

First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

*D041502002
Beatrice Weston*

*Hearing
August 16, 2002*



*First Judicial District of Pennsylvania
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Beatrice Weston

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[2] IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
[3] FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
[4] DEPENDENT DIVISION
[5] ---
[6]

[7] IN THE INTEREST OF : PET# DO4150 02-07

[8]
[9] BEATRICE WESTON :

[10] August 16, 2002
[11] Courtroom F, 1801 Vine Street
[12] Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

[13] ---
[14] DEPENDENCY HEARING
[15] ---
[16]

[17] BEFORE: THE HONORABLE KEVIN M. DOUGHERTY, J.
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[2] APPEARANCES:
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[4] TARA WATE, ESQUIRE
Child Advocate Attorney,
[5]
[6] RICK AMES, ESQUIRE,
City Solicitor.
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[10] NICOLE MASCIANTONIO
[11] OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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[2] THE COURT: Was this ordered
[3] by me at the last listing as a result of the
[4] incident? I guess my question is: Does
[5] Beatrice have the same father?

[6] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: No.
[7] THE COURT: Did DHS go in the
[8] home?

[9] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: Yes.

[10] THE COURT: What's DHS'
[11] recommendation?

[12] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: I went to
[13] do a home visit on 8/7 and met with the
[14] family. But prior to that, Your Honor, I'm
[15] recommending SCOH services. Beatrice has
[16] had 44 absences and 39 lateness. Basically
[17] mom's explanation is that she wasn't living
[18] in her home at the time she was in school
[19] last year. She was with a friend that she
[20] calls aunt.

[21] Today another aunt came and
[22] stated that she wants Beatrice to live with
[23] her.

[24] THE COURT: And, for the
[25] record, have everyone sworn and identified

[1] 4
[2] for Beatrice.
[3] ---
[4] (All parties sworn.)
[5] ---

[6] THE COURT: Ms. Wate, are you
[7] the child advocate?

[8] MS. WATE: Yes, I am.

[9] THE COURT: Identify yourself,
[10] ma'am.

[11] MS. LINDA WESTON: Linda
[12] Weston, aunt.

[13] THE COURT: How are you
[14] related to the child?

[15] MS. LINDA WESTON: Through my
[16] sister Vicky Weston.

[17] THE COURT: You're the
[18] maternal aunt. And that's B right there.
[19] Beatrice?

[20] MS. LINDA WESTON: Yes.

[21] THE COURT: And you are?

[22] MS. McINTOSH: Jean McIntosh.
[23] I am her cousin. And this is my mother and
[24] this is my aunt.

[25] THE COURT: That is your

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[1] 5
 [2] mother?
 [3] MS. McINTOSH: And my cousin
 [4] and my aunt.
 [5] THE COURT: What do we have?
 [6] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: At the
 [7] last listing Your Honor you asked that DHS
 [8] to file a dependency petition for Beatrice
 [9] and Sheldon. Beatrice after following a
 [10] petition I obtained that Beatrice had 44
 [11] unexcused absences and 39 lateness for the
 [12] school year.
 [13] I did discuss this with the
 [14] mother when I was at the home and she said
 [15] that Beatrice was not living at her home at
 [16] the time, but that she was staying with an
 [17] aunt. But she's now telling me the aunt is
 [18] a friend that she calls an aunt.
 [19] THE COURT: Where was the baby
 [20] living?
 [21] MS. VICKY WESTON: Beatrice
 [22] was living with a relative through like
 [23] marriage.
 [24] THE COURT: What was she doing
 [25] there? Why?

[1] 6
 [2] MS. VICKY WESTON: She was
 [3] living there at the time. I had an
 [4] aneurysm.
 [5] THE COURT: You had an
 [6] aneurysm?
 [7] MS. VICKY WESTON: Yeah. I
 [8] was brought back alive.
 [9] But anyway, she was watching
 [10] them and said she was sending her to school.
 [11] THE COURT: But she didn't?
 [12] MS. VICKY WESTON: No, she
 [13] didn't.
 [14] THE COURT: What's her name?
 [15] MS. VICKY WESTON: Beatrice
 [16] Robinson.
 [17] THE COURT: Beatrice Robinson
 [18] she's not having this child. Understood.
 [19] Let's move on.
 [20] Don't be scared, baby.
 [21] MS. WATE: She's worried she's
 [22] not going to be going home today.
 [23] THE COURT: You have to go to
 [24] school.
 [25] Why are you crying, baby?

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[1] 7
 [2] Where do you go from here?
 [3] Now, I know Beatrice is truant. Now, she's
 [4] out of that environment.
 [5] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: Well, Your
 [6] Honor, mother had said that she would accept
 [7] SCOH services, but today the aunt wants her
 [8] to stay with her and go to Catholic school.
 [9] THE COURT: Now, do you guys
 [10] live together?
 [11] MS. McINTOSH: We stick
 [12] together.
 [13] THE COURT: You haven't left
 [14] her side.
 [15] MS. McINTOSH: My mother has
 [16] four children in the home. She has a four
 [17] bedroom house. Their children go to
 [18] Catholic school. We would like to put
 [19] Beatrice in the same school where she would
 [20] have attention and there will be no problem
 [21] with --
 [22] MS. WATE: And Beatrice wants
 [23] to say with her aunt, right?
 [24] THE COURT: Do you want to
 [25] live with your aunt for awhile? You want to

[1] 8
 [2] go to school with your cousins?
 [3] What do you think?
 [4] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: Mother's
 [5] in agreement, so.
 [6] THE COURT: Mom, how are you
 [7] physically?
 [8] MS. VICKY WESTON: I still get
 [9] headaches and stuff.
 [10] THE COURT: If I send you up
 [11] for a drug test right now, is it going to
 [12] come back with any drugs in your system?
 [13] MS. VICKY WESTON: I don't
 [14] mess with drugs. God, no, I don't.
 [15] THE COURT: I'm just checking.
 [16] MS. VICKY WESTON: I only
 [17] smoke cigarettes. I never did.
 [18] MS. WATE: The aunt told me
 [19] the aneurysm was nine years ago.
 [20] MS. VICKY WESTON: It was, but
 [21] I still get --
 [22] THE COURT: I'm just looking
 [23] to the family for direction here. I'm about
 [24] Beatrice, I'm worried about Vicky. But
 [25] Vicky, when we bring babies in the world,

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[2] they take our place. You give up yourself

[3] to take care of babies. That's where the

[4] issue is.

[5] And you have SCOH services in

[6] the home. You need some assistance?

[7] MS. McINTOSH: We can have

[8] them come because it might be something that

[9] she might need to understand what's going on

[10] and for her to cope with things. They can

[11] come in and talk to her if that's what she

[12] needs.

[13] THE COURT: Did we check out

[14] Linda Weston's home?

[15] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: No.

[16] MR. AMES: Because of that I

[17] think our recommendation would be to

[18] adjudicate dependant, temporary legal

[19] custody to Ms. Weston, supervision, DHS,

[20] SCOH.

[21] MS. WATE: There's one other

[22] thing. I think Beatrice could benefit from

[23] a psychological evaluation. If we could

[24] have her set up for BHS to determine if

[25] anything's needed. I know she's had some

[1] 10

[2] trouble in school with behavior. She might

[3] be a candidate for Wrap Around, she may not,

[4] but I think she should be evaluated for all

[5] this.

[6] THE COURT: This is what we'll

[7] do: I'm going to adjudge Beatrice dependant,

[8] I'm going to place temporary legal custody

[9] with Linda Weston.

[10] Ma'am, may I have your phone

[11] and address.

[12] MS. LINDA WESTON: 1749

[13] Foulkrod Street.

[14] THE COURT: What's your ZIP.

[15] MS. LINDA WESTON: 19124.

[16] THE COURT: Phone number.

[17] MS. LINDA WESTON:

[18] (215) 533-8831.

[19] THE COURT: I am going to

[20] place temporary legal custody with the

[21] paternal aunt Linda Weston, DHS supervision,

[22] SCOH? What level?

[23] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: Two.

[24] THE COURT: SCOH level two

[25] shall be implemented, DHS to arrange for

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[1] 11

[2] appropriate behavior and health evaluation.

[3] I'm going to bring this back.

[4] And, DHS, I'm assuming will investigate the

[5] home?

[6] What I ultimately want you to

[7] understand, ma'am, if the baby gets

[8] enrolled -- baby being Beatrice -- if the

[9] baby gets enrolled in Catholic school and is

[10] doing well with you and I may be inclined to

[11] commit the child to the department placing

[12] the child with you so that you are eligible

[13] for Kinship Care, financial support.

[14] But we're going to need DHS to

[15] do an investigation. And the argument being

[16] you're sister is not living with you,

[17] correct?

[18] MS. LINDA WESTON: No.

[19] THE COURT: Unfortunately, if

[20] she moved in with you, you're not eligible

[21] for Kinship Care.

[22] Let's see what we could do.

[23] Any other issues or concerns?

[24] Who last saw the child?

[25] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: 8/7, Your

[1] 12

[2] Honor.

[3] THE COURT: And the child was

[4] safe?

[5] DHS SOCIAL WORKER: Yes.

[6] THE COURT: I find safety and

[7] reasonable efforts at this point.

[8] November 15th?

[9] MS. WATE: October 15th.

[10] THE COURT: October 15th.

[11] Thank you, everybody.

[12] - - -

[13] (Proceedings concluded.)

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[2] CERTIFICATE

[3]

[4] I hereby certify that the
[5] proceedings and evidence are contained fully
[6] and accurately in the notes taken by me on
[7] the trial of the above cause, and this copy
[8] is a correct transcript of the same.

[9]

[10]

[11] Nicole L. Masciantonio

[12]

[13] NICOLE L. MASCIAANTONIO
[14] OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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[20] under the direct control and/or supervision
[21] of the certifying reporter.)

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