

Bruce M. Brusavich, State Bar No. 93578 1 Terry S. Schneier, State Bar No. 118322 2 **AGNEW**BRUSAVICH A Professional Corporation 20355 Hawthorne Boulevard 3 Second Floor Torrance, California 90503 4 (310) 793-1400 5 Andrew N. Chang ESNER, CHANG & BOYER 6 Southern California Office 7 234 East Colorado Boulevard Suite 750 8 Pasadena, CA 91101 (626) 535-9860121 9 10 Attorneys for Plaintiff 11 12 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 13 FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 14 15 CASE NO. RG 15760730 LATASHA NAILAH SPEARS WINKFIELD; 16 MARVIN WINKFIELD; SANDRA CHATMAN; and JAHI McMATH, a minor, by and) JUDGE STEPHEN PULIDO - DEPT. "16" 17 through her Guardian ad Litem, LATASHA NAILAH SPEARS WINKFIELD. 18 Plaintiffs. TRANSCRIPT 19 FREDERICK S. VS. FREDERICK S. ROSEN, M.D.; UCSF BENIOFF 21 CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OAKLAND (formerly Children's Hospital & Research) Center at Oakland); MILTON McMATH, a TIME: 3:00 p.m. nominal defendant, and DOES 16 DEPT: THROUGH 100. Defendants. TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

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CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO:

PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR ORDER TO UNSEAL REPORTER'S ΒY DEFENDANT ROSEN. MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND **AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF** TERRY S. SCHNEIER IN OPPOSITION

DATE: December 13, 2016

Date Action Filed: 03/03/15

COMES NOW the Plaintiffs, by and through their attorneys of record, and oppose Defendant Rosen's Motion for Order to Unseal the Reporter's Transcript of

PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR ORDER TO UNSEAL REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT BY DEFENDANT FREDERICK S. ROSEN, M.D.

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the Hearings on December 23 and 24, 2013 conducted by the Honorable Evelio M. Grillo in the probate matter of Winkfield v. Children's Hospital of Oakland, et al, Alameda Superior Court Case No. RG13-707598. For the reasons stated here, Plaintiffs argue that Jahi McMath continues to be a minor with a privacy right in medical information, that Defendant is not prevented from using the sealed transcript in evidence or discovering any and all relevant information about Jahi's medical treatment, and that Plaintiffs and their counsel have offered to so stipulate, which offer has been rejected.

Dated: November 29, 2016

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Terry S. Schneier Attorneys for Plaintiffs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

			3	
1.	INTRODUCTION			
II.	STATEMENT OF THE CASE			
	A.	The Negligence of CHO and Dr. Rosen	5	
	В.	Jahi's Present Condition	3	
	C. The Trial Court's Order Overruling Defendants' Demurrers)	
		1. There is no collateral estoppel preclusion at this stage of the action)	
		2. Plaintiffs are not, by way of this action, seeking any redetermination or reversal of the matters in the prior probate proceeding or seeking to apply standards other than those set forth in the UDDA		
III.				
	A.	Jahi's Constitutional Right to Medical Privacy Far Outweighs Defendants' Right To Publicize Details of Their Doctors' Private Medical Examinations Of Jahi Nearly Three Years Ago	1	
	В.	Even Assuming Publication of The Sealed December 2013 Transcripts Overrides Jahi's Constitutional Privacy Rights (It Does Not), Contrary to Defendants' Claim, Plaintiffs Do Not Seek Reconsideration of Judge Grillo's Ruling Three Years Ago; Rather, Plaintiffs' Position Is That Jahi's Changed Condition Since December 2013 Alters the Legal Rights of the Parties	3	
IV.	CON	CLUSION	,	
	DECL	ARATION OF TERRY S. SCHNEIER	}	

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1 CALIFORNIA 90503-2401 E-Mail: ob@agnewbrusavich.com	2	United States Golf Assn. v. Arroyo Software Corp. (1999) 69 Cal.App.4th 607, 616	15
	3	Wimsatt v. Beverly Hills Weight Etc. Internat., Inc. (1995) 32 Cal.App.4th 1511, 1516-1517	15
	5		
	6	STATUTES	
	7	STATUTES	
	8	Cal. Const. art. I, § 1	3, 12
	9	Evidence Code section 996	13
	10	Evidence Code section 1016	13
	11	Probate Code section 7180	11
ALIFO E-MA	12	Probate Code section 7181	11
AGNEW BRUSAVICH LAWYERS BOULEVARD · TORRANCE, C/ FACSIMILE: (310) 793-1499	13		
	14	Restid Judgments § 28(3)	10
	15	7 Witkin, Cal.Proc.5th (2008) Judgm, § 434, p. 1087	15
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I. INTRODUCTION.

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Defendants argue that there no longer exists an overriding interest that overcomes the public's right to access sealed testimony by medical doctors who examined 13 year-old Jahi McMath in December 2013. Defendants claim the physician-patient privilege no longer protects that privilege and that she has waived any right to claim that privilege. As detailed below, Defendants' motion to unseal the December 2013 transcript is meritless.

First, Defendants misstate the basis for Judge Grillo's January 2014 order. That order sealing the December 2013 testimony was not based on any claim of privilege. It was based on 13 year-old Jahi's constitutional right to privacy. Today, three years later, 16 year-old Jahi remains a minor. It is established that minors have a right of privacy secured by both the federal and state Constitutions that protects private information about a minor's medical condition. (Carey v. Population Services International (1977) 431 U.S. 678, 692–693, 97 S. Ct. 2010, 2019–2020, 52 L. Ed.2d 675, 689–690; Cal. Const. art. I, § 1; American Academy of Pediatrics v. Lungren (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307, 334 ["[T]here can be no question but that minors, as well as adults, possess a constitutional right of privacy under the California Constitution."]; Planned Parenthood Affiliates v. Van de Kamp (1986) 181 Cal. App. 3d 245, 276–278.) Indeed, intrusion of a minor's right to privacy is governed by a standard which is 'apparently less rigorous' than the compelling state interest test, 'because of the State's greater latitude to regulate the conduct of children.' [Citation] (Planned Parenthood, supra, 181 Cal.App.3d at p. 279.) Even more significantly, in direct contradiction of Defendants' argument that there is no interest that overrides the public's right to access confidential medical information in court records, both federal and state decisions agree that "the right to privacy" may be properly described as a compelling or overriding interest." (Burkle v. Burkle (2006) 135 Cal. App. 4th 1045, 1063 ["The right to privacy is an inalienable right

guaranteed under the California Constitution, and has been acknowledged as an overriding interest"], citing *Press–Enterprise Co. v. Superior Court of Cal.* (1984) 464 U.S. 501, 512, 104 S. Ct. 819.)

Second, Judge Grillo's sealing order does not prevent Defendants from producing the sealed transcript in evidence or from discovering any relevant information about plaintiff's medical condition and treatment, and Plaintiffs have offered to stipulate that Defendants may continue to access and use those sealed transcripts to defend this lawsuit. (Please see Bruce Brusavich's letter to attorney Jennifer Still in which he offered to permit unsealing of the record provided it was subject to a confidentiality agreement throughout the pendency of this litigation and Ms. Still's email response, attached collectively as Exhibit 1. Counsel declined the offer.)

The sealing order simply prevents defendant from using the court files to publicize what is and continues to be private medical information in sealed court records concerning Jahi's condition and treatment in December 2013. Judge Grillo's sealing order is limited to the transcripts of the hearing before Judge Grillo in December 2013, because the testimony transcribed at that hearing described examination of Jahi by medical professionals that is indisputably protected by the constitutional right of privacy. This right has been universally held to be an inalienable right and a compelling interest that overrides other competing rights such as the right of public access to court records.

Defendants make three meritless arguments why the public's right to access the December 2013 transcripts overrides Jahi's compelling right to privacy: 1) They argue Plaintiffs seek "reconsideration" of Judge Grillo's ruling therefore it should be unsealed; 2) They argue Plaintiffs have put out information to the public about Jahi's condition so Defendants should also be allowed to publicize the December 2013 transcripts to rebut that information; and (3) They argue that "the

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dissemination of misleading information about McMath's condition has caused confusion about brain death."

As detailed below, all of the arguments are misplaced. First, Plaintiffs do not seek to reconsider Judge Grillo's January 2014 order, but rather, as Judge Grillo, Judge Freedman and this Court have recognized, and as the Court of Appeal has implicitly acknowledged, changed circumstances preclude Defendants from using collateral estoppel to claim Jahi has not suffered brain death. Second, Judge Grillo's sealing order three years ago is limited to the publication of the December 2013 transcripts, and does not prevent either party, including Defendants, from any legal and proper attempt to disseminate information that does not violate Jahi's constitutional right to privacy or to access and use such information to litigate this action. Third, when weighing Jahi's right of privacy against an amorphous teaching moment about confusions about brain death, Jahi's constitutional right must be protected.

For these reasons, the motion to unseal has no merit and should be denied. II. STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

Plaintiffs submit the following statement of the underlying facts and procedure leading up to this motion.

The Negligence of CHO and Dr. Rosen. A.

The pertinent allegations in the operative first amended complaint are as follows: In 2013, Dr. Rosen diagnosed Jahi with sleep apnea and recommended that he perform a surgery that was unreasonably complex and risky which included the removal of her tonsils and adenoids, soft pallet and uvula, and a submucous resection of her bilateral turbinates. On December 9, 2013, Dr. Rosen took Jahi to the operating room at CHO to perform this extensive surgery. Although Dr. Rosen noted that Jahi had an anatomical anomaly in that her right carotid artery was more to the center and close to the surgical site, which raised CALIFORNIA 90503-2401 E-Mail: ab@agnewbrusavich.com

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a serious issue as to this extensive surgical procedure, he didn't note this in any of his orders for any of the other health care practitioners who would be following Jahi post-op. (First Amended Complaint, ¶¶10-11, attached as Exhibit C to the motion) hours after surgery, Jahi began coughing up blood. (Exb. C, ¶12) The nurses assured the Winkfields the bleeding was "normal" but Jahi continued to cough up blood. Ms. Winkfield pleaded again and again with the nurses to call a doctor to Jahi's bedside, to no avail. (Exb. C, ¶¶ 13-16) The nurses continued to contradict one another and give Ms. Winkfield conflicting instructions. (Exb. C, ¶¶15-16) Ms. Winkfield's mother Ms. Chatman, an experienced hospital nurse, arrived and also insisted that the nurses contact doctors to come to Jahi's aid, to no avail. (Exb. C, ¶17)

At 12:30 a.m., Ms. Chatman observed on the monitors a serious and significant desaturation of Jahi's oxygenation level of her blood and precipitous drop in Jahi's heart rate. Ms. Chatman called out for the nursing and medical staff to institute a Code. Five minutes later, the Code was called, and a doctor finally came to Jahi's side, stating "Shit, her heart stopped." The cardiopulmonary arrest and Code lasted 2 hours and 33 minutes, during which the doctors and nurses failed to timely establish an airway for Jahi and did not perform an emergency tracheotomy even after it became apparent that endotracheal incubation attempts were not resulting in prompt and adequate oxygenation of Jahi in a timely manner. During the resuscitation efforts, two liters of blood were pumped out of Jahi's lungs. (Exb. C, ¶¶18-20)

During the Code, a nurse approached Ms. Chatman to console her, telling her "I knew this would happen." In nursing notes added to the chart several days later, a nurse noted that she had repeatedly advised the doctors in the PICU of Jahi's deteriorating condition and blood loss and charted: 'This writer was informed there would be no immediate intervention from ENT or Surgery."

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Another nurse also noted in the chart that despite her repeated notification and documentation of Jahi's post surgical hemorrhaging and critical vital signs to the doctors in the PICU, no physicians would respond to intervene on behalf of Jahi. (Exb. C, ¶¶21-22)

On December 11, the Winkfields were advised that EEG brain testing indicated that Jahi had sustained significant brain damage, and on December 12, the Winkfields were advised that a repeat EEG also revealed that Jahi had suffered severe brain damage. They were advised that Jahi had been put on the organ donor list and that they would be terminating her life support the next morning. (Exb. C, ¶23) When the Winkfields and Ms. Chatman requested an explanation as to what happened to Jahi, the administration of CHO ignored their requests, instead continuing to pressure the family to agree to donate Jahi's organs and disconnect Jahi from life support. At one point, David J. Duran, M.D., the Chief of Pediatrics, slammed his fist on the table and said, "What is it you don't understand? She is dead, dead, dead!" Unknown to the family at the time, medical facilities were contacting CHO offering to accept the transfer of Jahi. These offers were given to Dr. Duran on his orders and he did not share them with the family. (Exb. C, ¶24)

After going into cardiac arrest and lapsing into a coma in the early morning hours of December 10, Jahi was maintained on a ventilator at CHO. On Friday December 20, 2013, the family obtained a temporary restraining order preventing CHO from terminating Jahi's life support. (Exb. C, ¶26) Judge Grillo endeavored to complete the proceeding in a "reasonably brief period." CHO provided some records to the family, the Court appointed an independent physician, and on December 24, three court days after the petition was filed, the Court found that Jahi had suffered brain death. While the family's emergency Petition for Mandate a week later was pending in the Court of Appeal (No.

A140590), the parties stipulated for Jahi's release to the family (Exb. C, ¶ 26), Judge Grillo's TRO was dissolved, and the Court of Appeal denied the petition as moot. To this date, Jahi continues to receive 24/7 nursing care in New Jersey, pursuant to her eligibility in that state for participation in the New Jersey Medicaid Program.

In its case management conference order on October 1, 2014, a true and correct copy of which is attached as Exhibit 2, Judge Grillo expressly stated:

The fact that this court made a finding of brain death based on the evidence presented in December 2013 would not appear to prevent this court, or some other court, or the California Department of Public Health from reaching a different conclusion based on new facts. California law on claim preclusion and issue preclusion permits "reexamination of the same questions between the same parties where in the interim the facts have changed or new facts have occurred which may alter the legal rights of the parties." (City of Oakland v. Oakland Police and Fire Retirement System (2014) 224 Cal.App.4th 210, 230.)

On October 3, 2014, Plaintiffs filed, then 5 days later on October 8 withdrew, a petition with Judge Grillo to reverse his ruling of brain death based on new and changed facts. Because the petition was withdrawn, no action was taken on the petition.

B. Jahi's Present Condition.

Plaintiffs' operative First Amended Complaint, attached to Defendant's Motion as Exhibit C, includes the following allegations that support Plaintiffs' assertions that there have been changed circumstances since Judge Grillo's order regarding brain death:

30. Since the Certificate of Death was issued, JAHI has been examined by a physician duly licensed to practice in the State of California who is an experienced pediatric neurologist with triple Board Certifications in Pediatrics, Neurology (with special competence in Child Neurology), and Electroencephalography. The physician has a subspecialty in brain death and has published and lectured extensively on the topic, both nationally and internationally. This physician has personally examined JAHI and has reviewed a number of her medical records and studies performed, including an MRI/MRA done at Rutgers University Medical Center on September 26, 2014. This doctor has also

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examined 22 videotapes of JAHI responding to specific requests to respond and move.

- 31. The MRI scan of September 26, 2014, is not consistent with chronic brain death MRI scans. Instead, JAHI's MRI demonstrates vast areas of structurally and relatively preserved brain, particularly in the cerebral cortex, basal ganglia and cerebellum.
- 32. The MRA or MR angiogram performed on September 26, 2014, nearly 10 months after JAHI's anoxic-ischemic event, demonstrates intracranial blood flow, which is consistent with the integrity of the MRI and inconsistent with brain death.
- 33. JAHI's medical records also document that approximately eight months after the anoxic-ischemic event, JAHI underwent menarche (her first ovulation cycle) with her first menstrual period beginning August 6, 2014. JAHI also began breast development after the diagnosis of brain death. There is no report in JAHI's medical records from CHO that JAHI had began pubertal development. Over the course of the subsequent year since her anoxic-ischemic event at CHO, JAHI has gradually developed breasts and as of early December 2014, the physician found her to have a Tanner Stage 3 breast development.
- 34. The female menstrual cycle involves hormonal interaction between the hypothalamus (part of the brain), the pituitary gland, and the ovaries. Other aspects of pubertal development also require hypothalamic function. Corpses do not menstruate. Neither do corpses undergo sexual maturation. There is no precedent in the medical literature of a brain dead body developing the onset of menarche and thelarche.
- 35. Based upon the pediatric neurologist's evaluation of JAHI, JAHI no longer fulfills standard brain death criteria on account of her ability to specifically respond to stimuli. The distinction between random cord-originating movements and true responses to command is extremely important for the diagnosis of brain death. JAHI is capable of intermittently responding intentionally to a verbal command.
- 36. In the opinion of the pediatric neurologist who has examined JAHI, having spent hours with her and reviewed numerous videotapes of her, that time has proven that JAHI has not followed the trajectory of imminent total body deterioration and collapsed that was predicted back in December of 2013, based on the diagnosis of brain death. Her brain is alive in the neuropathological sense and it is not necrotic. At this time, JAHI does not fulfill California's statutory definition of death, which requires the irreversible absence of all brain function, because she exhibits hypothalamic function and intermittent responsiveness to verbal commands.

C. The Trial Court's Order Overruling Defendants' Demurrers.

1. There is no collateral estoppel preclusion at this stage of the action.

In a thorough, well-reasoned ruling, a true and correct copy of which is attached to Defendant's motion as Exhibit D, Judge Robert B. Freedman issued

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the court's order overruling Defendants CHO and Rosen's Demurrers to the First Cause of Action and Motions to Strike Portion of Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint. The court rejected Defendants' reliance on the grounds of collateral estoppel, concluding in pertinent part:

[T]he court is not persuaded that it would be appropriate to determine the collateral estoppel effect of the amended order and judgment in Case No. RP13-707598 at the pleading stage, based solely on the allegations in the FAC and the matters of which judicial notice is taken. Collateral estoppel is an affirmative defense as to which the defendants bear a "heavy" burden of proof (Kemp Bros. Const. Inc. v. Titan Elec. Corp. (2007) 146 Cal.App.4th 1474, 1482.) There are at least some aspects of the collateral estoppel determination that may require a more developed factual record. The court has concerns, for example, about whether the factual determinations in the context of the expedited probate petition which was filed for the purpose of determining whether CHO should be ordered to continue providing medical care to Jahi - should necessarily be binding on Jahi in a civil lawsuit for damages brought on her own behalf. There are circumstances in which "[a] new determination of the issue is warranted by differences in the quality or extensiveness of the procedures followed in the two courts or by factors relating to the allocation of jurisdiction between them. (Restid Judgments § 28(3).) Here, the prior expedited petition did not involve the same type of discovery and presentation of evidence as is involved in a civil action. In addition, even where the traditional elements of collateral estoppel (privity, finality and necessary determination of identical issue in prior adjudication) are met, there is also an "equitable nature of collateral estoppel" such that the doctrine is to be applied "only where such application comports with fairness and sound public policy." (Smith v. Exxon Mobil Oil Corp. (2007) 153 Cal.App.4th 1407, 1414.) The court believes it would be premature to determine and apply such considerations based solely on the allegations and matters of judicial notice before it, without a more fully developed factual record. Further, as both sides recognize (and as Judge Grillo noted in his Order Following Case Management Conference issued on October 1, 2014), California law on issue preclusion permits "reexamination of the same questions between the same parties where in the interim the facts have changed or new facts have occurred which may alter the legal rights of the parties." (City of Oakland v. Oakland Police and Fire Retirement System (2014) 224 Cal.App.4th 210, 230.) Jahi has included new allegations in the FAC as to such changed circumstances. (See. e.g., FAC, 30-36.) Such allegations are to be taken as true on demurrer. (See, e.g., Aubry v. Tri-City Hospital Dist. (1992) 2 Ca1.4th 962, 966-967.) The court is hesitant to determine that, at the pleading stage, there is no factual issue as to whether the facts have changed or new facts have occurred.

On August 2, 2016, when this Honorable Court overruled Co-Defendant

Alicia Herrera, M.D.'s Demurrer and Motion to Strike Portions of the First Amended Complaint, this court ruled similarly:

Defendant's contention that Plaintiffs are estopped from alleging in the First Amended Complaint that Jahi McMath is still alive, and therefore has standing to sue for medical malpractice, is not accepted. The Court has already ruled that Defendant's collateral estoppel argument cannot be resolved at the pleading stage, and that ruling was recently affirmed by the court of appeal in an order filed on July 12, 2016. The Court hereby takes judicial notice of the July 12, 2016 order.

2. Plaintiffs are not, by way of this action, seeking any redetermination or reversal of the matters in the prior probate proceeding or seeking to apply standards other than those set forth in the UDDA.

As to the finality otherwise of a determination of death under sections 7180 and 7181 of the Probate Code, the court rejected "CHO's assertion that a court's determination in the context of a such a dispute is to be accorded finality in any and all other proceedings or disputes that may arise subsequent to the life-support dispute in which the court's intervention was sought." The court ruled:

In the absence of other authority addressing this assertion, the court declines to make a final determination in this regard at the pleading stage. The court is not persuaded by CHO's argument that Plaintiffs are "improperly asking this court or a jury to reject the accepted medical standards used to determine irreversible brain death." Plaintiffs are not, by way of this action, expressly seeking any redetermination or reversal of the matters in the prior probate proceeding or seeking to apply standards other than those set forth in the UDDA. Instead, they have brought a civil action independent of the prior proceeding, which includes a cause of action asserted on Jahi's behalf. CHO, as the party moving for dismissal of that cause of action, bears the burden of showing that it is insufficient or barred as a matter of law, and the court determines that CHO has not met this burden at the pleading stage, based solely on the allegations and matters of which the court takes judicial notice.

III. ARGUMENT.

A. Jahi's Constitutional Right to Medical Privacy Far Outweighs Defendants'
Right To Publicize Details of Their Doctors' Private Medical Examinations Of
Jahi Nearly Three Years Ago

First, Defendants' motion to unseal misstates the basis for Judge Grillo's

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January 2014 order. That order sealing the December 2013 testimony was not based on any mere claim of privilege, much less a privilege balanced against an opponent's right to discovery. It was based on 13 year-old Jahi's constitutional right to privacy, and it has nothing to do with Defendants' right to access the transcripts, which of course they have had in their possession ever since that testimony was transcribed. Defendants ignore Jahi's constitutional privacy rights and further ignore that the issue of sealing does not preclude Defendants from defending this litigation but only precludes Defendants from publicizing the most sensitive, private information that the Federal and state Constitutions guarantee must remain private except as between the litigants.

In this regard, it is well-established that minors have a right of privacy secured by both the Federal and state Constitutions that protects private information about a minor's medical condition. (Carey v. Population Services International (1977) 431 U.S. 678, 692–693, 97 S.Ct. 2010, 2019–2020, 52 L.Ed.2d 675, 689–690; Cal. Const. art. I, § 1; American Academy of Pediatrics v. Lungren (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307, 334 ["[T]here can be no question but that minors, as well as adults, possess a constitutional right of privacy under the California Constitution."]; Planned Parenthood Affiliates v. Van de Kamp (1986) 181 Cal.App.3d 245, 276–278.) Indeed, intrusion of a minor's right to privacy is governed by a standard which is 'apparently less rigorous' than the compelling state interest test, 'because of the State's greater latitude to regulate the conduct of children.' [Citation] (Planned Parenthood, supra, 181 Cal.App.3d at p. 279.) Even more significantly, in direct contradiction of Defendants' argument that there is no interest that overrides the public's right to access confidential medical information in court records, both federal and state decisions agree that "the right to privacy may be properly described as a compelling or overriding interest." (Burkle v. Burkle (2006) 135 Cal.App.4th 1045, 1063 ("The right

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to privacy is an inalienable right guaranteed under the California Constitution, and has been acknowledged as an overriding interest"], citing *Press–Enterprise* Co. v. Superior Court of Cal. (1984) 464 U.S. 501, 512, 104 S.Ct. 819.)

Defendants' citation (Motion, 12-13) to Britt v. Superior Court (1978) 20 Cal.3d 844, 862-863, In re Lifschutz (1970) 2 Cal.3d 415, 433, and Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center v. Superior Court (2011) 194 Cal.App.4th 288, 311, is unavailing. Those cases dealt with the physician-patient privilege found in Evidence Code sections 996 and 1016 and whether medical records are discoverable under those sections; neither of those sections are at issue here.

This case involves Jahi's constitutional right of privacy, which has been held to be an issue of overriding interest. Defendants have in their possession the sealed transcripts, and Plaintiffs agree that Defendants can introduce the sealed transcripts into evidence at trial or in pretrial motions. The continued sealing of the transcripts merely prevents Defendants from using the transcripts to publicize what is indisputably a record of this minor plaintiff's private medical examination by doctors.

B. Even Assuming Publication of The Sealed December 2013 Transcripts Overrides Jahi's Constitutional Privacy Rights (It Does Not), Contrary to Defendants' Claim, Plaintiffs Do Not Seek Reconsideration of Judge Grillo's Ruling Three Years Ago; Rather, Plaintiffs' Position Is That Jahi's Changed Condition Since December 2013 Alters the Legal Rights of the Parties.

Defendants' primary position underlying its motion to unseal the December 2013 transcripts is that Plaintiffs are seeking reconsideration of Judge Grillo's ruling three years ago and therefore Defendants should be able to publicize that testimony to refute Plaintiffs' argument for reconsideration. As should be abundantly clear, even assuming it were true that Plaintiffs were

Sections 996 and 1016 provide in virtually identical language that "[t]here is no privilege under this article as to a communication relevant to an issue concerning the mental or emotional condition of the patient if such issue has been tendered by ... [t]he patient"

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seeking reconsideration of Judge Grillo's ruling, Defendants are fully able to access and use the transcripts in attempting to uphold that ruling and it is only the <u>publication</u> of those transcripts that the sealing order precludes. But more importantly, Plaintiffs are not seeking reconsideration of Judge Grillo's January 2014 ruling.

As Judge Freedman has ruled in this case: "Plaintiffs are not, by way of this action, expressly seeking any redetermination or reversal of the matters in the prior probate proceeding or seeking to apply standards other than those set forth in the UDDA. Instead, they have brought a civil action independent of the prior proceeding, which includes a cause of action asserted on Jahi's behalf. CHO, as the party moving for dismissal of that cause of action, bears the burden of showing that it is insufficient or barred as a matter of law, and the court determines that CHO has not met this burden at the pleading stage, based solely on the allegations and matters of which the court takes judicial notice."

In overruling Defendants' demurrers, Judge Freedman and this Honorable Court properly rejected Defendants' arguments that collateral estoppel precluded Jahi from alleging that she has not suffered irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain and has standing to bring her action for personal injury against Defendants. (City of Oakland v. Oakland Police and Fire Retirement System (2014) 224 Cal. App. 4th 210, 230 [the "theory of estoppel by judgment or res judicata . . . extends only to the facts in issue as they existed at the time the judgment was rendered and does not prevent a reexamination of the same questions between the same parties where in the interim the facts have changed or new facts have occurred which may alter the legal rights of the parties"]; accord, Union Pacific Railroad Company v. Santa Fe Pacific Pipelines, Inc. (2014) 231 Cal.App.4th 134, 179-182; Evans v. Celotex Corp. (1987)

194 Cal.App.3d 741, 748; United States Golf Assn. v. Arroyo Software Corp. (1999) 69 Cal.App.4th 607, 616; Hurd v. Albert (1931) 214 Cal. 15, 26; 7 Witkin, Cal. Proc. 5th (2008) Judgm, § 434, p. 1087.) Further, as noted above, Judge Grillo recognized and cited this very same principle.

Thus, century-old precedent, recognized by the Courts that have ruled in

this case, holds that neither res judicata nor collateral estoppel were ever intended to prevent a re-examination of the same question between the same parties where, in the interval between the first and second actions, the facts have materially changed or new facts have occurred which have altered the legal rights or relations of the litigants. (Union Pacific Railroad Company v. Santa Fe Pacific Pipelines, Inc. (2014) 231 Cal.App.4th 134, 179-182, relying on Hurd v. Albert (1931) 214 Cal. 15, 26 ["In the second trial, the court 'may and should consider all the facts that exist, both prior and subsequent to the first action, so as to determine properly what effect all of the facts, as they exist at the time of the second trial, have on the rights of the parties'"]; see also 7 Witkin, Cal. Proc. 5th (2008) Judgm, § 434, p. 1087; Wimsatt v. Beverly Hills Weight Etc. Internat., Inc. (1995) 32 Cal.App.4th 1511, 1516-1517.)

Here, based upon medical experts' evaluations of Jahi since Judge
Grillo's ruling in 2013, she no longer fulfills standard brain death criteria, due to
her ability to specifically respond to stimuli. The distinction between random
cord-originating movements and true responses to command is crucial to
diagnosis of brain death. Jahi is capable of intermittently responding
intentionally to a verbal command. Additionally, the international team of
medical experts who gathered to observe, test and analyze Jahi's
unprecedented progress in the fall of 2014 saw evidence of brain activity in the
EEG. They observed the brain activity increase and become "readily
identifiable and profound" when Jahi's mother spoke to Jahi. A long and

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thorough MRI was conducted in which they "unequivocally saw the presence of brain structure including the evidence of ribbons in the brain. This is critical as it showed that the brain, although damaged, was there structurally." Nine months after Jahi was declared brain dead, the experts "would have expected to see her brain had liquefied. It clearly was not." Additionally, the experts looked for evidence of blood flow. "Blood flow was clearly evident. This does not happen if a patient is brain dead."

In overruling Defendants' demurrer to Plaintiffs' personal injury claim, this Court has properly <u>rejected</u> Defendants' argument that once their physicians opined in December 2013 that Jahi was brain dead for the purpose of removing life support, her death became static, fixed and permanent, and Jahi is absolutely precluded from alleging and proving that she is, in fact, alive. To the contrary, her condition has changed dramatically since Judge Grillo's ruling in December 2013 – among other changes, there are vast areas of structurally and relatively preserved brain, tests demonstrate intracranial blood flow consistent with the integrity of the MRI and inconsistent with brain death, and Jahi underwent menarche (her first ovulation cycle) and began breast development.

Importantly, Defendants are fully able to defend against Plaintiffs' claims; Judge Grillo's sealing order does not hamper Defendants' defense as they are in possession of and can use the sealed transcript, and Defendants have not come close to meeting its burden of proving that their right to publicize the December 2013 transcripts overrides Jahi's constitutional right of privacy to the confidential information surrounding the examination by Defendants' doctors of her condition in the immediate aftermath of the tragically botched surgery and post-operative treatment performed by Defendants three years ago.

AGNEW BRUSAVICH LAWYERS 20355 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD · TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90503-2401 TELEPHONE: (310) 793-1400 FACSIMILE: (310) 793-1499 E-MAIL: ab@agnewbrusowich.com

IV. CONCLUSION.

Plaintiffs have offered to allow Defendants to access the December 2013 transcripts with a protective order, maintaining the respect for the constitutional right of privacy of Jahi as to publication of the contents to the general public. Defendants refused and filed the instant motion.

For all the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court deny Defendants' Motion to Unseal the December 2013 Transcripts.

Dated: November 29, 2016

AGNEW & BRUSAVICH

Terry S. Schneier Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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DECLARATION OF TERRY S. SCHNEIER

I, Terry S. Schneier, declare:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law before all of the courts of the State of California, and am an associate at AGNEWBrusavich, A Professional Corporation, counsel of record for plaintiffs here. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated here, and if called as a witness I could and would testify competently to them.

- 2. Attached collectively as Exhibit 1 and incorporated by reference here is a true and correct copy of a letter sent by Bruce Brusavich to Jennifer Still on October 18, 2016 suggesting that the parties agree to unseal the records provided they were subject to a confidentiality agreement throughout the pendency of the litigation, and a true and correct copy of Ms. Still's email response refusing to agree unless Plaintiffs dismissed their First Cause of Action for personal injuries.
- 3. Attached as Exhibit 2 and incorporated by reference here is a true and correct copy of Judge Grillo's Order Following Case Management dated 10/1/14.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 29th day of November, 2016 at Torrance, California.

Terry S. Schneier, declarant



SERIOUS INIURY LAWYERS

Gerald E. Agnew, Jr. Bruce M. Brusavich Stephen C. Rasak Terry S. Schneier Puneet K. Toor

Robert N. Stone
Of Counsel

Daniel V. Favero

Kevin P. Culpepper

October 18, 2016

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL: jstill@hinshaw-law.com

Jennifer Still HINSHAW, MARSH, STILL & HINSHAW, LLP 12901 Saratoga Avenue Saratoga, CA 95070-9998

Re: <u>Jahi McMath; et al. v. Frederick S. Rosen, M.D.</u>; et al.

Dear Jennifer:

This will confirm our recent telephone conversation concerning your desire to unseal the confidential transcript of the probate proceedings concerning Jahi McMath.

I advised you that we would not oppose unsealing of the records and that we would stipulate to such an unsealing provided it is subject to a confidentiality agreement and the confidential nature of the transcript will be maintained throughout the pendency of this litigation. I am advised by Mr. Dolan that the transcript concerns a discussion about Jahi's medical condition and therefore gives rise to her privacy medical rights. Since she is still a minor, we intend to protect those rights. However, we recognize you may have some interest in seeing them in connection with this litigation.

Please let me know how you decide to proceed.

Very truly yours,

AGNEWBRUSAVICH

A Professional Corporation

BRUCE M. BRUSAX

BMB/dm

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E: ab@agnewbrusavich.com | www.agnewbrusavich.com



Terry S Schneier

From:

Jennifer Still [jstill@hinshaw-law.com]

Sent:

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 6:09 PM

To:

'Bruce Brusavich'

Cc:

schneier@agnewbrusavich.com; 'Jan M Dunn'; 'Tom Still'

Subject:

RE: McMath v. Rosen, et al.

Dear Bruce,

Thank you for your letter that addresses my inquiry of a Stipulation and Order to unseal the Reporter's Transcripts. I appreciate your attempt at a resolution.

Unfortunately, I cannot agree to your proposal. There is no longer any justification that the transcripts be sealed. There is a strong presumption that affords the public access to court records and transcripts. I do not believe that plaintiffs can meet their burden of demonstrating an overriding interest that overcomes the public access to court records. Plaintiffs waived Jahi McMath's privacy rights and right to confidentiality of her medical information when plaintiffs filed a personal injury action on behalf of Jahi McMath wherein it is claimed that she is not dead. The transcripts contain the evidence that Judge Grillo relied upon to find that Jahi McMath is dead. Furthermore, Ms. Winkfield and Mr. Dolan have repeatedly presented Jahi McMath's medical information to the public, via press conferences, media interviews, press releases and in video recordings posted by plaintiffs and Mr. Dolan on YouTube and Facebook.

If you agree to dismiss the first cause of action for personal injuries, I will reconsider.

I intend to file a motion to unseal as soon as I hear back from the court on a hearing date.

Please feel free to give me a call to discuss this issue further.

Thank you, Jennifer

From: debbie@agnewbrusavich.com [mailto:debbie@agnewbrusavich.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 1:12 PM

To: jstill@hinshaw-law.com

Cc: 'Bruce Brusavich' < brusavich@agnewbrusavich.com'>; schneier@agnewbrusavich.com; 'Jan M Dunn'

<<u>dunn@agnewbrusavich.com</u>> **Subject:** McMath v. Rosen, et al.

Please see the attached letter. Thank you.

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Debbie Nawa Legal Assistant (310) 793-1400 This email and any attachments thereto may contain private, confidential, and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, copying, or distribution of this email (or any attachments thereto) by others is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and permanently delete the original and any copies of this email and any attachments thereto.



OCT - 1 2014

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

LATASHA WINKFIELD, the Mother of Jahi McMath, a minor

Case No. RP13-707598

Petitioner,

ORDER FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OAKLAND, Dr. David Durand M.D. and DOES 1 through 100,

Date: 9/30/14 Time: 1:30 pm

inclusive

Coroner.

Dept 31

Respondents

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The court held a case management conference at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, September 30,

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2014. Christopher Dolan appeared for the Petitioner. Robert Straus appeared for Respondent.

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County counsel David Nefouse was present, but not appearing, on behalf of the Alameda County

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BACKGROUND.

brain death under accepted medical standards.

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On December 9, 2013, Jahi McMath, a thirteen year old child, had a tonsillectomy

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performed at Children's Hospital of Oakland ("CHO"). On December 11 and 12, 2013, Dr.

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Robert Heidersbach, and Dr. Robin Shanahan examined Jahi and concluded that she had suffered

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On December 20, 2013, Petitioner filed this action seeking to compel Children's Hospital to provide medical treatment to Jahi. The parties agreed to an examination of Jahi by Paul Fisher MD, the Chief of Child Neurology for the Stanford University School of Medicine to provide an independent opinion pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 7181. Dr. Fisher examined Jahi the afternoon of December 23, 2013. Dr. Fisher opined that Jahi was brain dead under accepted medical standards. On December 24, 2014, the court held a hearing and then announced from the bench that the court's order was to deny the petition for medical treatment.

On December 26, 2014, the court issued a written order that denied the petition for medical treatment. In the course of addressing the claims in the petition, the court found that Jahi had suffered brain death as defined by Healthy and Safety Codes 7180 and 7181.

On January 3, 2014, the court held a hearing and issued an order that denied Petitioner's motion for a court order ordering either that Respondent insert a feeding tube and a tracheal tube into the person of Jahi McMath or that Respondent permit Petitioner to have a physician insert a feeding tube and a tracheal tube into the person of Jahi McMath at the hospital. In explaining that decision, the court stated, "Jahi McMath has been found to be brain dead pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 7180-7181."

On January 17, 2014, the court entered a "Final Judgment" in this case. The judgment states, in part, "the Petition of Latasha Winkfield as mother of Jahi McMath, a minor, is DENIED" and "the motions of petitioner that respondent perform or permit surgical procedures was DENIED as stated in the order dated January 17, 2014."

On Wednesday September 24, 2014, counsel for petitioner sent an email to the court that stated:

Dear Clerk in Department 31

From preliminary information I have received, to be soon verified, I believe that I will be asking the court to reverse its ruling on brain death. As there is no other party with standing (the hospital was, dismissed after Jahi was released and we are not seeking to have her re-admitted - therefore Children's no longer has an interest), I expect to do this by ex-parte application pursuant to CCP Section 128(8)(B). I would request a hearing date next Thursday and would like to know what day the court would require briefing to be submitted by. I intend to have declarations from various healthcare providers (experts in Neurology, EEG's and Neuro Science) and live testimony from two expert witnesses. I also expect to submit video/photo evidence to the court.

I have made no announcements to any press as of this time but they are bound to catch wind so I also would like to confirm that Judge Grillo would hear the matter in Department 31 rather than some other courtroom where we can use a projector or TV to present evidence of a visual nature.

Please tell the Court that I understand that this matter placed a great strain on the court previously and I want to try and approach this deliberately and not by surprise to the Court.

On Thursday, September 25, 2014, the court notified counsel that it would set a case management conference for 1:30 pm on Tuesday, September 30, 2014.

On Friday September 26, 2014, counsel for petitioner sent an email to the court and all parties that stated:

Can we move the hearing date From September 30, 2014 to October, 2, 2014. I have experts flying in for this hearing and they are only available on Thursday. Also, will the court allow my experts to give testimony and if the hearing is continued to Thursday, when are the written materials due. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

On Friday September 26, 2014, the court through its research attorney sent an email to the court and all parties that stated:

Counsel and Dr. Fisher.

I have spoken with Judge Grillo. The CMC will remain on calendar for Tuesday, September 30, 2014. It is a CMC and is not a hearing on the merits of any motion. The court does not expect to hear testimony. The court will want the parties to address this court's jurisdiction to entertain any motion given that judgement was entered in January 2014. Assuming jurisdiction, there might be other case management issues that the court will want to address.

The court held the CMC on Tuesday, September 30, 2014.

ORDER.

The CMC on September 30, 2014, was a CMC and there was no motion or application pending. Petitioner now asserts that there is new evidence and intends to seek an order in this case that Jahi McMath has not suffered brain death.

Petitioner must serve and file her motion or application on or before 2:30 pm on Friday, October 3, 2014.

Respondent CHO must serve and file any opposition on or before 12:00 noon on Wednesday, October 8, 2014.

Interested third parties such as the Alameda County Coroner and the California

Department of Public Health may serve and file statements on or before 12:00 noon on

Wednesday, October 8, 2014. The court will consider such statements as in the nature of amicus curiae filings. (Lopez v. Nissan North America, Inc. (2011) 201 Cal.App.4th 572, 579-590 ["the trial court issued a notice to the California Attorney General and the Department requesting the Department's position on" the relevant issue]; Blue Cross of California, Inc. v. Superior Court (2009) 180 Cal.App.4th 1237, 1246 ["The DMHC filed an amicus curiae brief in support of defendants' demurrer"].)

The court will hear Petitioner's motion or application on Thursday October 9, 2014, at 9:00 am. The court will hear the matter on the papers, including any audiovisual recordings.

The court will not hear live testimony. (CRC 3.1306.)

The court ORDERS petitioner to give notice of this order to the Alameda County

Coroner and the California Department of Public Health in a manner intended to permit them to

participate in the hearing.

The court ORDERS that all of the above papers be served by email, by same day delivery, or by overnight delivery.

At the hearing on October 9, 2014, the court will consider several procedural matters in addition to hearing Petitioner's motion or application. To assist the parties in addressing the court's concerns, the court sets out its tentative analysis below. The analysis is below is expressly tentative and is not an order of the court. (Silverado Modjeska Recreation and Parks Dist. v. County of Orange (2011) 197 Cal.App.4th 282, 300 ["a trial court's tentative ruling is not binding on the court"].)

Tentative thoughts on jurisdiction. The court entered judgment in this case on January 17, 2014. The general rule is that the court loses jurisdiction on the entry of judgment. Nave v. Taggart (1995) 34 Cal.App.4th 1173, 1177, states:

Once a trial court makes a decision after regular submission, it has no power to set aside or amend its ruling for judicial error except under appropriate statutory proceedings. ... A judgment is a final determination of the rights of the parties in an action or proceeding. ... A judgment is final in this sense when it terminates the litigation between the parties on the merits and leaves nothing in the nature of judicial action to be done (other than questions of enforcement or compliance). ... After judgment a trial court cannot correct judicial error except in accordance with statutory proceedings.

Where, however, the plaintiff for petitioner sought and obtained injunctive relief, then the court retains jurisdiction to modify the relief "when the ends of justice will be thereby served."

(Broughton v. Cigna Healthplans of California (1999) 21 Cal.4th 1066, 1079.) (See also Welsch v. Goswick (1982) 130 Cal.App.3d 398, 404].) The court could, arguably, modify the relief granted. There are two problems with this: (1) the court denied the petition and did not grant relief and (2) petitioner is not seeking to modify the relief sought previously by seeking an order directing Children's Hospital to provide new or different medical services to Jahi McMath.

Tentative thoughts on notice of claims against the proper respondents. A complaint or petition must identify all necessary parties as defendants or respondents. (CCP 389(a).) A complaint or petition must also identify the claims in a case. (CCP 425.10.) Although a party may add parties and may amend or supplement a complaint, a party at a hearing on the merits cannot pursue claims against non-parties or seek relief that was not identified in the complaint or petition. To permit otherwise would be to deny the real parties in interest notice of the claims asserted and an opportunity to oppose the claims.

The petition in this case sought to compel Children's Hospital to provide services to Jahi. Petitioner now seeks to compel some state entity, presumably the Alameda County Coroner or the California Department of Public Health, to void Jahi McMath's death certificate. Petitioner therefore seeks to assert new claims against entities that were and are not parties to this case. It would seem that if Petitioner were to seek an order in this case that Jahi is not brain dead, then Petitioner would need to supplement the petition to name the interested parties and to state her new claim. (CCP 464.) The court has found no case law addressing whether a party may move to file a supplemental petition or complaint after entry of judgment.

Tentative thoughts on access to the courts and due process. Petitioner argues that this court's order of December 26, 2013, decided that Jahi McMath had suffered brain death and that Petitioner therefore must return to this court in this case to seek relief. The fact that this case resolved many issues concerning Jahi does not, however, mean that this case is a procedural vehicle for all future legal issues concerning Jahi.

Health and Safety Code section 103225 et seq sets out a procedure for amending a record of death. The California Department of Public Health Vital Records has a form "Affidavit to Amend a Death Record." (Form VS 24 (Rev 1/08.).) Petitioner may seek relief from the California Department of Public Health. If Petitioner is not satisfied with the result at the California Department of Public Health, then Petitioner may file a petition for a writ under CCP 1095 or CCP 1094.5.

Petitioner could file an action asserting a claim of some form against appropriate defendants (E.g., California Department of Public Health Vital Records, Alameda County Coroner, etc.) seeking declaratory and/or injunctive relief.

The fact that this court made a finding of brain death based on the evidence presented in December 2013 would not appear to prevent this court, or some other court, or the California Department of Public Health from reaching a different conclusion based on new facts.

California law on claim preclusion and issue preclusion permits "reexamination of the same questions between the same parties where in the interim the facts have changed or new facts have occurred which may alter the legal rights of the parties." (City of Oakland v. Oakland Police and Fire Rettrement System (2014) 224 Cal.App.4th 210, 230.)

¹(http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Pages/CorrectingorAmendingVitalRecords.aspx)

The court expresses no opinion on the proper procedural vehicle for petitioner to request a determination that Jahi McMath has not suffered brain death, is not deceased under the law, and that her death certificate should be voided. The court's tentative thinking is that the issue is not presented properly in this case.

Dated: October 1, 2014

Evelio Grillo
Judge of the Superior Court

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case Number: RP13707598

Case Name: Winkfield vs. Children's Hospital Oakland

1) Order Following Case Management Conference

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY MAIL

I certify that I am not a party to this cause and that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was mailed first class, postage prepaid, in a sealed envelope, addressed as shown below by placing it for collection, stamping or metering with prepaid postage, and mailing on the date stated below, in the United States mail at Alameda County, California, following standard court practices.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on

September 29, 2014

Executive Officer/Clerk of the Superior Court

By M. Scott Sanchez, Deputy Clerk

Dolan, Christopher B.
The Dolan Law Firm
1438 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94102____

Douglas C. Straus (Bar No. 96301)
Brian W. Franklin (Bar No. 209784)
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PROOF OF SERVICE

I am a resident of the State of California, over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to the within action. My business address is AGNEW BRUSAVICH. 20355 Hawthorne Blvd., 2nd Floor, Torrance, California. On November 29, 2016, 1 served the within document PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR ORDER TO UNSEAL REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT BY DEFENDANT FREDERICK S. ROSEN, M.D., etc.

by transmitting via facsimile the document(s) listed above to the fax number(s) set forth below on this date before 5:00 p.m.

by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Torrance, California, addressed as set forth below:

by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope(s), and caused such envelope(s) to be delivered by hand delivery addressed pursuant to the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below.

by electronic service. Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept service by electronic transmission. I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the electronic notification addresses as set forth below:

14		
	Andrew N. Chang ESNER, CHANG & BOYER	ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY FOR
15	Southern California Office	PLAINTIFFS LATASHA NAILAH SPEARS WINKFIELD; MARVIN WINIKFIELD;
16	234 East Colorado Boulevard	SANDREA CHATMANH; and JAHI
	Suite 975	McMATH, a minor, by and through her
17	Pasadena, CA 91101 achang@ecbappeal.com	Guardian ad Litem, LATASHA NAILAH SPEARS WINKFIELD
18	<u>acmang accompleance</u>	SI EARS WINKFIELD
	· ·	(626) 535-9860
19		FAX (626) 535-9859
20	Thomas E. Still	ATTORNEYS FOR FREDERICK S. ROSEN,
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21	Saratoga, CA 95070-9998	(408) 861-6500
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24	G. Patrick Galloway GALLOWAY, LUCCHESE, EVERSON &	ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT UCSF
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26	Suite 350 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-2398	(005) 000 0000
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	15	Kenneth R. Pedroza Dana L. Stenvick	ASSOCIATE COUNSEL FOR FREDERICK S. ROSEN, M.D. and UCSF BENIOFF
	16	COLE PEDROZA LLP 2670 Mission Street, Suite 200	CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OAKLAND
	17	San Marino, CA 91108 kpedroza@colepedroza.com	
.20355 HAWTHORNE :PHONE: (310) 793-1400	18	dstenvick@colepedroza.com	(626) 431-2787 FAX (626) 431-2788
HAW1 310) 7	19		1111 (020) 131 2700
10355 10NE: (20	I am readily familiar with the firm's practi	ces of collection and processing
. 20355 TELEPHONE:	- 11	Correspondence for mailing. Under that U.S. Postal Service on that same day with ordinary course of business. Lam gware	postage thereon fully prepaid in the
	ാവ 🛮	IDICIDATY CALIFER AT ALIGNASS. LAM AWARA	that on motion at the participance

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT JAMES

22 || ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if post cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

> (State) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

(Federal) I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at which direction the service was made.

Executed this 29th day of November, 20,1-6, at Torrance, California.

DEBBIE NAWA

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Scott E. Murray