

Hirshberg Consulting
2926 Rocky Oak Street
San Antonio, Texas 78232

August 28, 2007

Dear Ms. Woods:

We are writing to you regarding our clients' daughter, Mary Jane. Mary Jane has had an incredible summer and has come a long way since moving in with them in December 2006. Before joining their family, Mary Jane spent many years in foster care after being removed from her birth family. Our clients' adoption of Mary Jane will be completed soon, and they anxiously await the final paperwork from the courts. When the paperwork arrives, Mary Jane's new legal name will be Mary Jane Doe.

As you may know from her file, Mary Jane suffers from a mental illness known in the DSM IV as Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) and also from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. These disorders stem from the abuse and neglect she endured while living with her birth family and multiple, abrupt moves while spending four years in foster care. Since she has been living with her new family, they have been seeing an attachment therapist, John Johnson, L.C.S.W., to help Mary Jane with her disorders and to help her adjust to living in a family. According to her therapist, Mary Jane has progressed very quickly in a short period of time.

However, while her behavior has dramatically improved at home, due to the nature of RAD, when she becomes stressed, her old behavior surfaces. Since meeting new people is a major stressor for Mary Jane, we anticipate she will act out during the first few weeks of school until she feels safe.

Mary Jane's RAD manifests itself in several predictable behaviors. She acts like she sees poorly. She squints and rubs her eyes vigorously until they become red and bloodshot. She acts like she has poor motor control by walking strangely, splaying her fingers, waving her arms uncontrollably, lolling her head, and sticking her tongue out of her mouth. She also lisps and giggles inappropriately. Finally, she acts like she is unable to complete age appropriate schoolwork, such as reading. Essentially, Mary Jane takes on all the characteristics of a low MIMD student. She has practiced this routine for years, with great success and rewards, so she is extremely believable. However, Mary Jane hasn't exhibited any of these behaviors at home for the past six months, so we know this behavior can be stopped. Provided the teacher, aide, or person in charge catches the behavior and tells her, "Nice try, but I don't believe it," you will see the behavior disappear after several days.

At this point in Mary Jane's development, she is able to follow one step commands with 100% accuracy and compliance. However, she is not yet responsible to bring parent/teacher communication back and forth to school. Our client's home email address is family@family.com. Please feel free to communicate with them via email about any concerns you may have, any school business of which they should be aware, or to verify any information that Mary Jane gives you that seems questionable. They check their email several times a day and will respond as soon as possible. They will also be happy to come by the school at any time

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to pick up written correspondence (graded papers, school newsletters, etc.) or any time you deem necessary.

Our clients truly are excited about the new school year and seeing Mary Jane come into her full potential. Our clients will continue to be actively involved in her education at School Elementary and look forward to working with you.

If you ever have any questions regarding Mary Jane's disorders, therapy, or dealing with her RAD, please contact her therapist, John Johnson, at 555-1212 or our client at either (home) 555-1222 or (work) 555-0000.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Holly Hirshberg
President