

**The Center for Trauma Free Living  
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**Case Name:** Kassenoff

**Date:** January 25, 2023

**Treatment Summary/Update**

Since the update focused on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day visits there has been some positive moments/momentum with Charlie and her behavior during/on the sandwich visits and during the dinner visits. She is visibly more comfortable and relaxed and has spent some nice time with her mother on their visits. There is an issue where she won't get in the car with her mother but she is unable in any way to articulate why. There are clearly no safety concerns as the girls have driven with their mother since this writer has been involved and Ally drives with her weekly. It is my strong clinical opinion that if Charlie is given the clear message by her father that she is expected to/must get into her mother's car that she will do so. This issue seems to be about power and control more than anything else.

Ally's sessions with her mother have continued to go very well. She is very positive about their time together and asking/for looking for more time with her mother and less restrictions on contact (i.e. texting vs. email, going to her mother's home, longer visits) in each session. The pressure of feeling caught in the middle of adult issues is still evident. It is crucial that Ally not feel that wanting to eat a non Kosher meal while with her mother/enjoy herself with her mother/say hi at a sporting event to her mother is a betrayal of her father. She needs to understand and accept that she has two parents and that it is ok that both be a part of her everyday life and that everyone involved supports that.

JoJo seems to be struggling most at the moment. Her behavior has become very disrespectful towards her mother and actually towards this writer as well. At a recent dinner visit at a bowling alley she exhibited no fear about time with her mother, as is usual, but kept saying she was uncomfortable and that no one can make her do what she doesn't want to do (important to remember she is an elementary school aged child). She seemed to enjoy being disrespectful and "mean" to her mother(taking her mother's turn and purposely getting gutter balls to lower her mother's score and laughing about it), throwing french fries around the venue. Charlie was uncomfortable with her sister's

behavior and was attempting to control her saying “JOJO stop” “knock it off”, “Don’t do that”.

On the sandwich visit of 1/24/23 (last night) JoJo was again very disrespectful and defiant. She refused to get in her mother’s car. This writer attempted to contact her father by phone to have him speak to her on speaker phone to support the message of the other adults - the nanny had said she told her to go in the car but she won’t listen to her and “what can she do”. Mr. Kassenoff did refuse to do this and instead called JOJO on her own phone and spoke to her privately. She continued to refuse to get in the car , called her lawyer and her father during the visit and still did not listen even when the visit plan was changed to just walking in spite of the cold weather. JOJO refused to tell her mother where she wanted to eat, would not engage with this writer who was on speaker phone throughout this entire incident and refused to stay near her mother on the dark streets. This writer did say to mother/daughter that this was very dangerous behavior and if JOJO did not stay near her mother and stop walking away on dark public streets I would have no choice but to recommend that Ms. Kassenoff contact the police because of safety concerns. The issue of the police was brought up and stated by this writer and shared as a statement of fact not a threat. This writer then recommended that JOJO be returned home and that the visit be rescheduled for another night this week. This writer has offered tonight as a makeup visit option. It needs to be repeated once again that Charlie and JoJo should not/can not have phones during these visits. Unfortunately, the phone has become so weaponized for them that they simply can not manage having them during visits.

This writer did attempt to reach out to speak to Mr. Kassenoff about the events of last evening but he was unable to speak respectfully without yelling at this writer so the call had to be ended and he refused the offer this morning of scheduling a time to speak.

This writer wants to reiterate what was stated in the Christmas update which is that when Mr. Kassenoff simply gives clear instructions to his daughters; they have consistently listened to him throughout this writer’s involvement in the case. It is imperative that these visits continue without incident and that Mr. Kassenoff be very clear with his daughters what is expected of them. It is so crucial that they understand that this level of disrespect - to anyone- is simply unacceptable. It is this writer’s belief that the girls are not yet in therapy which is so crucial for them all. It continues to be this writer’s strongest clinical recommendation that these young girls be in regularly scheduled and in person therapy.

This writer also believes it would be very important for the girls for their mother to become more of a part of their everyday life. For example, if their father is out of the country, working, or with another child rather than the nanny bringing a child to an

extracurricular activity their mother should do so. Their mother should become a part of medical visits/appointments.

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

Jennifer Culley, LCSW