

LERNER • POOLE, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
535 PACIFIC AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94133-4635
(415) 391-6000
FACSIMILE: (415) 391-6011

1 Stacey Poole, Esq., (SBN 202964)
LERNER • POOLE, LLP
2 535 Pacific Avenue, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94133
3 Telephone: 415-391-6000
Fax: 415-391-6011
4 stacey@cafamilylaw.com

5 Attorneys for Petitioner
STEPHEN RUSSELL

ENDORSED
FILED
Superior Court of California
County of San Francisco

JUL 09 2018

CLERK OF THE COURT
BY: KELLY DAVIES
Deputy Clerk

8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9 COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

11 In re the Matter of
12 Petitioner: STEPHEN RUSSELL
13 and
14 Respondent: TARA WALSH

CASE NO.: FTP-18-377425
**DECLARATION OF ABILASH A.
GOPAL, M.D.**
Date: July 10, 2018
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Dept: 404
Judge: Richard C. Darwin

17 Attached hereto is the Declaration of Abilash A. Gopal, M.D.

ABILASH A. GOPAL, M.D.
DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN BOARD OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY 2161
UNION STREET, SUITE 3, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123
TEL (415) 494-9329 FAX (415) 952-9333

To: Attorney at Law Stacey Poole

CASE: FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

REF: Russell V. Walsh

Child In Common: Evelyn Grace Walsh DOB: 01/27/18

RESPONSE TO: FAMILY OFFENSE PETITION DOCKET FILE NO. 154703 0-06917-18

I am a psychiatrist who specializes in general, adolescent, and forensic psychiatry. I have expertise in the treatment of mood, anxiety, psychotic, and addictive disorders, as well as relationship dysfunction. I began seeing Mr. Stephen Russell (DOB 12/4/73) for individual and couple's therapy and medications in June of 2018 due to severe dysfunction in Mr. Russell's relationship with his infant's mother, Tara Walsh.

The following information is taken solely from my treatment relationship with Mr. Russell, as Ms. Walsh has exercised her right to privacy with regards to her medical history. Mr. Russell has been genuine, forthcoming, and compliant with regards to our treatment relationship and my recommendations, and he has authorized me to release his medical information to the court.

Mr. Russell reported a long history of emotional, and on rare occasions physical, abuse by Ms. Walsh. He reported that she was volatile, manipulative, feared abandonment, lashed out at him verbally, lied (e.g. about being pregnant), stole thousands of dollars from him, and threatened to abscond with their newborn child. Mr. Russell's mother and chief of security staff, both of whom report that they have spent

significant time in the presence Mr. Russell and Ms. Walsh, corroborate this account.

Specifically, Mr. Russell's mother reported that Ms. Walsh frequently lied, manipulated, and was abusive towards both her and Mr. Russell, and frequently abused alcohol, neglected the baby, and attempted to obtain more money or assistance from Mr. Russell. Mr. Russell's chief of staff reported that Ms. Walsh was volatile, emotionally abusive, and on one occasion, physically violent towards Mr. Russell. He observed Ms. Walsh to constantly lie, e.g. "She would say that Steve had a gun, which wasn't true, or she would accuse me or the nanny of trying to kidnap her child." He also observed Ms. Walsh to put an unknown substance in Mr. Russell's drink surreptitiously, after which she confessed to him that she had done so. He felt additionally that Ms. Walsh was "unnatural" in the way that she cared for her baby and "seemed more interested in caring for herself than the baby."

Mr. Russell's mother and chief of security denied having ever seen Mr. Russell behave in an abusive manner towards Ms. Walsh.

Mr. Russell does not appear paranoid, psychotic, or abusive but rather concerned about a number of significant and difficult issues in his life, including the welfare of his young daughter and a dysfunctional relationship with Ms. Walsh. Interviews with Mr. Russell's mother and chief of staff as well as a statement from the nanny corroborate these findings, and each has vouched for Mr. Russell's character and conduct. Moreover, each person has raised grave concern for the welfare of Mr. Russell's daughter due to his or her observation of Ms. Walsh's behavior, such as being volatile and manipulative, compulsively lying, abusing alcohol, neglecting the baby, and on one occasion, allowing the baby to fall on the floor unattended.

Based on these findings, and given that Mr. Russell has a strong social support network in San Francisco (including his mother and brother, both of whom can assist with childcare), access to quality medical care, and extensive financial resources, I believe that Mr. Russell is in a good position to provide a safe and healthy household for his child.

Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Abilash A. Gopal, M.D.
California Medical License A109317

DECLARANT:

Dr. Abilash A. Gopal, M.D.

DOB _____, Add; _____

PH _____ CDL _____

**I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State
of New York and California that the foregoing declaration is true and correct.**

Dated 7/5/2018 at San Francisco, CA [place].

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AAG', with a small '10' written below the right side of the signature.

[Signature of declarant]