

**The Center for Trauma Free Living  
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Carmel, NY 10512  
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**Case Name:** Kassenoff

**Date:** November 7, 2022

**Treatment Summary/Update**

This writer has been providing therapeutic visitation services to this mother and her three daughters since March of 2022. Prior reports detail the progression from zoom visitation to in-person visitation and also has included a standing recommendation to move forward to “sandwich” /unsupervised but monitored visits which has not been approved to date. These reports also detail the continuing recommendation that these three girls be engaged in in person individual therapy services.

This writer also continues to clinically recommend that email correspondence (it can be copied to me) such as was allowed while Ally was at sleepaway camp would be an important step forward. These children need to believe/feel that their mother is involved and able to be a part of their everyday life and activities. I continue to recommend that Ms. Kassenoff attend school functions/soccer games/concerts etc. She has recently attended open school nights, volunteered at the school as a member of the PTA, attended a Halloween parade, and some soccer games. I believe it is crucial that this continue and increase as these girls need to understand that their mother will remain in their lives and be involved in their lives. It has been such a long time since such “normalcy” has occurred that it is understandable that the girls have some initial concerns/confusion. However, I believe that if everyone involved is supportive of this the girls will be ok with it as well. Right now it is very confusing to them as their father continues to state that their mother is breaking the rules/violating a court order and their mother assures them she is “allowed” to be there.

Visits continue to go forward in a supervised manner in this writer’s office. The majority of the visit time is very positive but as has been seen previously at times visits are impacted by events outside of the visits/outside of the children’s relationship with their mother. Recently, there was a change of AFC in this case. The girls were all aware and expressed feelings about this. Some feelings were related to their longstanding relationship with the previous AFC but some seem related to adult issues such as Charlie stating in a visit “do you know how much having three lawyers is going to cost

my father now". It is imperative that these girls be protected from court information, financial information, etc.

Another concern that has reemerged is the amount of influence Ally has over her younger sisters. This can make it very difficult in allowing the younger two girls to experience their own relationship with their mother. In this writer's experience when attempts are made to explore the negative feelings the younger girls express about their mother much of it goes back to what Ally has told them about how their mother was "mean" to her as opposed to their own experiences with their mother. When they do discuss their own experiences their complaints tend to center around their mother making them frozen food for dinner and "forcing" them to do activities such as swim or violin.

Most recently, Ally has expressed she is ready to visit with her mother unsupervised for dinners in the community. She has expressed that she is tired of the ride to Carmel for visitation and waiting for her younger sisters to visit. Ally even began to name the local restaurant where she would like to have dinner with her mother. I would recommend that this occur. I would recommend that Ally have a two to three hour dinner visit with her mother on a separate weeknight from her siblings. This would allow for her relationship to their mother to be a separate one and be separate from those of her younger sisters. I would recommend that the two have family sessions with this writer twice a month in addition to their weekly dinner but that could occur with Ms. Kassenoff driving ally to those sessions as they will be having unsupervised time together anyway. This would also allow the younger girls to have a shorter night on their visitation night as it would be two girls not three. I also believe that every effort needs to be made going forward to have the visitations not be on back to back nights as there is a clear issue then with the second night as the kids are tired of the distance and are simply tired.

Additionally, Thanksgiving is a couple of weeks away. Ms. Kassenoff's mother is going to be in town. The children discuss their relationship with their maternal grandmother positively and the last time she visited NY Mr. Kassenoff had allowed the children to see their grandmother. I would recommend that mother and children have a several hour Thanksgiving day visit with the maternal grandmother being in attendance and with the maternal grandmother being the contact person with Mr. Kassenoff in terms of logistics for this visit.

If there are any questions, or more information is needed, I can be reached at the above number.

Jennifer Culley, LCSW

