

Regarding: Case # 494710-0-II/Karen L Fischer, Respondent and Bruce A Fischer, Appellant

To: All Interested Parties

I understand that Mr. Fischer filed an appeal.

It's my understanding that this appeal was filed for two reasons. First, Mr. Fischer is concerned that our children, now both over the age of 18 years old may still be included in the current protection order. Secondly, it appears that Mr. Fischer is arguing there is no reason or need for the continuation of a protection order to remain in place.

First, regarding Mr. Fischer's concern about our children remaining on the protection order. It's my understanding that this current protection order only covers one adult, myself. It does not include our son, Ryan who turned 18 in March 2016. It does not include our daughter, Christina who is now 20 years old. In fact, it's my recollection that at our court appearance in June 2015, the commissioner clearly stated in open, public court that our son Ryan would be automatically dropped from the protection order as a matter of protocol on his 18th birthday. It's been my understanding that our son was officially dropped from the protection order on his 18th birthday in March 2016. Mr. Fischer was present for the June 2015 court proceedings. He asked the clarifying question about the protection order and we both received this very clear message. It's always been my understanding that the children were only part of the protection order until they turned 18 years of age.

Additionally, it's my understanding that clarifying this point could have been resolved in a timely fashion within the Thurston County Family Court in July or August 2016.

Regarding the July 2016 court hearing, Mr. Fischer informed the court that he was unable to attend the assigned July 2016 court date and stated that he would instead appear by phone. The morning of the hearing, court officials attempted to reach Mr. Fischer by telephone three different times. Mr. Fischer, did not answer his phone. This respondent remained present in the court room, so that the court officials could give Mr. Fischer additional time to answer, and despite additional time, he did not answer any of the three calls placed by the Thurston County Family Court the morning of the July 2016 hearing.

Again, if Mr. Fischer was concerned that one or both of our children would still be included in the protection order he could have appeared in court to clarify this issue and/or filed a timely motion for clarification within days of the July 2016 hearing. I understand that the latter option could have been addressed in an expedited manner with minimal to no cost to either party.

Secondly, Mr. Fischer raises the issue that the protection should not be renewed and should not be extended. This respondent would like the court to know this request was not made hastily or lightly. This has been a difficult, but necessary action based on Mr. Fischer's choices and behaviors. Unfortunately, Mr. Fischer's behavior and choices across the past 10 years, since this case started have only served to escalate concerns regarding safety and Mr. Fischer's intentions. In fact, based on Mr. Fischer's behavior within the community, court room and within court documents I was advised many years ago to seek a lifetime protection order once the children turned 18 years of age.

Mr. Fischer's explanation includes that this renewal violates his civil rights. While I hear Mr. Fischer's concerns, with all due respect, it's difficult to understand how Mr. Fischer can overlook the impact of his choices and behaviors for the past 10 years. Unfortunately, for all parties this court case was not resolved in a timely fashion, but continued across 10 years of our children's lives. Mr. Fischer refused to comply with court orders. Mr. Fischer continues to explain his reasoning for not complying with court orders and completing the Domestic Violence Treatment Program. While he expresses that he could not attend the domestic violence program because it violated his civil rights, he does not address why he chose not to exercise his visitation rights with our children. He does not address why he chose not to see our children or attend their school events for the past 8 years.

Mr. Fischer also shows continued signs that he believes his rights are the only ones that truly matter. Sadly, he did not exhibit concern for the rights of myself or our children. The following behaviors contribute to my belief that Mr. Fischer is still a threat and concern:

- 1-No acknowledgement, ownership or responsibility for his choices
- 2-Escalation of concerning behaviors across the past 10 years
- 2-Willingness to ignore court orders, even to the point of forgoing time with his two children for 10 years
- 3-Locating our undisclosed location and repeatedly driving by our home during late night hours
- 4-Locating our 2nd undisclosed location and sending his current wife to our daughter's work place, after receiving an email from our daughter asking her to honor her boundaries
- 5-Public blogs written by Mr. Fischer
- 6-Dropping our daughter from health insurance coverage without notification through the court system or DSHS-that was still involved with our case until our son turned 18 years of age.
- 7-Use of court proceedings to continue and prolong the case at great potential cost to this respondent

Over the past 10 years, Mr. Fischer has demonstrated and communicated such strong concerns for his rights that he not only elected not to complete the court ordered D V program, but he chose not to his exercise visitation rights with our children for over 10 years. Additionally, Mr. F chose to repeatedly seek clarification about his ability to attend the children's events, and then ultimately never showed up. After public outcries within the court room two years ago and receiving clear clarification again that he would not be arrested for attending the children's school events and could in fact attend, he ultimately never attended any of their events.

Public blogs were brought to my attorney's attention and then ultimately my attention and were a cause for alarm and monitoring by officials in Thurston County. When Mr. Fischer was asked directly in court if he wrote these, again he chose to be dishonest and did not take responsibility for these written, public messages that specifically sighted the names of our court officials, spouses and children of court officials, and the names of our children and extended family members. Additionally, Mr. Fischer made thinly veiled threats, including: 'Family Court Causes Mayhem and Murder'. This is frightening.

Cumulatively, these events -all occurring with a protection order in place, raise strong concerns about Mr. Fischer's mindset, willingness and ability to place his needs and 'rights' above the

well-being of others. What that could potentially lead to without a protection order is of great concern to me.

Lastly, I respectfully apologize for not submitting a full, formal reply, but hope that this letter will serve as my brief. Finances do not allow me to continue to pay fees for court proceeding transcripts and attorney fees. Sadly, this case has lingered for a decade and in that time, I have done my best to manage finances while raising our two children. Currently, both of our young adults are attending college and it seems unconscionable to continue spending resources in this manner. I have intentionally not pursued any additional financial support from Mr. Fischer since initial court rulings so many years ago. Seeking additional financial support required additional court based interactions with Mr. Fischer and this was not worth the possible financial support to be gained. Each court proceeding over the year has been filled with insults and put downs at best and caustic and frightening behavior at worst. It was highly concerning to learn that Mr. Fischer chose to proactively call his insurance company and remove our daughter from his plan. The insurance company was able to confirm with me that it was in fact not an error, but instead a responsible party on the insurance plan had proactively called and asked to have her removed. Sadly, this information was not shared with me in a timely fashion and my daughter and I learned of the situation only months later, at the time of a medical need. Finances continue to be a challenge and I must put our resources towards the needs of our children.

Please accept this response as the respondent's brief.

Thank you.
Karen Fischer