

1 NO: FA03-0126634 : SUPERIOR COURT  
2  
3 MICHELLE SULLIVAN : JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
4 OF NEW LONDON  
5  
6 v. : AT NORWICH, CONNECTICUT  
7  
8 JAMES SULLIVAN : JUNE 19TH, 2006  
9

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11 MOTION FOR OPEN AND MODIFY JUDGMENT  
12

13  
14 BEFORE THE HONORABLE CYNTHIA K. SWIENTON, JUDGE  
15

16  
17 A P P E A R A N C E S :  
18

19  
20 Representing the Plaintiff:

21 ATTORNEY MARY PUHLICK  
22 PUHLICK AND CARTIER  
23 199 West Town Street  
24 Norwich, Connecticut  
25

26 Representing the Defendant:

27  
28 ATTORNEY BRUCE CHAMBERLAIN  
29 400 Bayonet Street  
30 New London, Connecticut  
31

32  
33 Representing the Minor Children:

34  
35 ATTORNEY MARY O'DONAL  
36 HELLER, HELLER, AND MCCOY  
37 736 Norwich-New London Turnpike  
38 Uncasville, Connecticut  
39

40  
41  
42 Recorded by: Jessica Brady  
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46 70 Huntington Street  
47 New London, Connecticut  
48



1 THE COURT: Sullivan?

2 ATTY. PUHLICK: That's ready, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Number 65.

4 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: For the record, Bruce  
5 Chamberlain for James Sullivan who is present in  
6 court.

7 ATTY. PUHLICK: And Mary Puhlick representing  
8 Michelle Sullivan who is also present in court, Your  
9 Honor.

10 ATTY. O'DONAL: And for the record, Your Honor,  
11 I'm Mary O'Donal representing the children. If I  
12 may give the clerk an appearance. Apparently I'm  
13 not showing on the docket.

14 THE COURT: Okay. All right. This is a  
15 motion -- hold on.

16 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: We're seeking very limited  
17 relief from what the motion references today.

18 THE COURT: I'm not sure. I mean, this was --  
19 this is the motion to open and modify judgment?

20 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes.

21 THE COURT: All right. That's what we're  
22 hearing today -- the motion to open and modify the  
23 judgment?

24 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes. Previously at  
25 Attorney O'Donal's suggestion, therapy was entered  
26 between the father and the two children. That  
27 therapy didn't work because of some problems between

1 the parents. Our request today is that former Mrs.  
2 Sullivan be ordered to attend either a peace program  
3 or co-parenting therapy with him. We think that  
4 that is then going to address the tremendous  
5 problems that occurred in visitation exchanges which  
6 have estranged the children from him.

7 Essentially that's what we're here for today --  
8 to ask that to be ordered and she attend therapy  
9 with him.

10 THE COURT: Well, this is going to take more  
11 than ten minutes. You've indicated ten minutes.

12 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: I don't think I did that.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 ATTY. PUHLICK: I did, Your Honor. I mean, I  
15 think the issue is very limited. The issue is  
16 simply whether this Court should compel my client to  
17 attend counseling with her ex-husband regarding  
18 parenting issues.

19 I think that Attorney O'Donal may --

20 THE COURT: This is going to take ten minutes  
21 just to argue this. Do you want to go forward on  
22 your motion to open and modify the judgment?

23 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: The children need either  
24 therapy or some therapeutic resolution of this  
25 problem. It can't be resolved by the court system.

26 THE COURT: Right. Right.

27 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: So we're asking --

1 THE COURT: Oh, it can be resolved by the court  
2 system.

3 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: That's true, it can be.  
4 Yes. We're asking that -- because we perceive the  
5 problem as the visitation exchanges have been so  
6 hostile for the children that they've opted away  
7 from father that ending that hostility through  
8 parents attending it or mother providing  
9 transportation to father so that stepfather is not  
10 involved solves the problem.

11 So our argument is to first see if a therapist  
12 can get the two adults to resolve the exchange  
13 issues.

14 THE COURT: So you'd like it to go to the peace  
15 program to see if these two parties would be able to  
16 try to work things out?

17 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes.

18 ATTY. PUHLICK: And my client has no interest  
19 in attending counseling sessions with her former  
20 spouse, Your Honor. The children -- the order was  
21 that the children and dad go to counseling and that  
22 his visitation be suspended. Dad has interpreted  
23 that the counseling between he and his children has  
24 not been effective and has terminated those sessions  
25 and therefore he has not visited with his children  
26 in several months.

27 THE COURT: Then I guess we're going to have a

1 hearing at two o'clock.

2 (At this time, the case was passed and other  
3 matters were heard.)

4 THE COURT: Sullivan versus Sullivan. All  
5 right. So this is Mr. Sullivan's motion to open and  
6 modify, correct?

7 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

8 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

9 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: I'll be brief with the  
10 testimony as our opening arguments were, but that's  
11 essentially what we're presenting.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 (Witness summoned.)  
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1 J A M E S S U L L I V A N,

2 Of 44 Belleau Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut, being  
3 first duly sworn, was called upon as a witness by  
4 the defendant and was examined and testified under  
5 oath as follows:

6 THE CLERK: Please state your name and address,  
7 spelling your last name for the record.

8 MR. SULLIVAN: James Sullivan.

9 THE CLERK: Spell your last name.

10 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: Last name, sir, and  
11 address.

12 MR. SULLIVAN: Sullivan, last name.

13 THE COURT: Could you spell it, sir, and give  
14 your address for the record.

15 MR. SULLIVAN: S-u-l-l-i-v-a-n. My address is  
16 44 Belleau Ave., Norwich.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN:

19 Q Sir, as part of a prior court order, were you  
20 attending therapy with your two children?

21 A Yes, I was.

22 Q And which months were you attending therapy?

23 A Between March, April.

24 Q All right. And have you terminated the therapy?

25 A Yes.

26 Q All right. Why did you terminate the therapy?

27 A Because of interference from my ex and her husband.

1 Q All right. What were the primary complaints that  
2 your children had about the visitation schedule between you  
3 and them?

4 A Visitation schedule or other complaints?

5 Q What were their primary complaints for addressing  
6 the therapy?

7 A That I was a bad father, I was a bad husband to  
8 their mother, that they're mad at me for having to make them  
9 get picked up at the end of the driveway, that my kids may  
10 get rained on or my daughter was dropping her stuff all over  
11 the driveway. That was complaints in therapy.

12 Q All right. Did the children express that to the  
13 therapist?

14 A Excuse me?

15 Q Did the children express that complaint to the  
16 therapist?

17 A Yes, they did.

18 Q All right. How long is this driveway at your ex-  
19 wife's house?

20 A I don't know, but I have pictures of it.

21 Q Can you estimate?

22 A Three, four, 500 feet.

23 Q All right. And are you permitted by your ex-wife to  
24 drive into the driveway and pick the children up?

25 A No, I'm not.

26 Q All right. Are you permitted by her current husband  
27 to drive in the driveway to pick them up?



1 A No, I'm not.

2 Q All right. Now why do the children complain about  
3 that to you?

4 A Because they feel that when they have stuff to bring  
5 with me or whatever, it's too much of a load for them, the  
6 fact that when it's raining out, they get rained on, the  
7 fact that you know, my daughter drops stuff. It's too much  
8 of a load for them to carry that distance back and forth.  
9 If they've got several trips to make, it's too much of a  
10 distance to go back and forth, up and down the driveway.

11 Q All right. Sir, is there anything that your ex-wife  
12 can do in your opinion to solve this problem?

13 A Yes, she can transport the kids to and from  
14 visitation. She can transport the kids to and from  
15 counseling. That will eliminate the problem.

16 Q All right. Do you want to continue counseling with  
17 your children?

18 A Yes, I do.

19 Q Do you think it would do any good for you to attend  
20 counseling with your ex-wife?

21 A Yes, it would.

22 Q What type of counseling do you want to attend with  
23 her?

24 A How to co-parent.

25 Q And sir, are issues between you and your ex-wife  
26 influencing the children?

27 A Yes, they are.

1 Q And how are the kids being affected by problems  
2 between you and your ex-wife?

3 A They believe that again, I'm a bad parent, that I  
4 was a bad husband to their mother, that I don't pan up  
5 enough support for them, a lot of things like that.

6 Q All right. Sir, you'd like this Court to order your  
7 ex-wife to go to counseling with you?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Would you like this Court to order that your wife  
10 bring the children to future counseling sessions with you?

11 A And to visitation.

12 Q All right. Do you believe that visitation can be  
13 resumed with your children?

14 A Yes, it can.

15 Q Do you believe that the dispute the children have  
16 essentially is settled over your picking them up from your  
17 ex-wife's house?

18 A Excuse me? Can you repeat that?

19 Q Do you believe if your wife actually transports the  
20 children to you, that will solve the dispute the kids have?

21 A Yes, it will.

22 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: I have nothing further  
23 then, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Attorney Puhlick?

25 ATTY. PUHLICK: Thank you, Your Honor.

26 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY ATTY. PUHLICK:

27 Q Mr. Sullivan, it's true, isn't it, that you told

1 your children that if they didn't resume the prior schedule  
2 that was in place with you that you wanted to terminate your  
3 parental rights?

4 A Can you repeat that again, please?

5 Q Sure. It's true, sir, that you told your children  
6 that if they did not resume the prior schedule that was in  
7 effect for visitation, that you wanted to terminate your  
8 parental rights?

9 A No, I did not say that.

10 Q Did you ever tell your children that you wanted to  
11 terminate your parental rights?

12 A I did, yes.

13 Q Now sir, there have been ongoing issues concerning  
14 your access with your children for a couple of years. True?

15 A I don't understand. Can you repeat that or rephrase  
16 it so I can understand it better?

17 Q Sure. There have been ongoing issues with your  
18 visitation with your children for a couple of years, yes?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And those issues to date have not been resolved,  
21 fair?

22 A No, they haven't.

23 Q And you were ordered to attend counseling with your  
24 children and you chose to terminate the counseling, fair?

25 A No.

26 Q Who terminated the counseling?

27 A I did.

1 Q And that's because you were not hearing from your  
2 children what it was you wanted to hear?

3 A No. I terminated the counseling because my kids  
4 would not see them. They would only dictate terms to see me  
5 based on what their mother said. I told my kids basically  
6 that they had to see me as is with the current situation as  
7 is and accept the situation for where they are or don't  
8 bother seeing me at all.

9 Q And you have not to date, sir, assumed any  
10 responsibility for the breakdown of your relationship with  
11 your children, have you?

12 A Yes, I have.

13 Q And you're going to individual counseling?

14 A I was going to continue with that once this problem  
15 with my ex resolved.

16 Q You're not going to individual counseling, correct?

17 A I'm waiting -- right now, no.

18 Q And you've not addressed the issues that you had  
19 with your ex-wife since the divorce, correct?

20 A I've tried.

21 Q And how's that?

22 A I've tried to meet with her on several occasions.  
23 Her husband interferes with any kind of conversation that I  
24 try to attempt to have with her. On one date in question  
25 when she was living at 120 Providence Street, her husband  
26 come out and said she's not talking to you no more, just  
27 send the support, that's all we want.

1 Q Okay. And when was that?

2 A When she was still living on Providence Street. I  
3 don't remember the date exactly.

4 Q Six, eight months ago?

5 A It was the last time that we transacted a cash  
6 payment for support. The last time that she has on her  
7 record when she has the last receipt or transaction, cash  
8 receipt for support. It was that date when that was said.  
9 The husband came out. I had things to talk about with the  
10 kids and the husband came out and said she's not talking  
11 with you and pushed her right back into the house. I had  
12 things to discuss on affairs with the kids.

13 Q Now sir, how many times have you seen your children  
14 this calendar year?

15 A I can't count.

16 Q More than ten?

17 A Maybe.

18 Q If ten?

19 A Maybe more than that. I mean, for awhile there, I  
20 was in the hospital so I couldn't see my kids for awhile  
21 because of a medical situation but as much as possible.

22 Q And they've told you that they don't wish to have  
23 visitation with you, correct?

24 A They indicated that in counseling along with other  
25 complaints about their opinions of me, yeah.

26 Q So they've told you that they don't want to see you?

27 A Based on the last counseling session, yes.

1           ATTY. PUHLICK: Nothing further.

2           ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: Just one question.

3 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN:

4       Q     Sir, why do you think your ex-wife attending  
5 counseling can solve this problem with the children?

6       A     Because I believe that if there's a better co-  
7 parenting relationship between me and my ex-wife, then the  
8 kids' opinion will change.

9       Q     All right. And their opinion is of you as a bad  
10 parent?

11      A     Yes, it is, because of what my ex and her husband  
12 say and what they do and what they've done to force my kids  
13 to the end of the driveway. I have pictorial evidence.

14           ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: I have nothing further,  
15 Your Honor.

16           THE COURT: Sir, what's your current visitation  
17 schedule?

18           MR. SULLIVAN: The old schedule?

19           THE COURT: What's your current visitation  
20 schedule?

21           MR. SULLIVAN: Wednesdays and Thursday nights  
22 but my days off have changed so I'm looking to  
23 change that also.

24           THE COURT: What is the current visitation  
25 schedule?

26           MR. SULLIVAN: Wednesdays and Thursdays.

27           THE COURT: From what time to what time?

1 MR. SULLIVAN: I guess during school sessions  
2 it was from whatever time after school -- 3:30,  
3 whatever, three o'clock -- to 8:30 at night. During  
4 the summer it would be from nine or ten in the  
5 morning to 8:30 at night.

6 THE COURT: On Wednesdays and Thursdays?

7 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

8 THE COURT: And that's the only visitation you  
9 have with your children?

10 MR. SULLIVAN: That was the only time I had  
11 off -- because of my job, that was the only time I  
12 had with my kids, yeah.

13 THE COURT: You don't see them on weekends?

14 MR. SULLIVAN: No, because I work.

15 THE COURT: You work every weekend?

16 MR. SULLIVAN: Was. I did.

17 THE COURT: All right. Anything further?

18 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: Nothing further, Your  
19 Honor.

20 MR. PUHLICK: Not of this witness.

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir.

22 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: Defendant has no further  
23 witnesses.

24 THE COURT: All right. Attorney Puhlick?

25 ATTY. PUHLICK: Plaintiff calls Michelle  
26 Heikkinen.  
27

1 M I C H E L L E H E I K K I N E N ,

2 Of 788 Gungywamp Road, Groton, Connecticut, being  
3 first duly sworn, was called upon as a witness by  
4 the plaintiff and was examined and testified under  
5 oath as follows:

6 THE CLERK: Please state your name and address  
7 and spell your last name for the record.

8 MS. HEIKKINEN: Michelle Heikkinen, H-e-i-k-k-  
9 i-n-e-n. My address is 788 Gungywamp Road in  
10 Groton, Connecticut.

11 THE COURT: Go ahead, Attorney Puhlick.

12 ATTY. PUHLICK: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. PUHLICK;

14 Q Ms. Heikkinen, how old are your children?

15 A My son is 15 and my daughter is 12.

16 Q And can you describe the types of issues that have  
17 arisen since you were divorced concerning access with their  
18 father?

19 A The schedule has changed a couple of times because  
20 of his work schedule changing. I have never really  
21 prevented him from seeing them or anything like that. There  
22 have been times when he's chosen not to see them.

23 As of last year, however, there were -- when he takes  
24 them, he has been demeaning me to them and since I've gotten  
25 married again, he has also demeaned my new husband to them.  
26 Over the course of time, they have decided that they just  
27 don't want to see him anymore because all he does when he



1 takes them is talk about us and our home and ask questions  
2 about it and things of that nature.

3 The schedule issues became a major complaint back in the  
4 fall of last year. He had asked if I would be willing to  
5 let him see them on Sunday mornings because he had time at  
6 that point to take them. I said I didn't see a problem with  
7 it but if we were doing something -- we had something  
8 planned -- that he should be flexible with us. This was  
9 outside of the schedule that had been arranged at the time  
10 through the court system.

11 For awhile, things went okay. He was taking them  
12 periodically on the Sundays. There did come a Sunday when I  
13 had something going on with a family member we needed to go  
14 to. We told him a couple of weeks in advance and he told  
15 the kids that we had no right to do that. He didn't stop me  
16 from keeping them that day, but he did make it clear to them  
17 that he didn't think it was right that I was interfering  
18 with his time.

19 At that point, I believe he started to try to do  
20 something through the court system to get an established  
21 Sunday and that's when the kids started to become very  
22 upset. My daughter had already been very upset with him.  
23 She didn't want to see him anymore.

24 There was an incident where I wasn't going to make her go  
25 and he had a police officer come to the house who made her  
26 go basically so I never again even attempted that because I  
27 didn't want to have the police at my home, although they

1 have been there since then at Mr. Sullivan's request.

2 Q And for what types of issues has Mr. Sullivan called  
3 the police to go to your home?

4 A When we had moved to Groton, our phone line is an  
5 underground phone line and apparently whenever it rains,  
6 sometimes the phone goes out and all you get on the other  
7 end is a busy signal. It usually takes a day or two to  
8 resolve it. This one particular weekend -- it was the  
9 weekend where we had a very bad snowstorm -- we didn't call  
10 on it, we just left it the way it was. Now we had three  
11 cell phones that he could have called us on -- he made no  
12 attempt to call us on the cell phones. He sent a police  
13 officer instead to our home.

14 On another occasion, we had asked that he no longer come  
15 into our driveway and that was because there had been issues  
16 when we were living in Taftville where he had violated our  
17 privacy and we did not want him coming onto our property  
18 where he could do that again, so we asked him to park at the  
19 end of the driveway. Now it's not an excessively long  
20 driveway; the kids have never complained to me about having  
21 to walk up to the end of the driveway and I'm sure they  
22 would have if that was an issue because they don't usually  
23 keep those things to themselves.

24 He came to pick them up and he parked on the opposite  
25 side of the street so the kids would have to go across the  
26 street and he started taking pictures of the area with his  
27 cell phone and he proceeded with the children to the police

1 department in attempt to have myself and my husband arrested  
2 for what he called endangering the children.

3 Q Now have your children expressed to you a desire  
4 about their continuing their relationship with their father?

5 A They don't want to. They went through the  
6 counseling with him. At the last session, I believe it was,  
7 he specifically asked them to tell him to his face whether  
8 or not they wanted to see him and they said no and then he  
9 terminated the counseling. He had told them previously that  
10 he was going to file a termination of parental rights and he  
11 told them again that day that he was going to file  
12 termination of parental rights. He had also told me that he  
13 would file a termination of parental rights.

14 Q Now have your children continued in therapy since  
15 the termination of that session?

16 A No.

17 Q And what efforts have you made with Mr. Sullivan,  
18 either while going through your own divorce, with  
19 counseling?

20 A Prior to my filing for divorce, we had been going to  
21 marriage counseling which at a point in time, I had decided  
22 that it just was not going to work and we ended up changing  
23 the dynamic, I guess you could say, of the sessions to how  
24 we could get through the divorce with the least amount of  
25 agony, I guess you could say, for the children. We went for  
26 a few sessions and it just got nowhere. It just didn't.

27 Q And at this time, what are your feelings about

1 attending counseling sessions with Mr. Sullivan?

2 A I don't think it's going to work. I really don't.

3 Q And why is that?

4 A Because of the past. He doesn't let go of his  
5 vindictiveness for anyone. I mean, even in other issues  
6 outside of our marriage; people he's been angry with about  
7 different things. He's always had a vindictiveness and he  
8 just can't let it go for some reason. I believe that's why  
9 he keeps this fire burning and with putting the kids in the  
10 middle of it.

11 ATTY. PUHLICK: I have nothing further, Your  
12 Honor.

13 THE COURT: Attorney Chamberlain?

14 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN:

15 Q Ma'am, basically what you just said, what do you  
16 then believe is the solution for the Court?

17 A Well, my thought when I had brought up in the  
18 beginning of the year that the children no longer wanted to  
19 see him, was that they have the right to choose whether or  
20 not they wish to see him on any -- whatever the schedule  
21 happened to be, if they said they didn't want to go, that  
22 they would have that right to not go. Apparently that's not  
23 something that can be done. Mr. Sullivan has stated several  
24 times that he wants to terminate his rights.

25 Q All right. So ma'am --

26 A That was his choice. That's what he said.

27 Q Would you deny the children don't want to see him

1 because of things that you and your current husband have  
2 done?

3 A What are you saying? What are you asking?

4 Q Are the children upset about how the visitation  
5 exchanges occur?

6 A No.

7 Q Are they upset over things they perceive about him?

8 A Actually, there hasn't been any visitation.

9 Q Are the children upset over things they perceive  
10 about him?

11 A About who?

12 Q About their father, about his finances.

13 A I don't think they're upset about his finances. I  
14 don't think that's neither here nor there to them.

15 Q All right. So ma'am, you're not willing to attend  
16 any sort of co-parenting therapy with him?

17 A I would prefer not to. I don't think it's going to  
18 help anything.

19 Q You prefer just to leave things as they are?

20 A I guess the reason we're here is to find out what  
21 other options are there.

22 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: I have nothing further.

23 ATTY. PUHLICK: No questions.

24 THE COURT: Madam, why is it a requirement for  
25 him to pick them up at the end of the driveway?

26 MS. HEIKKINEN: When we were living in  
27 Taftville, he had gone -- when he had come to pick

1 up the children, he had gone to my husband -- at  
2 that time, we were not married. His car happened to  
3 be in my driveway. He went to the car, looked in  
4 the window, and took down information off of mail  
5 that had been left in the car. He has also told the  
6 children that he has people in the neighborhood  
7 watching us.

8 THE COURT: That didn't answer my question.  
9 Why do you require him then to park at the end of  
10 the driveway?

11 MS. HEIKKINEN: Because we don't want him on  
12 our property.

13 THE COURT: Do you think that that might give  
14 the kids some signal that there's a problem with  
15 their father?

16 MS. HEIKKINEN: They already knew there was a  
17 problem. We didn't do that until long after they  
18 didn't even want to see him.

19 THE COURT: Do you always let your 12-year-old  
20 make decisions for herself?

21 MS. HEIKKINEN: No.

22 THE COURT: Anything further?

23 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: Nothing further.

24 THE COURT: Thank you very much. Anybody going  
25 to call Attorney O'Donal?

26 ATTY. PUHLICK: She's attorney for, Your Honor.

27 ATTY. O'DONAL: I'm attorney for, Your Honor;

1 not guardian ad litem.

2 THE COURT: I didn't know that.

3 ATTY. O'DONAL: That's okay, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Well, do you wish to question  
5 either one of these parties?

6 ATTY. O'DONAL: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: When was she appointed?

8 ATTY. O'DONAL: January. There should be a  
9 signed stipulation in there from the parties, Your  
10 Honor.

11 ATTY. PUHLICK: There was --

12 THE COURT: January 10th. I have it.

13 ATTY. PUHLICK: January 10th, 2006, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: I don't have it ordered by the  
15 Court. There's nothing to indicate that that  
16 agreement was ordered by the Court.

17 ATTY. PUHLICK: I have a stipulation in my  
18 file.

19 THE COURT: I do, too, but anything that says  
20 that the judge ordered this or a judge ordered this,  
21 no.

22 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: We just noticed the Court  
23 of her appearance and then I guess let it drop.

24 THE COURT: You know how like this one has a  
25 signature on it that says so ordered, one of those  
26 things?

27 ATTY. O'DONAL: I believe I did get a phone

1 call from the clerk. I realized today that my  
2 appearance is not showing. That's why I filed an  
3 appearance this morning, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further?

5 MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Nothing further.

6 ATTY. PUHLICK: No, Your Honor.

7 MS. O'DONAL: Your Honor, I don't know if  
8 parties are making arguments, but I did want to make  
9 argument, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Please.

11 ATTY. O'DONAL: Your Honor, this isn't as  
12 simple as this being an issue about a driveway. My  
13 clients have never claimed an issue with that with  
14 me. They have told me that they don't want to visit  
15 dad. I think dad needs to take some responsibility  
16 for what's going on here, Your Honor.

17 He talked to them about terminating their  
18 rights. That's one of other conversations that he's  
19 had that is totally inappropriate to have with his  
20 minor children. Nor do I think that they should  
21 make the decision here, Your Honor.

22 That's something I think the Court needs to  
23 consider that this isn't just about a driveway issue  
24 with these kids. There's a lot more here. Mother  
25 touched upon the issue with the police being called  
26 I think at times when it was inappropriate. The  
27 kids have been aware of that obviously, Your Honor.



1 I guess I don't have anything further. I don't  
2 know if it makes sense for these people to go into  
3 counseling, but I think the Court should consider  
4 that at this point -- I don't know. I don't know  
5 what else to add, Your Honor.

6 ATTY. CHAMBERLAIN: Just short rebuttal to that  
7 is he reports that the counselor brought up that  
8 topic and that's why it got discussed. I guess he  
9 decided to speak frankly about topics far to the  
10 edge of what we normally perceive.

11 THE COURT: Okay, what I'm trying to figure out  
12 is on April 3rd, the Court entered a stipulation  
13 indicating that visitation between the children and  
14 the father would be suspended and those orders were  
15 entered without prejudice. Does anybody have any  
16 recollection about that?

17 Okay, well that's what I'm going to do. I'm  
18 vacating that stipulation. I'm vacating it. I'm  
19 going to enter orders for visitation for Wednesday  
20 after school until 8:30 and Thursday after school  
21 until 8:30.

22 I'm going to order that the parties participate  
23 in the peace program and then I'm going to call it  
24 back for six weeks. August 21st. Thank you.

25 ATTY. O'DONAL: Your Honor --

26 THE COURT: If any file needed and deserved the  
27 peace program, it would appear that this one does.

August 21st.

ATTY. PUHLICK: Thank you, Your Honor.


\* \* \*

1 NO: FA03-0126634 : SUPERIOR COURT  
2  
3 MICHELLE SULLIVAN : JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
4 OF NEW LONDON  
5  
6 v. : AT NORWICH, CONNECTICUT  
7  
8 JAMES SULLIVAN : JUNE 19TH, 2006  
9

10  
11  
12 C E R T I F I C A T I O N  
13

14 I hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and  
15 correct transcription of the audio recording of the  
16 above-referenced case, heard in Superior Court, Judicial  
17 District of New London, Norwich, Connecticut, before the  
18 Honorable Cynthia K. Swienton, Judge, on the 19th day of  
19 June, 2006.  
20

21 Dated this 24th day of March, 2010 in New London,  
22 Connecticut.  
23

24   
25

26 Amy Cowan

27 Court Recording Monitor  
28  
29