

From: [Kowalski, Christine](#)
To: [Deschamps, Dusty](#); [Marks, Jason](#); [Vannatta, Shane](#); [Leslie Halligan](#); [McLaughlin, Beth](#); [Lapke, Jake](#); [Baumgartner, Kristin](#)
Cc: [Larson, John](#); [Justin Ekwall](#); [Lauren Sandau](#); [Bird, Rob](#); [Forcella, Hailey](#)
Subject: FW: Transcript request DJ-23-17
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 4:46:51 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED] [status conference 10-23-2024.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon Folks,

Here is the transcript from [REDACTED] hearing. Judge Larson clearly took supervision away from Youth Court because I allowed [REDACTED] to make a decision on his own as to whether or not he wanted to participate in the Drug Treatment Program. Due to the fact that [REDACTED] said no, Judge Larson has stated that I am not truthful, non-compliant with the Court Order, and subsequently my office is no longer competent to supervise [REDACTED]. This feels hostile and retaliatory towards me directly for giving [REDACTED] a voice as to whether he wants to participate in what is suppose to be a voluntary program.

I also have grave concerns that Judge Larson is asking for information that my Juvenile Probation Officer is doing as a normal activity of his daily probation officer's work. The JPO is well aware of [REDACTED] school attendance, grades, therapy activity at Talbot, family interaction, and progress in the program. The JPO meets with [REDACTED] weekly. There has been evaluations completed per the Disposition order, as required but since it is post-disposition none of these evaluations are required to be submitted to the Court. They are used for case management purposes, as they are in every case.

In my 20 years of probation service, I have never provided the information that Judge Larson is asking for to any other Judge post-disposition. Those are normal tasks of a probation officer nor have I ever had jurisdiction take away from Youth Court by a District Court Judge. It truly feels vindictive and hostile towards me personally for standing up for the kids who state that they do not want to participate in Drug Court. I unfortunately will continue to stand up for these kids, despite the negative consequences that continue to come my way. These youth need a voice and someone they can trust. I will continue to be that person. I have not forced them to sign anything, despite what I am being accused of and I will continue to stand up for each and everyone of these kids because they deserve it. I take pride in my honesty, integrity, and willingness to stand up for what I believe in. The kids of Missoula and this office is truly valuable to me and take pride in showing up everyday to make it the best that I can with an amazing team of people behind me.

Thanks so much,

Christine Kowalski
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
Missoula Youth Court

"We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... We are in charge of our attitudes!"