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SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SHASTA

KEITH PAPINI, **Petitioner,** **v** **SHERRI PAPINI,** **Respondent.**	**Case No.** **Attachment to Request for Order**

DECLARATION OF KEITH PAPINI

I, Keith Papini, declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the state of California as follows:

REQUESTED ORDERS

Requested Order – Children. – I am requesting that the court grant me sole legal and sole physical custody of [redacted] and [redacted] subject to such visitation with their mother, Sherri Papini, as I determine is in their best interest.

Requested Order – Property. – I am requesting that I be given exclusive possession and control of the real property located at [redacted] which is the rental residence previously occupied by the community and currently occupied by myself and our children.

OPENING

This family has been thrust into the national news as a result of the well-publicized activities of my wife, Sherri Papini. Now that I have learned the truth, as reflected in the plea arrangement agreement that she has made with the US Attorney's office in Sacramento, I must act decisively to protect my children from the trauma caused by their mother and bring stability and calm to their lives.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION – CHILDREN

The whole problem started in November 2016 when Sherri left our children at a daycare and simply disappeared. Both I and, especially, our children were traumatized by her disappearance and I spent much time and money trying to find my wife. The trauma inflicted on our children at the unexpected loss of their mother was heartbreaking.

I am sure that the court is aware of the situation but to summarize I provide to the court the following excerpt from Record Searchlight article of April 14, 2022.

"But 22 days after her reported kidnapping while jogging along a dirt road north of Redding, she was found wandering along a remote section of Interstate 5 north of Sacramento, bound with chains.

She told investigators she was kidnapped at gunpoint by two Hispanic women who blindfolded her and held her captive, cut her hair and branded her.

It turns out, though, that she made up the whole thing, according to court documents.

While law enforcement, Papini's husband and the rest of her family searched for her, she was holed up at an ex-boyfriend's home in Orange County, according to an affidavit filed in federal court.

She was arrested and charged in March with fraud and lying to the FBI. On Tuesday, she signed an agreement to plead guilty to the two charges. Through her attorney, she also issued an apology, expressing "shame" for her actions."

After she returned home and her explanation for her disappearance was widely reported both locally and nationally along with various pictures. For a substantial time we received anonymous messages, hate mail and even death threats. The public scrutiny and the continuing investigation by both the Local Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation kept life in turmoil for 5 ½ years.

In March 2022, Sherri Papini was literally tackled by law enforcement officers while arresting her - all in the immediate presence of our children. They were again traumatized. After she was released from jail she assured the children that the arrest was all a mistake.

Since her release from jail she has lived with a relative in Chico, California and has had limited contact with the children. She is not actually seen the children since April 4, 2022 and has missed one scheduled visitation time.

The children have now learned that their mother lied to them about her disappearance, lied to them about how she was abused by two Hispanic women, and lied to them about her arrest. The fact that their mother lied to them on such a major issue is something they, and I, are having a hard time dealing with. We, both children and I, need time to recover and stabilize.

Considering that Sherri Papini has just pled guilty to felony charges and is awaiting sentencing that could involve substantial prison time and has agreed to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in restitution I do not believe she is in a position to provide good parenting and it would be inconceivable to thrust the children into that chaotic situation.

I am asking that the court order that her visitation with children shall be determined by what I believe is in their best interest. I believe that the record is clear that Sherri has some significant mental health issues that I do not believe are resolved or even fully understood. Considering how upset the children are about what their mother has done and that it is unknown how she is going to reconcile her misconduct toward them in developing an ongoing relationship, at least in the immediate future, I believe that some type of supervised visitation to the most appropriate.

Once Sherri has been sentenced this court would be in a better position to determine an appropriate permanent parenting arrangement.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION – RESIDENCE

The children and I are living in a rented single-family residence that was occupied by the community before my wife's arrest. Since the arrest she is living, with a relative, in Chico, California and is not allowed to stay at residences other than as approved by the federal authorities. The home I'm living in is not approved.

[redacted]

I am requesting that the court enter an order giving me exclusive possession and control of the residence. I want to avoid any confrontation over use of the residence.

CLOSING

I wish to make it clear that my goal is to provide a loving, safe, stable environment for [redacted] and [redacted] and I believe the requested orders are consistent with that goal and the best interests of the children. I do not want to say anything in the pleadings connected to this matter that would inflame the situation or attract media attention. I have been receiving many calls from reporters (local and national), media personalities including self-styled experts and many other individuals. I have not been taking or responding to those calls and presently have no intention to do so.

I am asking that the court help me protect my children from the negative impact of their mother's notoriety.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of State of California that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

April 15, 2022

Keith Papini