
 - b. Leah Baker has not been to my house since we moved in on September 2007. (with the exception of one visit prior to my moving in, where she did assist in cleaning some cabinets.)
 - c. Leah Baker initiated no visits with her grandchildren since September 2007.
 - d. Leah Baker has shown volatile destructive history in my personal life.
 - e. I have been estranged from my mother since I was 16.

However, despite these facts Ms. Thomas seemed to have decided that my mother would be an adequate contact for case investigation.

Annotation. *Jake Gustafson states that Leah Baker states that her daughter Chameleon is a potential sociopath who makes up false stories. This part is He Said-She Said and is offered simply for what it's worth.*

2. Christopher McDonald
 - a. This is my abusive husband.
 - b. On July 11th, he was arrested for assault and battery, simple assault against myself in Philadelphia, PA.
 - c. On August 11, 2006, he canceled our lease when I was 8 months pregnant and removed all of our belongings from the apartment and moved to Scranton, with no prior notice to myself.
 - d. He has assault and battery charges brought against him in Philadelphia, PA.
 - e. He has abused the Scranton Court system to the degree that he has had 2 charges filed against me that were dismissed because of his using the court system to harass me.

- f. My attorney in Scranton, Nancy Barrasse, had to write a letter to the courts of Scranton because he was stalking her.

Ms. Thomas was aware of all of these events, yet she still felt that he would be an adequate contact to testify to my parenting abilities and skills.

3. Patricia Dolak

- a. Christopher's mother, who once told me to stop complaining about my bruises, because she has bruises bigger than mine. She also advised me in the past that domestic violence stays in the family and we are not supposed to talk about it. She has told me she is angry at me for calling the police after her son assaulted me. Again, I would like to question the accuracy of the statements and the validity of her evaluations of myself.

If this were a balanced investigation, why didn't Ms. Thomas contact my daycare worker who had daily contact with me? Or my friends who have spent time with myself and the children?
Or other family members who have spent time with me and my children?
Or Church members? Or Babysitters?

Can this be considered a fair investigation and an accurate report when the only laypersons that are giving testimony about my mothering capabilities are my two abusers and one of their mothers? These three people have spent the LEAST amount of time with me and my children and are NOT qualified or neutral contacts to make statements about my abilities as a mother.

RISK ASSESMENT NARRATIVES

Primary caretaker is unable/unwilling to control impulses

1. This is not true—if I was unable/unwilling to control my impulses I would not have sought out help, therefore the statement doesn't correspond with the facts.
2. My daughter [name redacted] was at her regular daycare—she was not in my presence at anytime from 8am until my mother picked her up from daycare that evening. Please see Investigative Findings Comments dated 08/07/08 @ 3:40pm—it clearly stated that my mother picked [daughter] up from daycare that day. The statement that my daughter was in danger is a conflict in facts. The statement reads “there is a preponderance of evidence that Camille McDonald placed her daughter [name redacted] at threaten harm.” This statement is not clear and is not coherent English.

Ms. McDonald said she did nothing wrong and the children should be home with her.

Ms. Thomas is making a very vague and generalized statement.

1. I did make several inquiries as to the nature of the investigation and the lack of even a telephone call to my children, but I did not make any overriding statement to the effect that she seemed to describe.
2. Obviously, I understood that was something was wrong or I would not have voluntarily sought assistance from Common Grounds. It is very healthy to seek help and to realize when your stress level is too high. It is a sign of strength to obtain guidance and support.
3. I took this event very seriously, and risked the possibility of having my children sent to an abusive man, to be honest about my struggles and seek the help I needed.
4. I was seeking help, following through with my commitments, going to counseling, taking my medication and always in constant contact with Ms. Thomas regarding my progress.

Leah Baker - Untrue Statements

1. That my home is messy and disorganized. To the best of my recollection my mother has been in my house once, prior to my moving in, to assist me in preparing my apartment to move in. I had a close friend who can attest to my mother's complete absence from my apartment.

2. That I am involved in prostitution—this is not true; this was a rumor that was proven in court as a false statement on December 18, 2008 in front of Judge Alexander. My mother has a history of making slanderous statements about me and my life however has very little to no contact with my children and myself.

Annotation. *Jake Gustafson states that he attended the Court hearing which Chameleon is referring to here; that he drove 9 hours at Chameleon's request to do so; that to the best of his recollection, the "rumor" was not proven in Court to be false; and that, in fact, Chameleon seemed to acknowledge at one point that she was engaging in prostitution. Jake adds that he used to babysit Chameleon's children on such occasions.*

In a sense, Chameleon had been treated unfairly in the prostitution context from a legal perspective. Jake went to Court to support Chameleon and to ensure that the process was fair.

What had happened was that Jake made statements to Leah, Chameleon's mother, and to Ron, a churchgoer who housed Chameleon for a time as charity. Leah or Ron relayed the statements to Ron's wife, a woman named Char.

Jake told Leah and Ron that Chameleon was "probably" engaging in prostitution. Leah and Char relayed Jake's remarks to others as statements of fact. They may, additionally, have suggested that they had primary knowledge of the prostitution as opposed to the statements of fact actually being hearsay.

Jake testified to the effect that Leah and Char had no primary knowledge related to the prostitution issue and that their statements had been hearsay.

So, one part of the prostitution issue was "proven to be false". However, Chameleon had stated directly to Jake earlier in 2008, face to face, that she "like[d] sugar daddies" and that she knew it was wrong. She said, "I thought I could make some extra money".

Chameleon talked about "sugar daddies" in email as well.

Jake says: "We shared the user of her computer using one username. One day I went to gmail.com and it was already logged in as her and I saw the e-mails. Then I talked to my roommate and he revealed the other stuff."

"The other stuff" was that Chameleon was doing pretty much any adult that she was able to get into bed, male or female, and telling everybody that "Jake is fine with this". In fact, Jake wasn't fine with this, but he drove 9 hours in December to support Chameleon in Court regardless.

End of annotation.

3. That I have no parenting skills. – In contrast, my mother testified in court in July of 2007 in front of Judge Idee Fox in Philadelphia Family Court that I was a "wonderful mother", a "caring and compassionate mother". She stated that I was "the most patient mother she had ever seen".

In addition, I have been taking parenting classes of my own free will including James Dobson's "Dare to Discipline" I have read many books including "Sheparding a Child's Heart", "Bringing Up Boys", "Strong

Willed Child or a Dreamer” and others. I also have 5 years professional experience working in a Child Care Facility and have 10 years experience working in nurseries of the churches I have attended.

Annotation. *Jake Gustafson states: Chameleon never had a job for more than a year the whole time I knew her. In Michigan, after losing a job, she told me, "I'm not very good at keeping jobs, but at least I'm good at getting jobs. I'm a good job getter, lol." She'd also miss 2 to 4 months at a time at churches that she attended.*

Patty Dolak-Untrue Statements

1. Ms. Dolak reports that “whenever Camille brings the children to her home, she never have no money, food or the children do not have the proper necessities” [sic]. Whenever I have dropped off the children I have not seen Patty. The one time I made a drop off, it was at a Burger King in Dunmore and it was Chris that was there to meet and retrieve [son]. I always packed a bag for [son] with everything he needed until he got to Chris's house. Any other time Chris preferred to pick up [son] himself here at the 12 Oaks Mall, therefore Patty would have no knowledge of what may have occurred. When I had travel responsibility, Chris would request a neutral place to exchange the children. His mother never witnessed an exchange of the children.
2. Her statement that I have no money is baseless because she has no information on my financial affairs because I have not provided that information to her.
3. Her statement that I was unstable has no corresponding facts, except that her son's abusive and harassing behavior may have made me appear unstable.

Chistopher McDonald- False Statements

1. That I didn't bond with [son]—On the contrary I slept with [son] every night the first three nights in the hospital, I breast fed [son] while we would both be laying in bed. He was so precious to me. When I got home his bassinet was next to my bed and I would get up 4 or 5 times a night to feed him as a loving mother would do for her newborn child.

Additional information concerning Chris' statement about bonding: because Chris was abusive and I had an initial fear of raising a child in an abusive home, I had considered adoption—this was before [son's name]'s birth. I was scared to raise [son] in a hostile and volatile environment. I do not believe this should be a factor in whether or not I am a good mother or whether or not I bonded with him.

I think I have said enough in these areas.

Well, my final concern is my placement on the registry list. What constitutes placement?

DISPOSITIONAL FINDINGS

I believe this report is one-sided, inaccurate, and biased. Many of the statement made about me in this report are false and even have been proved so in court. The people that were interviewed were a hostile influence in my life and obviously inadequate choices. There was no one contacted from my circle of friends, family, contacts. There was no one contacted or interviewed that had spent any considerable time with myself and my children on a daily or even regular basis of any sort.

Many people that know me well would say I love my children, have watched me give them their baths, read them bedtime stories and cook them three meals a day plus snacks. I would take them to the Metro Park in summer and to the pool, sing songs, and read books. I would take them to 12 Oaks to play in the playscape. I had a daily routine for them. I fought hard to make their life consistent and loving. I rigorously attended that my personal struggles in dealing with Chris's constant harassment

would not be seen by the children. I have never hurt, hit, threatened to harm, nor has anyone seen me harm, push, punch, kick or anything of the like to either of my children.

I do not feel like I was treated professionally and respectfully. My phone calls were never returned and the fact that I continued to call was later used against me, indicating I was unstable. I was given false information by a CPS worker regarding the status of my case on numerous occasions. That same worker testified in court on December 18, 2008 and that I never made any statement regarding harming my children in any way. I am currently ordering a copy of the transcript of that court hearing so you may read for yourself what Ms. Thomas stated.

I would appreciate your feedback on this letter. I would be happy to provide you with any other information you may need to remove me from this Central Registry.

Annotation. *Jake Gustafson doesn't know how the Central Register (aka Registry) case worked out; i.e., whether or not Chameleon succeeded in her petition.*

Sincerely,

Camille L. McDonald

ENCLOSURES