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Defendants.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Rachael Akey, an individual, and
N. D., a minor, by Rachel Akey
as Guardian ad litem, and
Ryan Cornacchioli, an individual,
Plaintiffs
v.
Placer County, California, a county
government, and
Scott Myers, in his official capacity as a
social worker supervisor and as an
individual, and
Gloria Sutton in her official capacity as a
social worker and as an individual, and
Does 1 through 10,

CASE NO. 2:14-CV-2402 KJM DB

FOURTH AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF 42 U.S.C. §1983; VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE §52.1; NEGLIGENCE; AND RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR LIABILITY

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Pursuant to the Court's Order of May 8, 2017 (ECF 107), Plaintiffs hereby file this Fourth Amended Complaint ("FAC"). Other than the amendment of the Monell claims, (Counts 1-2, 7-8) and the omission of Count 13, the FAC is the same as the Third Amended Complaint.

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I. PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff Rachael Akey ("Akey") is the natural mother of Plaintiff N.D. ("N.D."), a minor child, age 3 during the relevant time period for this Complaint (N.D. is now age 4). Akey is the mother and custodian of two other minor children ages 1 and 2 during the relevant time period for this Complaint.
- 2. Plaintiff Ryan Cornacchioli ("Cornacchioli") has been married to Plaintiff Rachael Akey since May 3, 2012, and is the father of the youngest child of Akey.
- 3. Plaintiff Linda Clayton ("Clayton) is the mother of Akey and owns the residence at 2817 Lindbergh Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648. Plaintiffs Akey, Cornacchioli, and N.D. resided with Plaintiff Clayton at this address during the relevant time period for this Complaint.
- 4. Cameron Dupree ("Dupree") is the father of N.D. and resides in Placer County, California. Akey and Dupree were never married.
- 5. Defendant Placer County, California, operates the Placer County Family and Children Services agency ("FCS") which is responsible for implementing local, state and federal laws and regulations concerning children's welfare. The FCS employs social workers to conduct investigations into children's welfare and to recommend and/or take action to ensure the safety of children residing in Placer County, California. Defendant Placer County, California, also operates the Placer County Counsel's Office which is responsible for reviewing the development of the applicable constitutional law, communicating to FCS about any important developments in applicable, and for preparing training materials and giving training courses to FCS social workers on the applicable law.
- 6. Defendant Gloria Sutton ("Sutton") is a social worker employed by FCS.
- 7. Defendant Scott Myers ("Myers") is a social worker employed by FCS and was the supervisor for Defendant Gloria Sutton during the relevant time period for this

Complaint.

8. The true names and capacities of defendants sued herein as Does 1-10, inclusive, whether individual, corporate, or otherwise are unknown to Plaintiffs who, therefore sue such defendants by such fictitious names. When their true names and capacities are ascertained, Plaintiffs will amend this complaint by asserting their true names and capacities herein. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege, that at all times herein mentioned, all defendants, including DOES 1 through 10, inclusive: (i) are qualified to do business in California, and/or did, in fact, do business in California; (ii) jointly perpetrated the acts herein with their co-defendants; (iii) were the successors in interest to, or agents, alter egos, principals, co-tenants, partners, joint venturers, or co-conspirators of their co-defendants in doing the things herein alleged; and/or (iv) were acting within the scope of their authority or in furtherance of a common scheme or design with the knowledge, permission, consent or ratification of their co-defendants in doing the things herein alleged, and therefore are liable, jointly and severally, for all damages and other relief or remedies sought by complainants in this action.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 9. Jurisdiction over the federal causes of action under Title 42 U.S.C. §1983 are proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. §1331. Pendant Jurisdiction over the state causes of action is proper under Title 28 U.S.C. §1367(a) and Title 28 U.S.C. §1343(a)(3).
- 10. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because all of the defendants reside, and the acts complained of occurred, within the territorial boundaries of this United States District Court.

III. BACKGROUND ALLEGATIONS

11. At the time of the acts alleged in this Complaint, Akey and Dupree had recently concluded a lengthy legal action, including a full evidentiary trial, over the custody of

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N.D. in Placer County Superior Court, case no. SDR-0035547 ("Original Custody Action"). On or about July 9, 2013, Placer County Superior Court issued an order regarding N.D.'s custody in the Original Custody Action ("July 9th Order"). According to the July 9th Order, N.D. was to live with his mother, Rachael Akey. The father, Cameron Dupree, was to have unsupervised visits every other weekend from Friday at 10:00 am to Sunday at 7:00 pm and every Tuesday at 9:00 am to Wednesday at 9:00 am. The July 9th Order was put into immediate effect. However, there was continuing rancor between the parents.

Placer County Family and Children Services

- 12. FCS is obligated to adopt and follow the written policies and procedures established by the California Department of Social Services ("CDSS"). The CDSS mandates that a "Structured Decision Making" ("SDM") process be followed in any investigation of child neglect or abuse. The SDM policy and procedures applicable to the incident in this action are set forth in detail in the CDSS "Structured Decision Making System Policy and Procedures Manual", dated May 2008 (as updated August 14, 2013) (hereafter the "CDSS Manual").
- 13. The FCS has adopted additional written policies and practices as set forth in a series of policy and procedure documents, a true and correct copy of which are attached hereto as Exhibit 1 (previously stamped nos. 190-204). Collectively, these documents will be referred to herein as the "FCS Manual".
- 14. The FCS Manual, in accordance with the CDSS Manual, requires that a social worker must do the following things whenever a referral is investigated:
 - a. make a timely, thorough and complete investigation that includes all of the safety and risk factors identified in the family (Exhibit 1, p. 190);
 - address any areas of risk identified during the course of the investigation (Exhibit 1, p 190);

- c. interview in person any parent who has been in regular contact with the child (Exhibit 1, p. 190);
- d. Complete in the field an SDM Safety Assessment (described in detail in the CDSS Manual, Section II, including a prescribed assessment form)
 (Exhibit 1, p. 191, 203-204);
- e. Complete by the end of the investigation an SDM Risk Assessment (described in detail in the CDSS Manual, Section III, including a prescribed assessment form) (Exhibit 1, p. 191, 203-204);
- f. If, after the SDM Safety and Risk Assessments are made, significant new information has been revealed, subsequent assessments SDM Safety and Risk Assessments should be made and entered into the SDM database (Exhibit 1, p. 192);
- g. obtain the prior consent of the custodial parent to conduct an interview of the child whenever possible (Exhibit 1, p. 193);
- h. if, during the interview of a child, a social worker comes to believe that the child is in danger of "imminent" physical harm, then the social worker must immediately consult with their supervisor and if they agree that "imminent" risk of harm exists (Exhibit 1, p. 195);
- i. In assessing if there is "imminent" risk, a social worker must identify the facts that lead to the conclusion that the child suffer serious physical harm if action is not taken for a few hours (Exhibit 1, p. 201);
- j. If there is an "imminent" risk of serious harm, the social worker must determine if the immediate risk can be eliminated by a Safety Plan that the parents can follow;
- k. after the social worker and supervisor determine that there is imminent risk and removal of custody is necessary, then they have to call county

counsel to receive a final determination as to whether the legal threshold for immediate removal has been met (Exhibit 1, p. 202);

I. develop a safety plan in consultation with the parents and if the Safety Plan will alleviate the risks, then allow the child to stay with the parent (Exhibit 1, p. 203-204);

The Unconstitutional Removal of N.D. BY FCS: No Exigent Circumstances

- 15. On or about September 6, 2013, Cornacchioli was called away for military reserve activity at Camp Roberts, California (near San Louis Obispo, CA).
- Cornacchioli did not return to his home with Akey until September 10, 2013, at approximately 4:30 am., at which time he went to bed.
- 16. On September 6, 2013, Akey, observed that Dupree was flushed and slurring his words when she picked up N.D. earlier that day. Pursuant to the July 9th Order, Akey requested a drug test for Dupree.
- 17. On September 7, 2013, Dupree requested a drug test for Akey. A mobile drug tester came to Akey's residence and did a 10 panel drug test. No drugs were found.
- Akey is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that this drug test was ordered as retaliation for the drug test that she had requested of Dupree the day before.
- 18. N.D. was taken to school by Akey on Tuesday, September 10, 2013. In accordance with the July 9th Order, N.D. was picked up from school about noon and then stayed the night with his father, Dupree. N.D. was taken to school by Dupree the next morning, Wednesday, September 11, 2013. N.D. then returned to his mother's custody when Akey picked up N.D. from school at about 2:30 pm on September 11, 2013. All of this was in accordance with the July 9th Order.
- 19. On the morning of September 12, 2013, N.D. was taken to school by Akey and Cornacchioli. Akey expected to pick N.D. up from school at 2:30 pm that day.

- 20. Unbeknown to Akey, FCS had received a report from N.D.'s school on
 September 11, 2013, that N.D. had said that Cornacchioli had chocked him and
 threatened to kill him. Although there were no marks on N.D. and he was otherwise
 behaving normally, the school reported this remark to FCS. Defendant Sutton was
 assigned by FCS to investigate the alleged incident.
 - ("FCS Report"), a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2 (previously stamped nos. 38-42), Sutton began the investigation on September 12, 2013, by going to the school and talking to N.D.'s teacher and then N.D.. After talking to N.D., Sutton talked with Dupree by telephone. During this phone interview, Dupree told Sutton that N.D. had mentioned the choking to Dupree on the evening of September 10, 2013, but that Dupree never reported the allegations to anyone, not even to Akey.

According to the written FCS report prepared by Defendants Sutton and Myers

- 22. After talking with Dupree by telephone and before even informing Akey about what N.D. had said at school, Sutton, with Myers approval, made the decision to remove N.D. from Akey's custody and give full custody to Dupree. Sutton asked Dupree to pick up N.D. from school on September 12, 2013. N.D. remained in the sole custody of Cameron Dupree until March 20, 2014.
- 23. Sutton then called Akey at home at approximately 1:02 pm on September 12, 2013. The conversation lasted for approximately six minutes. Akey put her telephone on speaker mode because she was taking care of her two other children. Plaintiffs Clayton and Cornacchioli were also at home with Akey at the time and could hear the entire conversation.
- 24. Sutton began by telling Akey that there were allegations that Cornacchioli had strangled and threatened to kill N.D.. Sutton informed Akey that she had gone to N.D.'s school and interviewed N.D. that morning. Akey asked Sutton if she had seen any

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marks on N.D. and Sutton said no. Akey told Sutton that Cornacchioli could not have strangled N.D. because he had been away on military duty at Camp Roberts until September 10, 2013, and N.D. had not come back into her custody until after school on September 11, 2013. Akey further told Sutton that:

- Cornacchioli had never harmed or threatened N.D.; (a)
- (b) how Dupree had consistently made false allegations against her and Cornacchioli to gain full custody of N.D.;
- (c) that there had been a very recent and extensive family court litigation and evidentiary trial over the custody of N.D. and the court had awarded Akey full custody; and
- (d) that Dupree had a serious drug problem and had prior drug arrests and convictions.

Sutton, however, expressed no concern about Dupree's drug use and did not care about the Court's existing custody order. Sutton told Akey that she had arranged for N.D. to be picked up at school that day by his father, Durpree, and that the father would be taking full custody of N.D. until the FCS investigation over the alleged chocking of N.D. was concluded.

- 25. During this phone conversation, Sutton asked Akey for consent to the FCS order giving immediate and full custody to Dupree. Akey refused, saying "there is no way I can give my child to a drug addict." Sutton then said to Akey "if you don't comply, then I am going to get a warrant and take custody of all of your children." Akey was stunned, hurt, and confused by this attempt to coerce her to accept the change in N.D.'s custody. However, Akey remained steadfast and refused to agree to any custody change for N.D..
- During the this phone conversation, Akey told Sutton about Dupree's criminal record for drugs. In response, Sutton promised Akey that Dupree would be drug tested

1 every day.

- 27. At the end of the conversation between Akey and Sutton, Akey asked to speak to Sutton's supervisor. Sutton gave Akey the number for Myers; however, before she could call him, Myers called Akey and identified himself as Sutton's supervisor. Myers repeated what Sutton had said about FSC deciding to give immediate and sole custody to Dupree. Myers then told Akey that if she did not agree to the change in custody, they would get a warrant and take all of her children away from her. Akey was even more shocked, hurt, and angered by the repeated threat, but she again stood her ground and refused to give consent. Plaintiffs Clayton and Cornacchioli were also at home with Akey at the time of Myer's call and could hear the entire conversation.
- 28. At the end of her conversation with Myers, Akey asked if FCS would interview her and when would the investigation be complete. Myers said Akey would be interviewed in person, that the investigation would be over on September 17th, and that there would be a reunification plan. Akey asked if any of her family members could take custody and Myers said no.

The Wrongful Reporting Of Cornacchioli To The DOJ Child Abuse Central Index

- 29. Sutton did not interview Cornacchioli until September 17, 2013. At the interview, Cornacchioli denied that he ever choked N.D. or threatened to kill him or had ever done anything harmful to the child. Cornacchioli told Sutton that he would never harm N.D. and that he has been involved with N.D.'s life longer and more deeply than his biological father, Dupree. Cornacchioli told Sutton that Akey was the person to discipline N.D., except for an occasional "time out". Lastly, he explained to Sutton that he had been on military duty from September 6, 2013, until September 10, 2013, and therefore, could not have hurt N.D. as allegedly described. Sutton did not present Cornacchioli with any additional facts that implicated him in the alleged choking of N.D..
- 30. Despite the lack of material evidence that N.D. was choked by anyone, let alone

- by Cornacchioli, Sutton and Myers wrote in the final FCS Report that the claims against Cornacchioli were "substantiated".
- 31. On or about September 25, 2013, Sutton and Myers prepared a "Child Abuse Or Severe Neglect Indexing Form" and a "Notice of Child Abuse Central Indexing" that reported that there was a "substantiated" claim of physical abuse against Cornacchioli. Cornacchioli is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that these forms were submitted to the State of California on or about September 25, 2013.
- 32. By law, Sutton, Myers and the FCS were obligated to promptly send these forms to Cornacchioli. This would trigger a thirty day period for Cornacchioli to challenge the filing of the forms with a grievance hearing. However, Cornacchioli is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Sutton, Myers and FCS failed to provide Cornacchioli with a copy as required by law. Cornacchioli only learned about the filing of these forms when unsigned copies were made available to Akey through discovery in her subsequent family court proceeding to regain custody of N.D.. A true and correct copy of the forms produced to Akey are attached hereto as Exhibit 3 (previously stamped nos. 43-49).
- 33. Based upon the FCS Report, and with the assistance of Defendants FCS, Sutton and Myers, Dupree initiated on or about September 20, 2013, a new family law proceeding in Placer County Superior Court seeking to make permanent the full custody given to Dupree by FCS on September 12, 2013 ("Second Custody Proceeding").
- 34. During the Second Custody Proceeding, Sutton was asked at her deposition if Dupree had been drug tested every day as Sutton had promised Akey on September 12th. Sutton answered under oath that Dupree had been tested. However, when asked why the results of such drug tests were not in the FCS Report, Sutton said that "maybe I forgot to put it in". No test results for Dupree have ever been produced. Further, Sutton admitted during her deposition that Dupree had told her on September 12, 2013, that he

had only been off "Norcos" for three months. Sutton also admitted that, contrary to the FCS Report that states on page two that "Sutton was able to assess the home of Cameron Dupree" and that the home was "neat and nicely furnished", Sutton had never conducted a home inspection of Dupree's residence. Finally, Sutton admitted in the deposition that she had not run a criminal history on Dupree prior to taking N.D. from Akey's custody. There is no report of Dupree's criminal record in the FCS Report. 35. On or about March 20, 2014, there was an evidentiary hearing in the Second Custody Proceeding. Following this hearing, the Placer County Superior Court issued a written order, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 4, that included the following factual findings and custody order:

- a. "No evidence was presented of Mother's general neglect or failure to protect N.D."; and
- b. "No evidence was presented of stepfather, Ryan Cornacchioli's physical abuse in terms of having strangled/choked N.D.".

The Plaintiffs Timely Filed A Government Tort Claim That Was Denied 36. On or about March 11, 2014, Plaintiffs Akey and Cornacchioli filed a claim against Placer County, Sutton, and Myers under the California Tort Claims Act, Government Code §810, et seq.. This claim was based upon the same incidents and facts as set forth in this Complaint. The claims were rejected on April 16, 2014, by the County of Placer and on or about April 25, 2014, by the Judicial Council of California. Plaintiffs have timely filed this action within the six month time period under Government Code §945.6.

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SPECIFIC FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Failure To Follow Proper Procedures

- 37. Defendant Sutton failed to abide by the policies and procedures of FCS and as set forth in the FCS Manual (see paragraph 14, supra) by failing to:
 - make a timely, thorough and complete investigation that includes all of the safety and risk factors identified in the family and/or in the course of the investigation;
 - b. have N.D. examined by a physician;
 - c. properly ascertain if N.D. could differentiate between the truth and a lie;
 - d. ask permission of Akey, who was the primary custodial parent at the time,
 to interview N.D.;
 - e. interview Akey in person;
 - f. meet and/or interview other Akey children to assess if Akey was taking good care of them;
 - g. complete an SDM Safety Assessment;
 - h. complete an SDM Risk Assessment;
 - i. find or establish facts that constitute or show that N.D. was in danger of "imminent" physical harm;
 - j. devise a Safety Plan to address any safety concerns so that Akey would enjoy joint custody of N.D.; and
 - k. call county counsel to receive a final determination as to whether the legal threshold for immediate removal of N.D. was met.

In addition, Defendant Sutton acted outside the boundaries of the policies and procedures of FCS and CDSS by:

a. attempting to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole
 custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away; and

- preparing or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D.; and
- c. failing to ever present a reunification plan.
- 38. Defendant Myers failed to abide by the policies and procedures of FCS and as set forth in the FCS Manual (see paragraph 14, supra) by failing personally or through his supervision of Sutton to do the following things:
 - make a timely, thorough and complete investigation that includes all of the safety and risk factors identified in the family and/or in the course of the investigation;
 - b. have N.D. examined by a physician;
 - c. properly ascertain if N.D. could differentiate between the truth and a lie;
 - d. ask permission of Akey, who was the primary custodial parent at the time,
 to interview N.D.;
 - e. interview Akey in person;
 - f. meet and/or interview other Akey children to assess if Akey was taking good care of them;
 - g. complete an SDM Safety Assessment;
 - h. complete an SDM Risk Assessment;
 - i. find or establish facts that constitute or show that N.D. was in danger of "imminent" physical harm;
 - j. devise a Safety Plan to address any safety concerns so that Akey would enjoy joint custody of N.D.; and
 - k. call county counsel to receive a final determination as to whether the legal threshold for immediate removal of N.D. was met.

In addition, Defendant Myers acted outside the boundaries of the policies and

procedures of FCS and CDSS by himself, or through his supervision of Sutton, by:

- a. attempting to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole
 custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away; and
- preparing or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D.; and
- c. failing to ever present a reunification plan.

Failure To Make A Good Faith Investigation

- 39. Sutton and Myers failed to interview Akey or Cornacchioli in person before removing N.D. from Akey's custody. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that neither Sutton nor Myers investigated whether N.D., a mere three years old, was prompted by Dupree to make a false allegation against Cornacchioli in retaliation for Akey's prevailing in family law court and for the September 6, 2013, drug testing ordered by Akey. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that neither Sutton nor Myers checked with the family law court or reviewed the July 9th Order to understand the custody situation prior to terminating Akey's custody on September 12, 2013.
- 40. Sutton and Myers removed N.D. from Akey's custody without a court order and without N.D. being in "imminent" danger. There were no marks of any kind on N.D. and he was in good health with no adverse indications. There was no emergency and no circumstances that could not have been handled with a Safety Plan.
- 41. Sutton and Myers ignored the direct evidence given by N.D. himself: that he liked Cornacchioli and "was not afraid of him" and that Cornacchioli had not hurt him.
- 42. Sutton and Myers ignored the admission by Dupree that he had failed to report to anyone, not even Akey, that N.D. had purportedly told him about being chocked on September 10, 2013.

- 1 43. Sutton and Myers ignored the fact that Cornacchioli could not have choked N.D.
- 2 because he was gone for the five days before the allegation by N.D. and did not see
- 3 N.D. until after N.D. had purportedly told Dupree about the alleged choking.
 - 44. Sutton and Myers failed to make an inspection of Dupree's home before giving Dupree sole custody.
 - 45. Sutton and Myers failed to include in the FCS Report the results of the daily drug testing that Dupree was supposed to have undergone after September 12, 2013.

Fabrication Of Evidence

- 46. Sutton and Myers created and/or approved the FCS Report on or about
- 10 | September 25, 2013. In this report it is stated that on or about September 12, 2013,
- 11 Akey gave her consent to the termination of her custody of N.D. and the giving of full
- 12 custody to Dupree. As alleged in ¶¶ 25 & 27, above, Akey never gave such consent.
- 13 | 47. Sutton and Myers wrote in the FCS Report that "Sutton was able to assess the
- 14 home of Cameron Dupree" and that the home was "neat and nicely furnished".
- 15 However, Sutton admitted in her subsequent deposition that she never conducted a
- 16 home inspection of Dupree's residence as alleged in ¶ 34.

Suppression Of Exculpatory Evidence

- 48. Defendants Sutton and Myers suppressed the results of the drug testing of Cameron Dupree and never disclosed the results of the test and never entered the results into the FCS records as alleged in ¶ 37.
- 49. Defendants Sutton and Myers suppressed the facts about Cameron Dupree's history of drug abuse and felony convictions as alleged in ¶ 37.
- 50. FCS did not contact or obtain an order from the Placer County Superior Court
 either before or after giving immediate and full custody of N.D. to Dupree on September
 12, 2013. Instead, Sutton and Myers engaged in ex parte communications with Dupree
- 26 and his lawyer and provided them with copies of the FCS report and/or the findings

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without providing the FCS Report and/or information to Akey or Cornacchioli. Dupree used FCS Report and other information provided to him by Sutton and Myers to file a request for modification of the July 9th Order for exclusive custody. Plaintiffs did not receive a copy of the FCS investigative report until October 30, 2013, when a copy was provided as part of the family law court records.

V Claims For Violation of Federal Civil Rights Under 42 U.S.C. §1983

A. Plaintiff Rachael Akey

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Placer County Violation Of Akey's Procedural Due Process As A Result Of Deficient Policies, Practices and Procedures, a Failure to Adequately Train, and a Failure to Monitor and Review

51. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

52. Placer County's Established Policies, Practices, and Procedures Are Constitutionally Deficient

Placer County has established policies, practices, and procedures as alleged above (¶ 13, Exhibit 1) for conducting an investigation of alleged physical neglect or abuse of a child ("PPPs"). However, the PPPs are constitutionally inadequate because they do not: (a) contain a plain and concise statement of the constitutional law pertaining to the parent-child relationship; (b) explain how the PPPs are to be used to protect the parent-child relationship within the bounds of the constitutional law.

53. Placer County Failed To Adequately Train Its FCS Workers

A. The Failure To Train By Placer County FCS

Placer County FCS gave its social workers the power to remove a child from the custody of a parent without a court order: i.e., social workers have the power to supercede the constitutionally protected parent-child relationship. Consequently, Placer County FCS had the obligation to make sure that its social workers were properly trained in: (a) the constitutional law pertaining to the parent-child relationship; (b) what constitutes exigent circumstances (aka an imminent risk of harm) that would allow the removal of a child without a court order; and (c) how specific PPPs are to be implemented by social workers to balance the safety of the child against the parent-child relationship. In particular, Placer County FCS failed to:

- (a) adequately train its social workers in using the Structured Decision Making ("SDM") Risk Assessment PPPs in a situation where there is a question of imminent risk of harm:
- (b) adequately train its social workers in using the *SDM Safety Assessment*PPPs in a situation where there is a question of imminent risk of harm;
- (c) adequately train its social workers in using the *SDM Safety Plan* PPPs in a situation where there is a question of imminent risk of harm; or
- (c) require its social workers to attend on a periodic basis (e.g., yearly) a training course(s) on the constitutional law pertaining to the parent-child relationship and the use of the SDM Risk Assessments, SDM Safety Assessments, and SDM Safety Plans in situations that present a question of imminent risk of harm.

B. The Failure To Train By Placer County Counsel's Office

Placer County Counsel's Office was responsible for reviewing the development of the applicable constitutional law and then communicating to FCS about any developments that should be conveyed to Placer County social workers. Placer County Counsel was also responsible for preparing training materials on the applicable law and then giving training courses to social workers. Placer County Counsel was further responsible for analyzing and reporting to Placer County FCS if it observed any areas that needed additional training.

Placer County Counsel did keep abreast of the applicable constitutional law and developed training materials for years 2001 to 2008 and these training materials did contain accurate legal summaries of relevant judicial decisions. However, the training materials were inadequate in the following respects:

(a) they did not contain a plain and concise statement of the constitutional protection afforded the parent-child relationship;

- (b) they did not contain a plain and concise description of imminent risk of harm (aka exigent circumstances); and
- (c) they did not explain, conceptually or practically, the relationship between imminent risk of harm and the SDM risk assessment and SDM safety plan analysis and forms used by social workers.

54. Placer County Failed to Monitor and Review Its Social Workers

A. The Failure to Monitor and Review by Placer County FCS

Placer County FCS failed to adequately monitor or review (by audit or statistical means) its child case referrals to identify those cases that involved an imminent risk of harm determination and whether such cases were handled in a manner that was consistent with the constitutional law pertaining to parent-child relationship and with the PPPs. It was known and/or obvious to anyone in the field, including Placer County FCS, that such a failure would lead to a situation where the constitutional violation by FCS social workers would not be limited to a single, isolated incident, but would occur more frequently. Such monitoring or review would have been of a nominal cost or burden to Placer County and would have provided extremely useful feedback to Placer County as to whether the constitutional law was being followed by its case workers.

B. The Failure to Monitor and Review by Placer County Counsel's Office

The PPPs explicitly require that Placer County FCS social workers contact Placer County Counsel's office before making a decision in an imminent risk of harm situation. However, Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that Placer County Counsel did not periodically monitor or review imminent risk cases, or if it did any such review or monitoring, it did not communicate the resulting analysis to Placer County FCS.

- 55. The Constitutionally Deficient PPPs, the FailureTo Adequately Train, and the Failure To Monitor and Review Constituted Deliberate Indifference
 - A. It Was Known or Obvious To Anyone in the Field

It was known and/or obvious to anyone in the field, including Placer County FCS and Placer County Counsel's Office, that the constitutional nature of the parent-child relationship was undergoing significant development over the past decade and that training of social workers in the applicable constitutional law was a necessity. It was further known and/or obvious to anyone in the field that Placer County social workers confronted constitutional decisions about parent-child relationships on a daily basis. Finally, it was known and/or obvious to anyone in the field that the failures described in paragraphs 52-54 would be likely to lead to serious violations of the constitutional rights of parents and children.

B. The Failures Were Done Under the Color of State Law, Continued Over an Extended Period, and Harmed Others

The failures in paragraphs 52-54 were actions and omissions under the color of state law. These failures continued from approximately 2008 through June 2015. As a result, other parties were harmed as evidenced by the similar wrongful conduct alleged in Exhibit 5 hereto. Consequently, Placer County's failures in paragraphs 52-54 constituted deliberate indifference to, and a callous disregard for, the constitutional rights of the parents and children living in Placer County.

56. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Placer County alleged in paragraphs 52-55, the constitutional rights of Plaintiff Akey, including without limitation, the violation of her procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing and a prior judicial determination before any changes were made in her custody of N.D. under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, were violated. Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of

approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

57. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Placer County as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Placer County Unlawful Interference With Akey-N.D. Relationship As A Result Of A Failure To Enforce Or Train

- 58. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50 and 52 through 55, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 59. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Placer County as alleged in paragraphs 52-55, the constitutional rights of Plaintiff Akey, including without limitation, the violation of her constitutional right to a mother-son relationship under the Fourth and/or Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, were violated. Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

60. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Placer County as set forth above, Akey has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Sutton Violation Of Akey's Procedural Due Process

- 61. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 62. Sutton failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D..
- 63. Sutton failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli and making a finding that there was imminent danger to N.D. when there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate exigent circumstances.
- 64. Sutton fabricated evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
- 65. Sutton suppressed evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
- 66. Sutton attempted to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away.
- 67. Sutton prepared or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.
- 68. The foregoing failures of Sutton were actions and omissions under the color of

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state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff Akey, including without limitation, the violation of her procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing and a prior judicial determination before any changes were made in her custody of N.D. under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

- 69. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.
- 70. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.
- 71. The foregoing acts and omissions of Sutton were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of Akey and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Sutton.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION **Defendant Sutton** Unlawful Interference With Akey-N.D. Relationship

Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as 72.

though set forth fully herein.

- 73. Sutton failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D..
- 74. Sutton failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli and making a finding that there was imminent danger to N.D. when there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate exigent circumstances.
- 11 75. Sutton fabricated evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
- 13 76. Sutton suppressed evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
 - 77. Sutton attempted to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away.
 - 78. Sutton prepared or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.
 - 79. The foregoing failures of Sutton were actions and omissions under the color of state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff Akey, including without limitation, the violation of her constitutional right to a mother-son relationship under the Fourth and/or Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
 - 80. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000,

according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs 2 incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against 3 Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody 4 of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount 5 of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums 6 necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and 8 mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of 9 shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

- 81. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.
- 82. The foregoing acts and omissions of Sutton were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of Akey and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Sutton.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION **Defendant Myers Violation Of Akey's Procedural Due Process**

- 83. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 84. Myers failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including inter alia, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D..
- 85. Myers failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including inter alia, failing

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- to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli and making a finding that there was imminent danger to N.D. when there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate exigent circumstances.
- 86. Myers fabricated evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
- 87. Myers suppressed evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
- 88. Myers attempted to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away.
- 89. Myers prepared or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.
 - 90. The foregoing failures of Myers were actions and omissions under the color of state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff Akey, including without limitation, the violation of her procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing and a prior judicial determination before any changes were made in her custody of N.D. under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
 - 91. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and

costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

- 92. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.
- 93. The foregoing acts and omissions of Myers were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of Akey and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Myers.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Myers Unlawful Interference With Akey-N.D. Relationship

- 94. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 95. Myers failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D..
- 96. Myers failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli and making a finding that there was imminent danger to N.D. when there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate exigent circumstances.
- 97. Myers fabricated evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
- 98. Myers suppressed evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent

danger.

99. Myers attempted to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away.

100. Myers prepared or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.

101. The foregoing failures of Myers were actions and omissions under the color of state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff Akey, including without limitation, the violation of her constitutional right to a mother-son relationship under the Fourth and/or Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

102. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

103. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.

104. The foregoing acts and omissions of Myers were willful and in conscious

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disregard of the constitutional rights of Akey and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Myers.

B. Plaintiff N.D.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Defendant Placer County
Violation Of N.D.'s Procedural Due Process As A
Result Of Deficient Policies, Practices and Procedures, a Failure to Adequately
Train, and a Failure to Monitor and Review

105. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50 and 52-55, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

alleged in paragraphs 52-55, the constitutional rights of Plaintiff N.D, including without limitation, the violation of N.D.'s procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing and a prior judicial determination before any changes were made in Akey's custody of Plaintiff N.D. under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, were violated. Plaintiff N.D. has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (c) the fees and costs for therapy; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with his mother and siblings and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

107. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of the Placer County as set forth above, Plaintiff N.D. has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover his attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Defendant Placer County

Unlawful Interference With Akey-N.D. Relationship As A
Result Deficient Policies, Practices and Procedures, a Failure to Adequately

Train, and a Failure to Monitor and Review

108. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50 and 52 through 55, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

109. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Placer County as alleged in paragraphs 52-55, the constitutional rights of Plaintiff N.D., including without limitation, the violation of his constitutional right to a mother-son relationship under the Fourth and/or Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, were violated. Plaintiff N.D. has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (c) the fees and costs for therapy; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with his mother and siblings and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

110. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of the Placer County as set forth above, N.D. has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Sutton Violation Of N.D.'s Procedural Due Process

- 111. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 112. Sutton failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any

- of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County
 the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D..
- 113. Sutton failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli and making a finding that there was imminent danger to N.D. when there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate exigent circumstances.
 - 114. Sutton fabricated evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
- 9 115. Sutton suppressed evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
 - 116. Sutton attempted to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away.
- - 118. The foregoing failures of Sutton were actions and omissions under the color of state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff N.D., including without limitation, the violation of his procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing and a prior judicial determination before any changes were made in Akey's custody of N.D. under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
 - 119. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth above, Plaintiff N.D. has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody

of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (c) the fees and costs for therapy; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with his mother and siblings and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

- 120. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth above, Plaintiff N.D. has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.
- 121. The foregoing acts and omissions of Sutton were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of N.D. and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Sutton.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Sutton Unlawful Interference With Akey-N.D. Relationship

- 122. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 123. Sutton failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D..
- 124. Sutton failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli and making a finding that there was imminent danger to N.D. when there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate exigent circumstances.
- 125. Sutton fabricated evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent

1 danger.

- 126. Sutton suppressed evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
- 127. Sutton attempted to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away.
- 128. Sutton prepared or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.
- 129. The foregoing failures of Sutton were actions and omissions under the color of state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff N.D., including without limitation, the violation of his constitutional right to a mother-son relationship under the Fourth and/or Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 130. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth above, Plaintiff N.D. has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (c) the fees and costs for therapy; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with his mother and siblings and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

 131. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth above, Plaintiff N.D. has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is

entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.

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132. The foregoing acts and omissions of Sutton were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of N.D. and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Sutton.

ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Myers Violation Of N.D.'s Procedural Due Process

- 133. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 134. Myers failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D..
- 135. Myers failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli and making a finding that there was imminent danger to N.D. when there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate exigent circumstances.
- 136. Myers fabricated evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
- 20 137. Myers suppressed evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger.
 - 138. Myers attempted to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away.
 - 139. Myers prepared or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 above, Plaintiff N.D. has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is 19 entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988. 20 21 22 23

The foregoing failures of Myers were actions and omissions under the color of state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff N.D., including without limitation, the violation of his procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing and a prior judicial determination before any changes were made in her custody of N.D. under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

141. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth above, Plaintiff N.D. has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (c) the fees and costs for therapy; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with his mother and siblings and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride. 142. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth

143. The foregoing acts and omissions of Myers were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of N.D. and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Myers.

TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION **Defendant Myers** Unlawful Interference With Akey-N.D. Relationship

144. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as

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- 1 though set forth fully herein.
- 2 | 145. Myers failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the 3 | removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including 4 | *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any 5 | of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County
- 6 the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D..
- 7 146. Myers failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing
- 8 to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli and
- 9 making a finding that there was imminent danger to N.D. when there was insufficient
- 10 evidence to demonstrate exigent circumstances.
- 11 | 147. Myers fabricated evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent
- 12 danger.
- 13 | 148. Myers suppressed evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent
- 14 danger.
- 15 | 149. Myers attempted to coerce Akey to consent to the removal and giving of sole
- 16 custody to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away.
- 17 | 150. Myers prepared or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an
- 18 unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical
- 19 abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.
- 20 151. The foregoing failures of Myers were actions and omissions under the color of
- 21 state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional
- rights of Plaintiff N.D., including without limitation, the violation of his constitutional right
- 23 to a mother-son relationship under the Fourth and/or Fourteenth Amendment to the
- 24 United States Constitution.
- 25 | 152. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth
- 26 above, Plaintiff N.D. has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000,

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according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (c) the fees and costs for therapy; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with his mother and siblings and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride. 153. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth above, Plaintiff N.D. has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988. The foregoing acts and omissions of Myers were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of N.D. and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Myers.

C. Plaintiff Ryan Cornacchioli

[THIRTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION -OMMITTED]

FOURTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Sutton Violation Of Cornacchioli's Procedural Due Process

- 155. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50 inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 156. Sutton failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the investigation of allegations of physical child abuse, including without limitation, what amount and quality of evidence is sufficient to make a finding of "substantiated" in an investigative report.
- 157. Sutton failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Cornacchioli.
- 158. Sutton fabricated evidence to support her finding that the allegations of physical abuse by Cornacchioli were "substantiated".
- 159. Sutton suppressed evidence to support her finding that the allegations of physical abuse by Cornacchioli were "substantiated".
- 160. Sutton prepared or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a substantiated physical abuser of N.D..
- 161. The foregoing failures of Sutton were actions and omissions under the color of state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff Cornacchioli, including without limitation, the violation of his procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing (administrative or judicial) under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 162. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth above, Plaintiff Cornacchioli has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000,

according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Cornacchioli in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$25,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$65,000; (c) damage to reputation; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

163. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth above, Plaintiff Cornacchioli has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and is entitled to recover his attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.

164. The foregoing acts and omissions of Sutton were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of Cornacchioli and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Sutton.

165. Plaintiff Cornacchioli is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the California DOJ data base still has him listed as a "substantiated" child abuser, despite the factual findings of the Placer County Superior Court exonerating Plaintiff Cornacchioli as set forth in ¶ 34. Plaintiff Cornacchioli requests this Court to grant injunctive relief to remove his name from the California DOJ data base and such ancillary measures as necessary to enable him to pursue gainful employment as if he had never been falsely charged.

FIFTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Myers Violation Of Cornacchioli's Procedural Due Process

166. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

167. Myers failed to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the

- investigation of allegations of physical child abuse, including without limitation, what amount and quality of evidence is sufficient to make a finding of "substantiated" in an investigative report.
- 168. Myers failed to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Cornacchioli.
- 169. Myers fabricated evidence to support her finding that the allegations of physical abuse by Cornacchioli were "substantiated".
- 170. Myers suppressed evidence to support her finding that the allegations of physical abuse by Cornacchioli were "substantiated".
- 171. Myers prepared or otherwise assisted in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a substantiated physical abuser of N.D..
 - 172. The foregoing failures of Myers were actions and omissions under the color of state law that were the direct and proximate cause of the violation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff Cornacchioli, including without limitation, the violation of his procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing (administrative or judicial) under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
 - 173. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of FCS as set forth above, Plaintiff Cornacchioli has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Cornacchioli in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$25,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$65,000; (c) damage to reputation; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

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1	174. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth			
2	above, Plaintiff Cornacchioli has been forced to file this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983,			
3	and is entitled to recover his attorneys fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988.			
4	175. The foregoing acts and omissions of Myers were willful and in conscious			
5	disregard of the constitutional rights of Cornacchioli and such conduct was knowing,			
6	intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should			
7	be awarded against Myers.			
8	176. Plaintiff Cornacchioli is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the			
9	California DOJ data base still has him listed as a "substantiated" child abuser, despite			
0	the factual findings of the Placer County Superior Court exonerating Plaintiff			
1	Cornacchioli as set forth in ¶ 34. Plaintiff Cornacchioli requests this Court to grant			
2	injunctive relief to remove his name from the California DOJ data base and such			
3	ancillary measures as necessary to enable him to pursue gainful employment as if he			
4	had never been falsely charged.			
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VI. STATE LAW CLAIMS A. Plaintiff Rachael Akey

SIXTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Sutton Violation of California Civil Code §52.1(a)

177. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

178. Sutton's attempt, under color of California law, to coerce Akey to consent to the

removal and giving of sole custody of N.D. to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away, interfered with the exercise and enjoyment of the Akey's procedural due process rights and her substantive right to a mother-son relationship under the Constitution of the State of California and the Constitution of the United States. 179. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride. Additionally, pursuant to California Civil Code §52(a) and §52.1(b), Plaintiff Akey is entitled to treble the amount of consequential damages that are proven.

180. As the direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth

above, Plaintiff Akey is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under Civil Code

§52.1(h).

182.

SEVENTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Myers Violation of California Civil Code §52.1(a)

181. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

Myer's attempt, under color of California law, to coerce Akey to consent to the

removal and giving of sole custody of N.D. to Dupree by threatening to take all of Akey's children away, interfered with the exercise and enjoyment of the Akey's procedural due process rights and her substantive right to a mother-son relationship under the Constitution of the State of California and the Constitution of the United States.

183. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums

costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and

Additionally, pursuant to California Civil Code §52(a) and §52.1(b), Plaintiff Akey is entitled to treble the amount of consequential damages that are proven.

184. As the direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under Civil Code §52.1(h).

EIGHTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Sutton Interference With Akey's Mother-Son Relationship

- 185. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 186. Sutton owed Akey a duty to not interfere with her custody of N.D. or her motherson relationship with N.D..
- 187. Sutton breached this duty with a willful and conscious disregard of Akey (i.e., with malice) by:
- (a) failing to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D.;
- (b) failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli;
- (c) fabricating evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger;
- (d) suppressing evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger;
- (e) preparing or otherwise assisting in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.
- 188. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against

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Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride. The foregoing acts and omissions of Sutton were willful and in conscious 189. disregard of the constitutional rights of Akey and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Sutton. 190. Under California Government Code §820.21, Sutton is not immune under State Law for the foregoing acts and omissions because Sutton: (a) suppressed the results of the drug testing of Cameron Dupree and never disclosed the results of the test and never entered the results into the FCS records (¶ 37); (b) suppressed the facts about Cameron Dupree's history of drug abuse and felony convictions (¶ 37); (c) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that stated that Akey gave her consent to the termination of her custody of N.D. (¶¶ 25 & 27); (d) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that stated "Sutton was able to assess the home of Cameron Dupree" and that the home was "neat and nicely furnished" (¶ 34); (e) filed a false report with the California DOJ stating that Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. (¶¶ 31-32); and (f) suppressed/prevented the FCS investigative report from being given to Plaintiff (¶ 50).

NINETEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Myers Interference With Akey's Mother-Son Relationship

- 191. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 192. Myers owed Akey a duty to not interfere with her custody of N.D. or her motherson relationship with N.D..
- 193. Myer breached this duty with a willful and conscious disregard of Akey (i.e., with malice) by:
- (a) failing to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D.;
- (b) failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli;
- (c) fabricating evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger;
- (d) suppressing evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger;
- (e) preparing or otherwise assisting in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.
- 194. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth above, Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against

Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody 1 2 of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount 3 of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and 4 5 costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of 6 7 shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride. 8 The foregoing acts and omissions of Myers were willful and in conscious 195. 9 disregard of the constitutional rights of Akey and such conduct was knowing, intentional, 10 wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be 11 awarded against Myers. 196. Under California Government Code §820.21, Myers is not immune under State 12 13 Law for the foregoing acts and omissions because Myers: (a) suppressed the results of 14 the drug testing of Cameron Dupree and never disclosed the results of the test and 15 never entered the results into the FCS records (¶ 37); (b) suppressed the facts about 16 Cameron Dupree's history of drug abuse and felony convictions (¶ 37); (c) fabricated 17 the portion of the FCS Report that stated that Akey gave her consent to the termination 18 of her custody of N.D. (¶¶ 25 & 27); (d) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that 19 stated "Sutton was able to assess the home of Cameron Dupree" and that the home 20 was "neat and nicely furnished" (¶ 34); (e) filed a false report with the California DOJ 21 stating that Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. (¶¶ 31-32); and (f) 22 suppressed/prevented the FCS investigative report from being given to Plaintiff (¶ 50).

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TWENTIETH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Placer County Respondeat Superior Liability Under California Government Code §815.2(a) And/Or 815.6

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197. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as

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1 though set forth fully herein.

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198. Defendant Placer County as the employer of Sutton and Myers, has full authority to train, supervise, and direct all of the actions of Sutton and Myers while working for FCS. Sutton and Myers, in their capacity and in the performance of their duties as social workers for FCS, engaged in the acts and omissions alleged in the Sixteenth through Nineteenth Causes of Action, specifically paragraphs 198, 202, 206-207, and 212-213, which acts and omissions are hereby incorporated by reference. 199. California Civil Code §52.1(a) also imposes a mandatory duty upon Placer County to protect against the risk of violation of a individual's rights under the Constitution of the State of California and the Constitution of the United States. 200. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton and Myers, for which Defendant Placer County is liable under the doctrine of respondeat superior and/or California Government Code §815.6, Plaintiff Akey has sustained general damages of an estimated \$900,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (d) the fees and costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with her son and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride. Additionally, pursuant to California Civil Code §52(a) and §52.1(b), Plaintiff Akey is entitled to treble the amount of consequential damages that are proven. 201. As the direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton and Myers as set forth above, for which Defendant Placer County is liable under the doctrine of

respondeat superior and/or California Government Code §815.6, Plaintiff Akey is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under Civil Code §52.1(h).

B. Plaintiff N.D.

TWENTY FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Defendant Sutton Interference With N.D.'s Son-Mother Relationship

- 202. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 203. Sutton owed N.D. a duty to not interfere with Akey's custody of N.D. or his son-mother relationship with Akey.
- 204. Sutton breached this duty with a willful and conscious disregard of N.D. (i.e., with malice) by:
- (a) failing to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D.;
- (b) failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli;
- (c) fabricating evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger;
- (d) suppressing evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger;
- (e) preparing or otherwise assisting in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.
- 205. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth

1 above, Plaintiff N.D. has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, 2 according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs 3 incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against 4 Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody 5 of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) interest and reimbursable costs of 6 borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of 7 \$10,000; (c) the fees and costs for therapy; and (d) severe emotional and mental 8 distress caused by the loss of familial relations with his mother and siblings and feelings 9 of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride. 10 206. The foregoing acts and omissions of Sutton were willful and in conscious 11 disregard of the constitutional rights of N.D. and such conduct was knowing, intentional, 12 wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be 13 awarded against Sutton. 14 207. Under California Government Code §820.21, Sutton is not immune under State 15 Law for the foregoing acts and omissions because Sutton: (a) suppressed the results of 16 the drug testing of Cameron Dupree and never disclosed the results of the test and 17 never entered the results into the FCS records (¶ 37); (b) suppressed the facts about 18 Cameron Dupree's history of drug abuse and felony convictions (¶ 37); (c) fabricated 19 the portion of the FCS Report that stated that Akey gave her consent to the termination 20 of her custody of N.D. (¶¶ 25 & 27); (d) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that 21 stated "Sutton was able to assess the home of Cameron Dupree" and that the home 22 was "neat and nicely furnished" (¶ 34); (e) filed a false report with the California DOJ 23 stating that Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. (¶¶ 31-32); and (f) 24 suppressed/prevented the FCS investigative report from being given to Plaintiff (¶ 50).

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TWENTY SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Myers Interference With N.D.'s Son-Mother Relationship

- 208. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 209. Myers owed N.D. a duty to not interfere with Akey's custody of N.D. or his son-mother relationship with Akey.
- 210. Myer breached this duty with a willful and conscious disregard of N.D. (i.e., with malice) by:
- (a) failing to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the removal of a child from the custody of a parent without prior judicial approval, including *inter alia*, failing to interview in person either Akey or Cornacchioli, failing to employ any of the SDM procedures or forms, or to confirm with county counsel for Placer County the alleged finding of exigent circumstances for the removal of N.D.;
- (b) failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Akey and Cornacchioli;
- (c) fabricating evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger;
- (d) suppressing evidence to support the conclusion that N.D. was in imminent danger;
- (e) preparing or otherwise assisting in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. to intimidate, suppress, and discredit Cornacchioli.
- 211. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth above, Plaintiff N.D. has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against

Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) interest and reimbursable costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount of \$10,000; (c) the fees and costs for therapy; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with his mother and siblings and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride. 212. The foregoing acts and omissions of Myers were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of N.D. and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Myers. 213. Under California Government Code §820.21, Myers is not immune under State Law for the foregoing acts and omissions because Myers: (a) suppressed the results of the drug testing of Cameron Dupree and never disclosed the results of the test and never entered the results into the FCS records (¶ 37); (b) suppressed the facts about Cameron Dupree's history of drug abuse and felony convictions (¶ 37); (c) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that stated that Akey gave her consent to the termination of her custody of N.D. ($\P\P$ 25 & 27); (d) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that stated "Sutton was able to assess the home of Cameron Dupree" and that the home was "neat and nicely furnished" (¶ 34); (e) filed a false report with the California DOJ stating that Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. (¶¶ 31-32); and (f) suppressed/prevented the FCS investigative report from being given to Plaintiff (¶ 50).

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TWENTY THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Placer County Respondeat Superior Liability Under California Government Code §815.2(a) And/Or 815.6

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214. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

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1 215. Defendant Placer County as the employer of Sutton and Myers, has full authority 2 to train, supervise, and direct all of the actions of Sutton and Myers while working for 3 FCS. Sutton and Myers, in their capacity and in the performance of their duties as social workers for FCS, engaged in the acts and omissions alleged in the Twenty First 4 5 through the Twenty Fourth Causes of Action, specifically paragraphs 223-224, 229-230, 6 which acts and omissions are hereby incorporated by reference. 7 California Civil Code §52.1(a) also imposes a mandatory duty upon Placer 8 County to protect against the risk of violation of a individual's rights under the 9 Constitution of the State of California and the Constitution of the United States. 10 217. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton and Myers, for 11 which Defendant Placer County is liable under the doctrine of respondeat superior 12 and/or California Government Code §815.6, Plaintiff N.D. has sustained general 13 damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) 14 the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that 15 the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court 16 order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$83,000; (b) the loss of 17 earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$20,000; (c) interest and reimbursable 18 costs of borrowing the sums necessary to pay attorneys fees in an approximate amount 19 of \$10,000; (d) the fees and costs for therapy for N.D.; (e) damage to reputation; and (f) 20 severe emotional and mental distress caused by the loss of familial relations with his 21 mother and siblings and feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense 22 of security, dignity, and pride. Additionally, pursuant to California Civil Code §52(a) and 23 §52.1(b), Plaintiff Akey is entitled to treble the amount of consequential damages that 24 are proven. 25 218. As the direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton and Myers 26 as set forth above, for which Defendant Placer County is liable under the doctrine of

respondeat superior and/or California Government Code §815.6, Plaintiff N.D. is entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under Civil Code §52.1(h).

C. Plaintiff Ryan Cornacchoili

TWENTY FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Sutton Interference With Cornacchioli's Constitutional Rights

- 219. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 220. Sutton owed Cornacchioli a duty to not violate his constitutional rights, including without limitation, his procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing (administrative or judicial) under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 221. Sutton breached this duty with a willful and conscious disregard of Cornacchioli (i.e., with malice) by:
- (a) failing to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the investigation of allegations of physical child abuse, including without limitation, what amount and quality of evidence is sufficient to make a finding of "substantiated" in an investigative report;
- (b) failing to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Cornacchioli;
- (c) fabricating evidence to support her finding that the allegations of physical abuse by Cornacchioli were "substantiated";
- (d) suppressing evidence to support her finding that the allegations of physical abuse by Cornacchioli were "substantiated";
- (e) preparing or otherwise assisting in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a substantiated physical abuser of N.D..

222. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton as set forth above, Plaintiff Cornacchioli has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Cornacchioli in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$25,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$65,000; (c) damage to reputation; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

223. The foregoing acts and omissions of Sutton were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of Cornacchioli and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Sutton.

224. Under California Government Code §820.21, Sutton is not immune under State Law for the foregoing acts and omissions because Sutton: (a) suppressed the results of the drug testing of Cameron Dupree and never disclosed the results of the test and never entered the results into the FCS records (¶ 37); (b) suppressed the facts about Cameron Dupree's history of drug abuse and felony convictions (¶ 37); (c) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that stated that Akey gave her consent to the termination of her custody of N.D. (¶¶ 25 & 27); (d) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that stated "Sutton was able to assess the home of Cameron Dupree" and that the home was "neat and nicely furnished" (¶ 34); (e) filed a false report with the California DOJ stating that Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. (¶¶ 31-32); and (f) suppressed/prevented the FCS investigative report from being given to Plaintiff (¶ 50).

TWENTY FIFTHTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Myers Interference With Cornacchioli's Constitutional Rights

- 225. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.
- 226. Myers owed Cornacchioli a duty to not violate his constitutional rights, including without limitation, his procedural due process rights for proper notice and hearing (administrative or judicial) under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 227. Myers breached this duty with a willful and conscious disregard of Cornacchioli (i.e., with malice) by:
- (a) failing to follow the FCS policies, practice, and procedures regarding the investigation of allegations of physical child abuse, including without limitation, what amount and quality of evidence is sufficient to make a finding of "substantiated" in an investigative report;
- (b) failing to conduct an investigation in good faith, including *inter alia*, failing to investigate evidence that might have been exculpatory to Cornacchioli;
- (c) fabricating evidence to support her finding that the allegations of physical abuse by Cornacchioli were "substantiated";
- (d) suppressing evidence to support her finding that the allegations of physical abuse by Cornacchioli were "substantiated";
- (e) preparing or otherwise assisting in the filing with the California DOJ of an unsubstantiated and/or false report about Cornacchioli as a substantiated physical abuser of N.D..
- 228. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Myers as set forth above, Plaintiff Cornacchioli has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs

incurred by Cornacchioli in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$25,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$65,000; (c) damage to reputation; and (d) severe emotional and mental distress caused by feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride.

229. The foregoing acts and omissions of Myers were willful and in conscious disregard of the constitutional rights of Cornacchioli and such conduct was knowing, intentional, wrongful, despicable, and oppressive. As a result, punitive damages should be awarded against Myers.

230. Under California Government Code §820.21, Myers is not immune under State Law for the foregoing acts and omissions because Myers: (a) suppressed the results of the drug testing of Cameron Dupree and never disclosed the results of the test and never entered the results into the FCS records (¶ 37); (b) suppressed the facts about Cameron Dupree's history of drug abuse and felony convictions (¶ 37); (c) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that stated that Akey gave her consent to the termination of her custody of N.D. (¶¶ 25 & 27); (d) fabricated the portion of the FCS Report that stated "Sutton was able to assess the home of Cameron Dupree" and that the home was "neat and nicely furnished" (¶ 34); (e) filed a false report with the California DOJ stating that Cornacchioli as a perpetrator of physical abuse on N.D. (¶¶ 31-32); and (f) suppressed/prevented the FCS investigative report from being given to Plaintiff (¶ 50).

TWENTY SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendant Placer County Respondeat Superior Liability Under California Government Code §815.2(a) And/Or 815.6

231. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

232. Defendant Placer County as the employer of Sutton and Myers, has full authority to train, supervise, and direct all of the actions of Sutton and Myers while working for FCS. Sutton and Myers, in their capacity and in the performance of their duties as social workers for FCS, engaged in the acts and omissions alleged in the Twenty Sixth and Twenty Seventh Causes of Action, specifically paragraphs 250-251 and 256-257, which paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference. California Civil Code §52.1(a) also imposes a mandatory duty upon Placer 233. County to protect against the risk of violation of a individual's rights under the Constitution of the State of California and the Constitution of the United States. 234. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton and Myers, for which Defendant Placer County is liable under the doctrine of respondeat superior and/or California Government Code §815.6, Plaintiff Cornacchioli has sustained general damages of an estimated \$300,000, according to proof, including, but not limited to: (a) the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Akey in obtaining a court determination that the FCS allegations against Akey and Cornacchioli were unsubstantiated and a court order restoring Akey's custody of N.D. in an amount of at least \$25,000; (b) the loss of earning capacity in an amount of approximately \$65,000; (d) damage to reputation; and (e) severe emotional and mental distress caused by feelings of shame, anxiety, humiliation, and the loss of a sense of security, dignity, and pride. 235. As the direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Sutton and Myers as set forth above, for which Defendant Placer County is liable under the doctrine of respondeat superior and/or California Government Code §815.6, Plaintiff Cornacchioli is

entitled to recover her attorneys fees and costs under Civil Code §52.1(h).

1	VII. PRAYER			
2	Wherefore, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants as follows:			
3	1. For general, consequential, and special damages in the sum set forth in each			
4	count according to proof;			
5	2. For punitive and exemplary damages in a sum according to proof in counts 3-6,			
6	9-12, 14-15, 18-19, 21-22, and 24-25;			
7	3. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1988 in			
8	counts 1-15;			
9	4. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to California Civil Code			
10	§52.1(h) in counts 16-17, 20-22, and 25;			
11	5.	For the maximum civil penalties under (California Civil Code §52.1(a)(2) in Counts	
12	16-17;			
13	6. For treble damages (3x consequential) in counts 16-17, 20, and 23;			
14	7.	7. For cost of suit herein incurred for all counts; and		
15	8. For injunctive relief for Plaintiff Cornacchioli under Counts 13-15 to remove his		hioli under Counts 13-15 to remove his	
16	name from the California Department of Justice data base;			
17	9. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.		Court deems just and proper.	
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20		√ May 20, 2017	Respectfully,	
21	Dated: May 20, 2017		respectfully,	
22				
23			By: /s/_Patrick H. Dwyer Patrick H. Dwyer, SBN 137743	
24			P.O. Box 1705; 17318 Piper Lane Penn Valley, CA 95946	
25			Tel: (530) 432-5407 Fax: (530) 432-9122	
26			pdwyer@pdwyerlaw.com	
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28		59		