

Karla A. Reyes May 20, 2025 – Salem, Oregon

Chairpersons and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on this critical matter. I appreciate your time and willingness to hear directly from those affected by Oregon's family court system.

My name is Karla Reyes. I appear before you today not just as an individual mother fighting to protect my child, but as one of many parents trapped in a family court system that systematically fails to enforce its own safety mandates while trampling constitutional protections.

Since June 2024, I have been attempting to address a grave safety concern regarding my 8-year-old daughter being exposed to an individual with a criminal record involving the sexual exploitation of minors during her time with her father. This individual, David Zhan Liu, was living in the father's house, in the bedroom directly next to my 8-year-old daughter's room. Most alarmingly, my daughter has been left alone in the house with this individual who has been arrested for sexual activity with a 14-year-old child.

Mr. Liu is unable to return to Colombia where he was arrested for his crimes. His actions in Medellín were so notorious that they made international news, with even the mayor of Medellín publicly declaring that the city "is not a shelter for criminals" in reference to Mr. Liu's case. Despite the abundant public evidence of Mr. Liu's criminal history, which is easily accessible online including in news articles and public statements by Colombian officials, the court has refused to consider this information in evaluating the threat he poses to my child.

The danger was so apparent that Rachel Schultz, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center, personally reported this to authorities. A Sheriff's detective became involved (Detective Jim Berning), and the Hillsboro Police Department opened an investigation (Case #HBP25-0000102). Yet despite multiple agencies' involvement, I've been systematically denied access to information about these investigations. Hillsboro Police refers me to DHS/CPS, while DHS/CPS has failed to provide their mandated report. Under Oregon law, DHS/CPS is required to investigate and provide a report within 60 days of the initial report. This was reported on January 2, 2025 - today is May 20, 2025, and despite multiple requests, no report or substantive update has been provided.

Despite these grave circumstances and following every prescribed procedure—direct communication, parent coordination, emergency motions, and formal filings—my attempts to protect my child have been systematically obstructed.

**My experience illuminates broader structural failures within Oregon's family courts:**

**First, mandatory reporting failures.** Court-appointed parent coordinators Heidi Sherman and Cassandra Marshall failed to act as mandatory reporters under ORS 419B.010 despite written notification of child safety threats, including specific information about this individual's criminal history and his proximity to my daughter. I have filed formal complaints with the Oregon State Bar documenting this professional misconduct.

**Second, emergency motion obstruction.** Multiple emergency custody motions filed under ORS 107.097(3) with sworn declarations alleging immediate danger to my child were denied

without hearings or findings of fact. These summary denials violate the Fourteenth Amendment's due process protections and prevent me from creating a record of endangerment.

**Third, procedural weaponization.** While my protective efforts are ignored, I face retaliatory contempt proceedings and accusations—including allegations regarding international travel and passport interference—all emanating from the same pattern of coercive control that courts enable by failing to enforce transparency requirements. The father denies me my rights of travel with my daughter during my court-ordered parenting time, yet the court has refused to enforce these basic parental rights while simultaneously entertaining his retaliatory contempt claims against me.

**Fourth, professional oversight collapse and fraud upon the court.** The current custody arrangement was based on an evaluation conducted by a psychologist who had been reprimanded and restricted to practice only under supervision – a significant limitation he failed to disclose to the court or parties. This evaluator deliberately dismissed clear evidence of coercive control and abuse, creating a fraudulent basis for the custody decision. I have filed a formal complaint with the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners (OBOP Case #2024-0157), which has opened an active investigation into this serious violation of professional standards. Despite this pending investigation, the court continues to enforce custody determinations based on this prohibited professional practice, constituting a fraud upon the court. The system ignores professional standards when convenient, yet weaponizes "professional judgment" to silence protective parents.

The ripple effects of this fraudulent custody arrangement extend beyond just safety concerns. The Beaverton School District has illegally denied me access to my daughter's educational information, including attendance records and absence notifications, despite my clear statutory rights under ORS 107.154. A school district official, Tracy Hornschuch, falsely claimed on January 31, 2023, that "If the parent does not have custody, then there is nothing we can do. Please let the parent know that she must show she has custody if she wants to receive the notifications." This statement directly violates Oregon law, which explicitly preserves a non-custodial parent's right to educational records and information. I have formally demanded corrective action under threat of federal litigation, as this educational access denial constitutes another layer of systemic discrimination against protective parents.

**Fifth, state agency overreach and violation of parental rights.** DHS/CPS interviewed my 8-year-old daughter at school without any other caregiver present and without any parental authorization to do so, violating both my constitutional parental rights and established DHS protocols for child interviews. This unauthorized questioning of a vulnerable child exemplifies how even state protective agencies operate without proper constraints when involved in family court matters.

**Sixth, systematic judicial misconduct without accountability.** I filed a detailed complaint (No. 25-096) with the Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability documenting eleven specific instances of judicial misconduct by Judge Rebecca D. Guptill and Judge Maalik Summer, including violations of multiple Canons of the Oregon Code of Judicial Conduct. Despite extensive documentation of due process violations - including holding critical hearings while my blind mother, whom I care for, was hospitalized, relying on evaluations from a psychologist under license restriction, and denying emergency motions without findings - the Commission dismissed the complaint on May 16, 2025, claiming "insufficient evidence" of

ethical misconduct. This demonstrates how Oregon's judicial oversight mechanisms fail to protect litigants even in the face of well-documented constitutional violations.

The most disturbing aspect of my case is that it follows a clearly documented pattern across Oregon family courts. When protective parents raise evidence-based safety concerns, we face:

- Summary dismissal without evidentiary hearings
- Procedural barriers to presenting evidence
- Retaliation through contempt proceedings
- Financial devastation through endless litigation
- Weaponization of court-appointed professionals
- Unauthorized state agency intervention
- Inter-agency coordination failures that trap children in harm's way
- Illegal denial of educational and medical access despite clear statutory rights
- Judicial misconduct without meaningful oversight or accountability

These patterns violate multiple federal protections, including:

- 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (deprivation of civil rights under color of law)
- 14th Amendment due process guarantees and parental rights
- Section 3.2 of standard parenting plans and ORS 107.154 (right to information about a child's welfare)

I respectfully urge this legislature to:

1. Form a dedicated committee to investigate systemic due process violations in family courts
2. Audit mandatory reporting compliance among court-appointed professionals
3. Implement emergency hearing requirements when child safety is at stake
4. Create enforceable penalties for disclosure failures that endanger children
5. Establish independent oversight of parent coordinators and evaluators
6. Review DHS/CPS protocols for interviewing children involved in custody disputes
7. Create a mechanism to enforce agency compliance with statutory investigation timelines
8. Mandate training for school districts on non-custodial parents' educational access rights
9. Reform the judicial oversight system to provide meaningful review of ethical complaints

This testimony serves as formal notice of these violations for purposes of federal review and intervention. The court system has proven itself unable or unwilling to reform from within.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Thank you for your time and attention to these critical matters. The safety of countless Oregon children depends on your willingness to address these systemic failures.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla A. Reyes