

EXCERPT FROM DISCONTINUED OCL REPORT re CUSTODY REVERSAL:

Each option presents its own set of risks and benefits, which would need to be carefully considered to determine what is in the best interest of Zaria. The option of having no intervention would result in Zaria losing her relationship with her father entirely. There is no evidence available that indicates this is in Zaria's best interest. Reversing Zaria's primary placement to that of her father's care is highly intrusive. Given the history of parenting, Zaria's strong connection with her mother and her expressed fear of being hurt in her father's care, this would likely be quite emotionally distressing, and could negatively impact her mental wellness. These factors combined with Zaria's reports about her maternal extended family and her estrangement from her paternal grandmother, suggest that identifying a neutral transitional placement that would benefit Zaria could prove to be difficult. Leaving Zaria in Ms. Grillo's primary care and initiating therapy with a focus on reunification would need to include Zaria and *both* parents. The overarching goal of the intervention would be to restore Mr. Newton's parental role and resume contact between him and Zaria, ultimately restoring a healthy relationship. The literature supports that the Court's role in proceeding with this option is critical to the effectiveness of education and/or therapeutic interventions. Court Orders must be clear and detailed concerning each parent's participation, expectations, and timelines to avoid any ambiguity. Any therapist utilized should have specialized training and be proficient in high-conflict separations and the dynamics surrounding parent-child