



Snohomish Valley Holistic Medicine

May 22, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Veronika Goodnight, DOB: 2/15/1982

I am writing this letter to support Veronika Goodnight in her request to be granted full medical decision-making authority for her children, Elora, Aidan and Raina Ralidak. I have known Veronica for over 5 years since she established care with me as a primary care provider for herself and her children in November 2018.

Veronika has consistently demonstrated responsibility and attentiveness in managing her children's healthcare needs. She has been the primary parent who schedules medical appointments, seeks medical advice, and communicates and coordinates care plans with their father, Mathew Ralidak, as well as others involved in their care. She is quick to seek clarification from me for treatment her children have received outside of my office and has been diligent in following through with my recommendations as well as the recommendations of other doctors or healthcare professionals involved in her children's care. Here are some examples that illustrate why I believe Veronika should have full medical decision-making authority:

The last time I saw all three children with both parents present was October of 2022. At this appointment, there was a recommendation to follow up after 6 weeks due to concerns about one of the children's exam findings. The follow-up appointment for November 2022 was scheduled immediately after the appointments in October; however, Veronika was the one to bring the children back for follow-up. Notes were provided to Mathew as he claimed he did not know about the appointment. Additionally, there were concerns that part of the treatment plan pertaining to dietary elimination of dairy, dyes, and restriction of sugar, was not being adhered to while the children were with Mathew.

In June of 2023, antibiotics were prescribed for Elora and Aidan due to Elora having symptoms along with a positive strep test with instructions to treat Aidan, should he develop symptoms given his history of Scarlett fever caused by Strep earlier that year. Veronika contacted me after the children returned from Mathew's house needing a new prescription for Aidan since the antibiotics had been left at their dad's. She was additionally concerned because Aidan reported to her at the time that he had not been given the medication as prescribed, despite having very enlarged and red tonsils (one of the symptoms I told Veronika to watch for and treat—an instruction that was communicated to Mathew as well).



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Earlier this month, Raina was having urinary tract symptoms while at school and Mathew reached out to me for advice. Due to it being the weekend, I recommended she be seen at an Urgent Care or Walk-In clinic. Veronika contacted me the following Monday after picking up her children from school and learning from the school nurse that Raina's medication was at the school. Veronika had been told about Raina's symptoms by the school nurse, but was never told by Mathew that Raina was seen and prescribed an antibiotic by urgent care. I was able to retrieve the prescription information and instructions and informed Veronika that Raina would need to continue the medication as prescribed. The lack of communication from Mathew about this important health information was concerning to me, especially given the fact that the Urgent Care had not sent me notes, so I had no idea until Veronika reached out to me that Raina had even been seen.

Finally, Veronika has voiced concerns to me about the need for her children to receive professional counseling. This has been recommended by teachers at the school as well; however, Veronika has not been able to proceed with this recommendation as it requires consent and coordination with Mathew. Elora did recently begin therapy after having an assessment at Dawson's Place due to a molestation incident earlier this year, which was documented in a police report. The first time Mathew was contacted to schedule the therapy, he declined to schedule. Fortunately, Elora's advocate reached out to Veronika who was then able to make sure Elora was scheduled for the therapy she needs.

Veronika is frustrated that her hands are somewhat tied when it comes to making important health related decisions for her children and believes it would be better for all involved if she had full medical decision-making authority. Based on my experience, I recommend to the court that this request is granted, as it will allow Veronika to act expeditiously in the best interests of the children. She has always been consistent in her communication both to me and to their father and will continue to ensure that Mathew is included in all communications of treatment plans and healthcare related appointments.

I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the statement made above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

Signed on 5/22/24 in King County, WA

Stacy Bowker, ND

License # NT00001309, WA