GENERAL AFFIDAVIT UNDER OATH OF BRITTANEY PAINTER

2

1

I, BRITTANEY PAINTER, declare and state as follows:

3

5

6

1. I, BRITANNEY PAINTER ("Declarant"), am a resident of Ogden, County of Weber, State of Utah, and do hereby certify, swear or affirm, and declare that I am competent to give the following declaration based on my personal knowledge, unless otherwise stated, and that the following facts and things are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

7

2. I worked at Majestic Ranch from September 2002 through December 2004.

9

3. One of the children, left the program and went home. For Christmas she was told she could visit anyone she wanted and she chose to come visit me. Because of her visit

10 11

Tammy Johnson fired me. I was told it was because I signed a form stating I would not have

12

contact with children who left the program for a period of one year after they left. However, the

13 14

4. During my employment at Majestic Ranch I witnessed and reported child and abuse and neglect and witnessed the poor and unhealthy living conditions there.

15 16

UNUSUAL TREATMENT AND PUNISHMENT / CHILD ENDANGERMENT

document I signed only stated staff could not see boys who had left the program.

17

5. shoulder was dislocated by staff member Boo. I did not personally witness this but was told that it occurred by many people.

18 19

6. told me staff dumped water on her while she was being restrained.

20

7. had bruises all over his face after a "bad" restraint performed by Dave Jones, a

21

house parent married to Family Rep Tori Jones. He was suspended following an investigation.

2223

The incident was investigated by CPS and the sheriff but no charges were filed. He has since returned and is working for Majestic Ranch as a driver for the children when they need to go to

24

the doctor or therapist. I believe was transferred to another facility.

2526

was a huge "bone yard" filled with dead cows, sheep, dogs, pigs, chickens, and more. When

27

children signed up for work duty they had no idea they would be asked to move these maggot-

There were piles of dead animal carcasses in different locations on the ranch. There

28

infested carcasses from these piles and place them onto a large truck. They then had to get onto GENERAL AFFIDAVIT OF BRITTANEY PAINTER - 1

the truck and throw the carcasses onto the bone yard. If they were able to do this without throwing up they were given a soda. Children came back covered in blood and dirt. Most of the time there was not enough staff to take these children to shower so they had to stay in their blood-covered clothing for hours until they took their shower at bedtime.

- 9. Some staff members made children sit in manure as punishment. If they refused to sit in the manure the staff physically tried to get them to sit down. If they would not cooperate staff was instructed to restrain them at that point. During restraints children were thrown to the ground, in the manure, at times with their faces in the manure. The children talked about the restraints and showed staff the manure all over their bodies. There was usually not enough staff to take the children to shower so they would have to wait to shower until the evening, often with manure on their bodies and clothing for hours.
- 10. As another form of punishment, Wayne Winder made children run with him to Red Mountain with a "third," another staff member.
- 11. When staff tried everything to get children to behave and nothing worked they were instructed to make the children sit outside on a log, on the ground, or on a milk crate for sometimes 2-3 days from about 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The only time they are allowed to get up is to use the bathroom. Their food is brought to them. During the summer temperatures reached in the high 90's. Children sat in direct sun with no shade and were given sunscreen only if the child thought to ask for it, which was rare. The children developed sunburns on many occasions. During the winter temperatures reached well below freezing. Children were asked to put on warm clothing that was supplied by their parents. If they did not have warm clothing they tried to borrow from other children. Sometimes they would refuse to put on gloves, a jacket, boots, etc., so we were instructed to send them outside the way they were. When they behaved for a while we could bring warm clothing to them. If they misbehaved while they were outside we were told to remove an article of warm clothing each time they misbehaved, down to their shirts, pants, and shoes. They could earn them back by good behavior.
- 12. If children misbehaved at night they were forced to sit on the porch no matter how cold it was. We were instructed to stand and watch the children from the door as the children GENERAL AFFIDAVIT OF BRITTANEY PAINTER 2

- 13. "Adapt" is for children who act out and need to be removed from the group. They are then made to either shovel snow, shovel manure, or other forms of manual labor, until they stop their bad behavior. I think it only made things worse instead of making things better.
- 14. "Intervention" is for children who try to run away and who need to be watched constantly. The children in intervention are taken to a basement with one or more staff members. They mostly do school work while they are in intervention. This does not occur often.
- 15. "Orange" is for children who attempt suicide or who attempt to cut themselves, who are a risk to themselves or others, or who are a runaway risk. They wear a bright orange sweat suit and their other clothing is taken away. They are allowed one orange sweat suit, two pairs of socks, two pairs of undergarments, and personal hygiene products such as toothbrush, toothpaste, and shampoo.
- 16. The dorms were stark and not child-like. They had identical comforters on the beds and children were not allowed to decorate with personal belongings. Lower-level children slept in the same room as upper-level children. Few upper-level children were allowed items like a calendar on the wall. Low-level bunkees had upper-level bunk leaders who were supposed to help them learn how to "work the program."
- 17. Children were told they were there to work on their issues and problems. Children as young as 7 had no dolls, no stuffed animals (only very few upper-level children had stuffed animals, and they were limited to two), no toys, no outdoor play equipment, no bicycles, nothing. There were several games but children were rarely allowed to play with them. They had virtually no fun activities for the children.
- 18. Wayne Winder made children sit in the bathroom in his office. They had to sit on the toilet and do their school work on the counter next to the toilet.
- 19. Children appeared miserable at Majestic Ranch. For fun upper-level children (and there were not many) were allowed to go to church. Sometimes, during the summer those children were allowed to ride the horses once a week. As a privilege they were given work detail such as GENERAL AFFIDAVIT OF BRITTANEY PAINTER 3

The state of the s

came to the program with anger issues and did not get therapy for those

issues. She was restrained often and almost always was injured as a result of the restraints,

24.

leaving wounds and bruises on her body.

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT OF BRITTANEY PAINTER - 4

26

27

28

9

more.

10

11

12 13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28

her to the doctor. After repeated complaints from staff she was finally taken to a doctor where she was diagnosed with scabies. Three girls came down with them, maybe more since I left.

- On many occasions children were hurt or sick and they did not receive immediate, if 31. any, medical treatment for their conditions.
- There was no on-site nurse to administer drugs or to monitor the children's health. 32. There was no other on-site medical staff or psychiatric staff. Supervisors distributed medications. If the supervisor was busy then any other staff could distribute the medications to the children. There were medications such as Zoloft, birth control pills, Lexapro, sleeping medications, and

UNSAFE AND UNSANITARY LIVING CONDITIONS

- Thirteen or more girls are forced to share one bathroom. There was not enough hot water for all of the girls to shower so many showered in cold water, even during the winter months when temperatures fell well below freezing. Sometimes there was no running water at all in the girls' dorm and they had to go to other dorms to shower.
- When I first started working there the girls lived in a decent dorm. When they decided 34. to put all of the boys in one location, all of the girls were moved to a stinky basement. After two girls tried to run away they nailed or screwed the windows shut. It would have been nearly impossible for the girls or the staff members to get away in the event of a fire. They finally bought a used mobile home and the girls moved in there. The windows were nailed or screwed shut again. The shower backed up on occasion and when the staff attempted to plunge the drain human feces came up the drain and into the shower. Students were made to clean it with Clorox.
- Girls were beginning to menstruate and did not have what they needed and were not 35. taught how to clean themselves. They left used menstrual pads on the floor.

CHILD LABOR VIOLATIONS

36. Children are forced to do their own laundry (there was only one washer and dryer in the girls' unit that was broken most of the time. When it was broken we used the drier in Wayne's office. Because of this girls sometimes did not have clean clothes.)

- 38. As a privilege upper level children are allowed to clean Dan Peart's personal cabin and to paint his cabin. They are given "normal" food for their work.
- 39. Children go to herd sheep on sheep trail with Peruvian men who live on the ranch as well as one staff member. They are gone for a day or two and sleep in the mountains.
- 40. I worked in the boys' unit for one day when I first got there and witnessed them having to herd sheep in the hail, rain, and mud.
- 41. If someone official came to visit the facility we and the children were made to deepclean the facility and to make sure everything was spotless.

ANIMAL ABUSE/NEGLECT

- During the sheep birthing process children witnessed guts coming out of the sheep's bodies and witnessed as the owners of the ranch stuffed them back into the sheep's bodies. Many died during the birthing process and their bodies were thrown in a pile. When staff and children complained of the terrible smell that came from the pile Dan Peart would have the children load the maggot-infested dead carcasses onto a large truck and he would drive the truck to the "bone yard." He would then have the children jump on the truck and throw the carcasses into the bone yard. If the children did not vomit they were given a soda.
- Dan Peart owned sheep dogs. The children were told that if they touched the dogs they would be shot. The animals at the ranch were not well cared for. A donkey had overgrown hoofs that were curling. Large white dogs walked around with blood all over them from hunting and killing animals or from feeding off of dead carcasses.

POOR FOOD QUALITY/UNSANITARY KITCHEN CONDITIONS

44. The kitchen was filthy. Food was mishandled and children were fed cross-contaminated meats. When the dorms were full a child's bed was moved into the kitchen for about two weeks.

45.

46. The dishwasher did not work well so children had to wash their own dishes in a tub of soapy water shared by a lot of children. The dishes were not cleaned to food handler's standards because an extra rinse with Clorox was not done. The kitchen ran out of hot water before the dishes were done so they were being cleaned in cold water. The kitchen staff complained that the

Children were given only one glass of milk per day. If they complained they were

dishes were not properly cleaned.

Children were fed meats and poultry that were not properly refrigerated and cooked.

48. They were fed a lot of Cisco canned foods. They were fed mostly packaged, unhealthy foods. One cook, Linda, did try to feed the children foods that provided them with nutrients.

49. Another cook, Karette, and her husband did not feed the children healthy foods and often the children were hungry. Many times children were given only a sandwich and they were hungry for hours. They gave children hamburger that was still raw in the center and chicken that was not thoroughly cooked. They did not have their food handler's permit when they arrived and finally got them.

50. Children were given 30 minutes to eat and do their dishes.

Jenny, another cook, refused to eat in the kitchen. She told me that one time a married couple she knew were eating in the kitchen when they saw white things crawling out of the walls and the food.

52. There were rat droppings on silverware.

LACK OF PROPER EDUCATION

I do not believe the teachers were accredited. Children were basically home-schooled and worked at their own pace. The "teachers" and teacher's aides helped the children with their work but did no formal teaching. Just before I left they were breaking up the school day and having children rotate classes. Teachers begun to do some teaching though the children were still working at their own pace.

54. Children are given very little help and struggle with some of their assignments. If they are not able to finish an assignment they get in trouble and are given consequences, meaning it GENERAL AFFIDAVIT OF BRITTANEY PAINTER - 8

. .

takes them that much longer to over achieve upper-level status. Sometimes they are not given the tools to finish the project and they are punished. For example, some projects require the children to have things such as paper, magnifying glass, etc., and if they are not supplied with those and do not finish their assignment they get punished.

55. Children as young as seven were made to sit in school from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with breaks for lunch and sometimes a one-hour group session Monday through Thursday.

BRAINWASHING

- engaged the children in visualization sessions where she would have them listen to music and tell them to think back about how they treated their parents and what they should have done differently. She was not trained to do this and it was disturbing to the children.
- 57. Children were told in seminars to search for their "magical child." The magical child is the innocent sweet baby you used to be. You are supposed to find the magical child in you and not be the person you had become.
- I went to a meeting to learn about seminars that parents and children attend. I was told the parents were our "clients" and the children were our "products." I felt strange thinking of the children as products. I was taught about the magical child. The person performing the seminar said they wanted to see their products do well so their clients would be happy.

LACK OF STAFF TRAINING/ISSUES WITH STAFF

- 59. Staff are not properly trained. I never got any training until I had been there quite some time.
- When a child entered the program, I never received information about the child's physical, medical, mental, psychological, or emotional issues and problems nor did I receive training in dealing with the many issues these children had.
- Wayne Winder pulled the staff table out of the kitchen, forcing staff to have to sit with the children while they ate. Staff were stressed because they did not receive adequate breaks.

 Children called weekend staff "Nazis" because they were so mean.
- We were short-staffed at least once a month which caused a lot of stress and pressure on staff and on the children.

TYPICAL DAY FOR THE CHILDREN

- Weekdays: Children woke up at 7:00 a.m., made their beds in 5 minutes, and did chores until it was time for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Their meds were distributed during breakfast until the children began sharing their meds, at which time they were distributed by supervisors in Wayne Winder's office. The children typically read from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. They were in class from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., went to lunch, then to group for an hour on Monday through Thursday. They went back to class from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. They ate dinner at 5:00 p.m. and were to be in their dorms at 5:30 p.m. From 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. we were supposed to meet with the children to talk about the day, but when I worked I allowed the children to have free time. If there were games available I allowed them to play. I allowed them to talk to each other because lower-level kids were not typically allowed to talk to each other. They were made to sit on their bunks from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., reading or writing. Lower-level children were not allowed to have books except maybe the bible or a self-help book so they usually wrote letters home instead. Bedtime was at 9:00 p.m.
- 64. Weekends: I do not know what happened during weekends because I worked the weekday shift.

DIRECTOR'S/OWNER'S INVOLVMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

- 65. The only involvement Director Tammy Johnson had with the children was when they first entered the program or if they were in serious trouble.
- Wayne Winder had a very bad temper and would get into arguments with the children at times.
- At times when Wayne Winder had to run Adapt, which was not often, he got angry with the children and intimidated them. Wayne and other staff members made the children sit in manure and performed restraints that resulted in the children being covered in manure and sometimes having their faces in the manure.
- 68. If someone official came to visit the facility we and the children were made to deepclean the facility and to make sure everything was spotless. We were told to remove children

from Adapt and to take them out of "orange"

- 69. The only involvement that Dan and Donne Peart had with the children was when the children did work detail by cleaning and painting their cabin, etc.
- 70. When owners Dan and Donna Peart came to inspect the facility staff and children were instructed to deep-clean avarything.

WITNESS my signature this 14th day of February, 2005.

BRITIARY PAINTER