

THE FAST LETTER

FAST, False Allegations Solutions Team

A newsletter about false allegations of child sex abuse

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A Pennsylvania children's service agency violates a good parent's civil liberties and destroys the family.

**Ray Atkinson,
with comments by Elaine Lehman**

ELAINE: This story is typical of many. Children's Protective Services in every state and in the entire western world destroy families with no evidence and no reason to do so. They remove children on the most flimsy of allegations, or with no excuse at all, and then keep the children indefinitely "on speculation."

In Ray Atkinson's case, he had to agree to leave home, so he would not have any contact with his beloved five-year-old daughter. He cannot even talk with her on the telephone!

Ray's wife has remained staunchly at his side throughout this horror story. She knows that Ray never abused their little girl. Ray's daughter cries and says she wants Daddy.

RAY: On March 29, the appeals board came to a decision that they agreed with the Child Advocacy Center in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, on the fact that I molested my daughter. What they do not admit is that when I had my hand in my daughter's crotch, it was covered with a washcloth. I have been accused of molesting my daughter, and even accused of having sex with her, because I had the temerity to give her a bath.

She said that it occasionally hurt when I used a washcloth on her because the cloth was rough. She mentioned that I had hurt her to someone at her doctor's office when she went to have her 5-year-old shots, and that person assumed that that meant that I was molesting her and having sex with her.

The Child Advocacy Center's (CAC) original accusation on 6 Sept 2006 was that I was guilty of "sexual assault and deviate sexual intercourse." They ordered my daughter into St Luke's Hospital where she was given an internal manual examination "looking for semen."

I never been convicted of the crime that I have been accused of. I have never even been charged or arrested. Both the police and the district attorney's office have claimed that there is no evidence that there ever was an abuse, and the doctor who made the accusation did an internal manual examination of my daughter, which provided not a single piece of medical evidence.

If I were accused of murder, I would be innocent until proven guilty. In this case, I have not been proven as guilty of anything whatsoever. Only the opinion of an office whose job is exclusively to find child abuse decided that they need no evidence to decide that I am guilty. They have treated me like a criminal, and they broke up my family at their whim.

Sally Smith (not her real name) is the caseworker who filed the accusation against me. She and her supervisor are the ones who signed the state document called "CY-48" that states that I was guilty of sexual assault and deviate sexual intercourse, and also states that Kahlan (Ray's little girl) told the police the same story she told them.

Sally Smith, herself, said, "Half of the cases on my desk are false accusations."

However, mine, with no evidence of any sort to support an accusation, is a guilty verdict to them.

Both of those women lied on that form, ruining their credibility. Since the whole thing relies on Sally's handwritten notes, the hearing should go very well. Then I plan on filing charges against them for perjury and falsifying official documents.

Accordingly, I demand a full hearing before a judge where I will bring witnesses to testify to the falseness of the claims. For example, I intend to have the police investigator appear who has 13 years of experience in investigating child abuse cases. He reported that my daughter gave "no indication of being molested," let alone being forced into having sex, yet the CAC ignored his report and said that "their investigation and ours are separate and we say you did it."

I also intend to fight the civil rights violation that the Child Advocacy Center interrogated my daughter while denying our family the protection of having a lawyer present. They also denied that they have any record of the interrogation except for the handwritten notes made by the caseworker whose job it is to find abuse.

ELAINE: In other words, there was no video or audio tape made to prove what was said. This is unacceptable on the part of any police department or child service agency, because little children can be led or coached far too easily.

RAY: I also intend to show that the caseworker's report to the State of Pennsylvania was a flat lie, to the point of perjury, intended to shock the State Department of Public Welfare into deciding that I was guilty. They did so by stating that my daughter told them "a clear, credible" statement to the police. "Law enforcement: Victim gave a clear and credible statement to them, that was consistent with her account to caseworkers," while the police report reads that she gave no indication of ever having been molested.

I intend to clear my name, reunite my family, and change the shameful laws in the State of Pennsylvania where a person is innocent until presumed guilty by a child abuse caseworker, even without any evidence whatsoever, yet a doctor can take it upon herself to molest my daughter with impunity.

HOPE **for Ray Atkinson and his wife and daughter!**

Ray Atkinson

Ray used our FAST methods for dealing with the child service agency, and may have a real breakthrough in his case!

I called and left a voicemail message with the director of CPS. I heard back a few days later from a woman who said that the director had directed her to call me. When I spoke with her Tuesday morning, she said that she and another supervisor wanted to meet with my wife and me this coming Monday to talk about "getting you home." She said that "Although I don't usually like to overrule my staff, it seems that there are some problems with your case."

I asked if "getting you home" involved taking that sex offender evaluation that they were trying to force me into, and she said "I don't think that will be necessary."

I asked if she had talked with the police investigator who had said that my daughter gave no indication of being molested, let alone been forced into having sex. She said that her staff had talked with him the previous week.

She did NOT know that Pennsylvania Senator Ted Erickson had tried to contact the office for more information (a "clarification") about my case and that they had not responded to his emails since February.

She had NOT contacted the polygraph expert who also determined to his and the police's satisfaction that I was telling the truth.

She STILL DOES NOT KNOW that a former caseworker for that same office is ready to testify against them. He knows that they asked leading questions like the one that they admitted asking my daughter ("How did daddy hurt you?") on a regular basis. This was part of their regular "interviewing" tactics (I call them interrogations.)

We will find out on Monday if this is some kind of trick. I don't trust these people as far as I can throw the entire CPS system with my right hand, but I am hopeful

that the noise that I am making on the county level, the state level, and the federal level, along with the plans that I have to go to the media next week with the entire story, has finally reached ears that are scared.

These people are bullies. They have no courage of their own, but will pick on families who cannot fight back. I have shown that I have an arsenal of weapons to use against them and that I am not afraid to use them. I will use politics to stop them, I will use the court system to stop them, and I am not afraid to try them in the court of public opinion.

Stand up and fight! These are our families that we have to protect!

Atkinson Allegations UNFOUNDED! Back home, again!

Ray Atkinson

We walked into the meeting to find the Associate Director (second in command of the department) along with the supervisor of the caseworker who worked on our case for the last 5 months, and the new caseworker who was taking over. They explained over the course of the next hour how that had done everything that they thought was proper to protect Kahlan from further molestation.

They apologized, saying that there was nothing that they could do to make up for the time that they had taken from our family. They told me that I could go home immediately, and that they would be getting the paperwork done so this would be off my record permanently. Ms Hallman said that this was the first time in her 20 year career that a CPS agency has changed their own determination without going through a full hearing and dragging it out for another year or two. They did say that if this had gone through the entire process, it would have been at least another year.

They explained that since I had called the director and explained my position, that they had done a second investigation into the case, and called the police Department's Special Victim's Unit investigator, and he told a different story than last year.

The bottom line is this: I went home last monday and got there before Kahlan got home from the park with her mother. I was upstairs and my wife was downstairs when Kahlan got back. My wife told her that there was a surprise upstairs and that she should go find it. She came up the stairs, turned the corner and saw me. It took a second for her to recognize that this man in the dark hallway was me! She dropped her schoolbooks, yelled "DADDY!" and ran into my arms crying. There is no feeling like that in any of my experience. I was telling some of my professors about it, and likened it to getting the news that a relative was in a plane crash, and a week later hearing that they came out of it without a scratch.

FAST Friends, this story is solely the result of your prayers. Nothing short of divine intervention could have gotten this office to change, for the first time in 20 years, their determination that I was a child molester.

The little tree that could!

Julie Miller

I just have to tell you the story about a little Christmas tree I have. Ray and I shared this little tree for Christmas the last Christmas we spent together before he was arrested.

It is just a little tree in a pot. Ray bought it (we were dating, not living together at the time) because he had a little place for Cam and him, and needed a small tree.

When Ray got arrested right after Christmas that year, I had to move all his stuff to my house. I took that tree with me and said that we were going to keep it and remember it, year after year and eventually plant it in the yard at our house together.

Well, as time went on, the tree wasn't really doing all that well. Half of the limbs died and fell off and it kind of withered, but I just kept watering it and giving it TLC. It kept hanging on and although it looked a little worn and rough around the edges, it never died. This tree had very special meaning to me and I was determined not to let it die. I always have joked with Ray that that tree has as much faith and belief in life as we do in overcoming his conviction.

So time goes on, year by year goes by, and that little tree just kept on hangin' in there. Still torn and worn and looking withered, but alive just the same. Well, after the first of the year 2007, I was going to water it, as I always do. Suddenly, I thought I noticed a new growth on one of the limbs. I did a double take. There has been no new growth in this tree in the two years since Ray was arrested. I thought my eyes were crazy so I looked at it again. What do you know, not only does one limb have new growth on it, but three limbs have new little branches sprouting!

Like I said, I have always looked at this tree like a symbol of our dedication to overturning Ray's conviction and faith in tomorrow. I never gave up on the tree and never thought it would die. I just always knew and believed it would hang it there through it all. I BELIEVED that eventually one day we will plant it in the front yard of the house we will build, once Ray is freed.

I could not believe my eyes. I said that this has got to be a sign from God. After all this time, the tree has new life. What makes it especially unusual is that plants and trees do not usually sprout during the winter. They go dormant, and wait for spring. God was working his little miracles.

I've have been telling Ray that I feel that 2007 is our year, that Cam is going to come back to us and Ray's conviction will be overturned. Good things are in store for us.

I know it may sound crazy, but that tree is like the journey for us all. When this horrible experience of being falsely accused of child sex abuse first happens, we lose a few "limbs" along the way. We get worn and withered as time passes, yet we keep going on and we never, ever give up. We always look for faith and a new "limb." Sometimes we get dehydrated because someone keeps taking away our "water", our source of nourishment. Then all of the sudden, when it seems like things will never change, you get a new "limb", whatever that may be. Your little tree gets new life. Keep faith and belief in all you do.

Cam came home!

Julie Miller

Well, it's been a long hard road, but finally, Cam came home to me!!!!

We got the recommendation from the counselor today and he is recommending to the courts that Cameron live with me, that he not go back to Dan's (Cam's uncle. Cam and his uncle did not get along.) and that he come here over spring break. I cried when I got off the phone with the counselor. He spoke with Kelly, (The mom of his friend where he has been living since October), spoke with Cam and then called me and spoke with me.

The counselor said that it is obvious that Cam loves me and thinks of me as the "mother" figure in his life. That that is what he really needs right now, and that the sooner he got here, the better. That the environment with Dan was not a good one and that he should not go back there. Amen.

My message kind of reiterates what I just sent you. I have been trying to get custody of Cam since Ray was arrested, for two years. I have been shot down every step of the way. The heartache sometimes was almost too much to bear. I never gave up. You just have to get back up and keep going. Brush off your knees, put Band-Aids on your bruises. Push on and know that when the time is right, all will work out. Never, ever give up and never, ever let the "injustice" system win, whether it be the criminal courts and the family courts. Keep fighting, for only by fighting will we win, and eventually, we will make changes.

Now, Cam and his dad can talk on the phone when they wish, and Cam can get the kind of love he really needs. It's not all smooth sailing. After all, Cam has had a tough life, so far. His mother died of cancer a few years ago, and his stepsister made false allegations against his father, who is now in prison. I'm all he has, in fact.

To all who offered their prayers and support, thank you so much. I know that God hears us every day.

How to deal with the child service agencies and WIN!

Ray G., and Elaine Lehman

WARNING: You have to be careful about fighting the child service agencies, if you or someone you love is charged with a felony. They have all the power, at that point. You have to play the game and jump through their hoops until the person is acquitted or takes a plea bargain.

However, if the case is still at the child service agency level, you can do the following, and if you do, you will probably win.

ELAINE: It seems to be a truism that if you want to win against the child service agencies, you must take a strong, aggressive stand. The child service agencies are bullies toward parents. As with all bullies, if you back down, run scared, and accept their

(often arbitrary) rulings, they will ride all over you, and you will lose in the end. When you fight back, they back down. We have seen this happen time and again.

It can be very frightening to think of being assertive or aggressive with this powerful agency, and attorneys will usually advise against this up-front method of dealing with them. However, the attorneys are dead wrong about this, and if you do what the attorneys say, you will usually end up the victim, not the victor!

FAST member, Ray G., has been fighting the child service agency in his state for over a year, now. His gut level feelings were to take a strong stand, just as we have always said.

It all started because Ray's ex-wife made false allegations that Ray molested their 3-year-old daughter, in an effort to get full custody. Ray has taken a consistently strong stand against the allegations. He has also acted as his own attorney since right after the very first hearing. He has filed motions, represented himself in hearings, and more.

All of this time, as soon as Ray managed to get himself cleared of one allegation, his ex-wife made another one. Then, he had to start all over again, fighting the new allegation. She has been quite an opponent, because she is the director of a shelter for battered women, and knows the ropes.

Anyway, here is the latest thing he has done, and the terrific results:

RAY: I WANTED TO UPDATE YOU ALL ON MY SITUATION HERE IN MY STATE.

LAST MONTH I SENT OUT EMAILS TO THE GOVERNER, DIRECTOR OF DCFS (Department of Child and Family Services), LT. GOVERNOR PAT QUIN, CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS, (STATE) REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BOLAND, REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JACOBS, AND REPRESENTATIVE PAT VERSHORE.

ELAINE: In some cases, you can get results against the child service agencies by going to the state politicians; the governor, Lt. Governor, and your local district's state representatives or legislators. You can find those names on your state government's website, usually by county or zip code. The federal congressmen and senators do not have jurisdiction in these cases. They might write back a nice, sympathetic letter, but they cannot do anything concrete. It is an in-state issue. You can go to ANY of the media, and the more, the better your chances are of being heard.

RAY: WHAT I DID WAS INFORM THEM OF WHAT WAS GOING ON CONCERNING THE FALSE CHARGES MY EX-WIFE BROUGHT AGAINST ME, AND THE INEXCUSEABLE TACTICS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS).

ELAINE: For those of you who are not involved with a child service agency, their tactics are worse than the justice system! That ought to give you just a little idea of what these FAST people are going through. Dealing with CPS is like wading through mud. They have almost unlimited power with few or no laws to control them, and parents are almost completely powerless. You feel like you are peddling backwards, while they have your children and are holding felony charges over your head.

This can go on for years, until they terminate your parental rights, and give your children up for adoption. In all that time, no charges are ever filed, which is what the attorneys hope to prevent,

by lying low and doing nothing. On the advice of their attorneys, parents keep on jumping through the caseworker's hoops, and sometimes do not even know what the allegations were.

People make allegations anonymously on the child abuse hotline, and the parents may never even know whom their accusers were. In addition, in most cases, parents think they have no recourse. Most of the time, they would be right, too, because parents either do not know they can fight back, or their attorneys are advising them not to fight. However, parents can fight back, vigorously, as Ray has done, and win. Then, they can turn around and file lawsuits, later!

To win, you have to get OUT of that sticky, mucky Child Protective Services (CPS) arena (step out of the mud and find a concrete sidewalk!), and into the political and media arenas. The only entities that have any power over the child service agencies are the politicians and the media.

RAY: I LISTED THE TRUTHS OF MY CASE, AND THE MANY UN-TRUTHS THAT DCFS TRIED TO USE TO CONVICT ME.

WELL LAST WEEK, I GOT A CALL FROM DCFS. IT WAS THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF DCFS. THE LETTER I SENT TO THE GOVERNER WAS SENT TO THE OFFICE OF DCFS AND THEY WERE TOLD TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON REGARDING MY CASE. THEY HAD TO HAVE A REPORT ON THE DESK OF THE GOVERNOR BY 10/21/05 AM!

I SPENT TWO HOURS, WEDNESDAY, FAXING ALL THE COPIES OF DOCUMENTS THAT I HAVE CONCERNING MY CASE; HOW TWO JUDGES HAVE RULED THAT MY CHILD HAD BEEN COACHED TO SAY THE THINGS SHE DID; THAT TWO PHD'S OF PSYCHOLOGY HAVE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE CHARGES WERE WITHOUT MERIT, BUT THAT THE DCFS INVESTIGATOR STILL SAID THE CASE WAS "INDICATED." (NOTE: This means that a police investigation must take place.)

THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TOLD ME THAT I WAS TO SEND THEM ALL THE INFORMATION TO SHOW JUST HOW I HAVE BEEN FINANCIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ACTIONS OF DCFS.

I WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT DCFS WAS GOING TO REQUEST THAT THE STATE'S ATTORNEY IN MY COUNTY BRING FELONY CHARGES AGAINST MY EX FOR FILING FALSE CHARGES AND CALLS INTO THE DCFS HOTLINE.

THIS IS GOING TO HELP ME A WHOLE LOT AS I AM IN LITIGATION AGAINST MY EX FOR FULL COUSTODY OF MY BABY GIRL. I'M NOT TOO SMART, SO IF I CAN DO THIS ANYONE CAN.

ELAINE: Ray has been smart enough to fight back, and that is exactly what parents must do, to win against the child service agencies. Ray also has had great courage, doing this difficult thing in several different ways about several different allegations. You have to get indignant at the terrible way they treat you, and you have to get LOUD about it, as Ray says, below. We have been through this several times, before, and ALWAYS, the people who fought back, won.

Judi and Mark F. just fought back by appealing the wording of a document Child Protective Services sent Mark about his case. Lo and behold, the child protective service agency in their county SUDDENLY DELETED everything negative about Mark from their files! They said his files were missing, but we all knew what had happened.

I never heard of anybody filing an appeal to get one word changed, before, and it did wonders! It was a remarkable thing to do. Mark wanted “unsubstantiated” changed to “unfounded.” Unfounded is stronger.

NOTE: Unsubstantiated means they could not find enough evidence to proceed with the case. Unfounded means there never was anything to the allegations in the first place.

Only an innocent person who was educated about CPS, and aware of the definitions of the two words, would fight back over something like that wording. Most people would be glad they got “unsubstantiated,” and let it go at that.

I think CPS deleted Mark’s file because they were afraid of a lawsuit. I always recommend lawsuits, if possible, because it is a very good way for parents to clear their names. And, after all, money talks with bureaucracies. Hey, you had to spend money to defend yourselves. Why not get it back, and more, for the emotional damage?

Back to Ray G: In a previous email, Ray said this whole year-long experience has changed him as a human being and as a police officer. Yes, that’s right! Ray is a cop! And, now, he is a very good cop, too, because he knows so much more about what goes on. This can happen to anybody, and he knows it.

RAY: THERE IS HOPE. I WOULD SUGGEST TO ANYONE BEING ACCUSED OF FALSE SEXUAL CHARGES, TO MAKE AS LOUD A NOISE AS YA CAN, GO TO THE MEDIA AS I DID, TO THE NEWSPAPERS, TV, WRITE LETTERS, ASK QUESTIONS, AND LET THEM KNOW THAT, WELL, IF I GO DOWN, I GO DOWN WITH A FIGHT!

PLUS, AS IN MY CASE, I OWE MY DAUGHTER NO LESS. TO ALL PEOPLE OUT THERE IN THE SAME BOAT, HANG IN THERE, PRAY, AND DO THE THINGS I DID. IT WORKED FOR ME, AND IF IT WORKED FOR ME, IT CAN WORK FOR YOU TOO.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL, RAY

Red flags for real abuse. Is there a correlation for falsely accused fathers and stepfathers?

Elaine and Susan Lehman

The child service agencies all know particular red flags to look for when screening a report of abuse. There are other red flags, too, but this little list is one of the main ones:

1. The least likely to really abuse children: A mother and father who are married to each other. They are the natural birth parents of the children.
2. A little more likely to really abuse children than #1: A mother and father are living together, but are NOT married to each other. They are the natural birth parents of the children.
3. A little more likely to really abuse children than #3: A mother and father are NOT married to each other. They are the natural, birth parents of one of the children, but the rest of the children belong to the mother. Their shared child is less likely to be abused than the mother's children.

4. Most likely to abuse children: A mother living with a man. The children are hers. He is NOT the natural birth father of the children.

A possible correlation

We think that little list may be the same for innocent fathers and stepfathers who have been falsely accused of child sex abuse. It works for the cases we have seen in FAST, with just a very few exceptions.

1. The least likely to be falsely accused: The father in a nuclear family. The mother and father are married to each other, and are the natural birth parents of the children.

2. A little more likely to be falsely accused: A stepfather figure NOT married to the mother. They are the natural, birth parents of the children.

3. The most likely to be falsely accused: A stepfather figure NOT married to the mother. He is NOT the natural, birth father of the children.

Get married, folks! No matter what people think these days, marriage is more stable and secure for children than living together. The children feel that sense of security and stability, and feel safer and more loved.

Background Information

Bob and Elaine Lehman Educators, co-authors, co-publishers, co-hosts of radio show, activists

Elaine Lehman is a former teacher from Baltimore, Maryland, with nearly 20 years of teaching experience with all ages, including adults. Bob is a former rocket engine engineer, who worked for 21 years on the Delta Satellite Program at Cape Canaveral before he and Elaine started their two schools for antisocial teens, in 1977. After the schools closed in 1983, Bob became an airplane mechanic.

1977–1983, Elaine and her husband, Bob Lehman, co-founded and directed two schools for antisocial teens. Elaine and Bob developed their own successful courses of study. **The Lehman's two schools ended up with a documented 100% success rate of the graduates, and an 80% success rate of those who did not complete the program.** (See “Baltimore Sun” and Carroll County Times, MD, feature articles on our website.)

1989 -1992, Bob and Elaine Lehman co-founded a statewide organization in Oregon, aimed at getting the broad, vague child abuse laws changed to clear, specific laws. BUST also exposed the many dreadful problems of the child service division. “BUST, Break Up System’s Troubles,” ended up with 500 members, statewide. Because of BUST, the Oregon state legislature had a \$200,000 study done, and the study group wrote a scathing report that said all of the same things the Lehmans had said. The legislature changed some of the laws, but not the right ones, due to federal funding problems, if they did. (See “Stayton Mail” article on website.)

1997, Bob and Elaine co-founded a similar national organization, “SOC, Save Our Children,” which quickly led to their radio show.

1997 - 1999, Bob and Elaine co-hosted their own radio show, “The Save Our Children Show,” which was simulcast on two 50,000 watt stations in Providence, RI, and Phoenix,

AZ. The show was all about antisocial children and teens and false allegations of child sex abuse.

1999, Bob and Elaine Lehman were professional “expert” guests on two national TV talk shows, “The LEEZA Show” and “The QUEEN LATIFAH Show.” Both shows were about discipline and antisocial children. Elaine has also appeared on several radio shows and TV shows, and she and Bob have given lectures to community groups.

1995 - 1996 - The couple co-authored two published books, Petey, the Peacock Breaks a Leg, Winston-Derek Pub. Co., Nashville, TN, 1995, and “BIG K, the Kundalini Story.” Hara Publishing Group, Seattle, Washington, 1996.

1978 – Present - The couple co-published a newsprint periodical in Oregon, and several international newsletters. These publications were all about antisocial juveniles and false allegations of child abuse. (See “Newsletters” on our website.)

2001 – Present, Bob Lehman’s son, Craig Lehman, created and maintains a website, www.beanswers.com There are several categories about antisocial juveniles, the FAST, False Allegations Solutions Team, false allegations of sex abuse, and more.

2004 - Present: Bob and Elaine Lehman and several others co-founded, and Elaine directs, the “FAST, False Allegations Solutions Team,” an international, educational email support group for people who have been falsely accused of child sex abuse.