

## First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

*D041502002*  
*Beatrice Weston*

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*Hearing*  
*August 16, 2002*



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*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] ---  
[11] August 16, 2002  
[12] Courtroom F, 1801 Vine Street  
[13] Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
[14] ---  
[15] DEPENDENCY HEARING  
[16] ---  
[17]  
[18] BEFORE: THE HONORABLE KEVIN M. DOUGHERTY, J.

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[1] 2  
[2] APPEARANCES:  
[3]  
[4] TARA WATE, ESQUIRE  
[5] Child Advocate Attorney,  
[6]  
[7] RICK AMES, ESQUIRE,  
[8] City Solicitor.  
[9]  
[10] NICOLE MASCIANTONIO  
[11] OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER  
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[1] 3  
[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

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[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?

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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 stay with her aunt, right?  
[24] THE COURT: Do you want to  
[25] live with your aunt for awhile? You want to

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[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] 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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[1] 9  
[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

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[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

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[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.)  
[14] ---  
[15] ---  
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[1] 13

[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. MASCIANTONIO  
[14] OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

[15]

[16]

[17] (The foregoing certification  
[18] of this transcript does not apply to any  
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[20] under the direct control and/or supervision  
[21] of the certifying reporter.)

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