

MÜNCHHAUSEN-BY-PROXY-SYNDROME: ITS INVENTOR IS A FALSE “EXPERT”

The British paediatrician Sir Roy Meadow, inventor of the “Munchhausen-by-proxy” Syndrome (MBP), was dismissed from the medical doctors register on July 15, 2005 because of false testimony before the court.³⁹

The two scientists Dr. Virginia Sherr⁴⁰, psychiatrist, USA, and Dr. Helen Hayward-Brown⁴¹, medical sociologist, Australia, show in their studies about the deprivation of children because of the “suspicion” of MBP, how certain dishonest practices are done world-wide in a similar pattern. Quotations out of their studies:

- “MBP has nothing to do with science. It is not a recognized disorder / behaviour / syndrome. (...) MBP is based on speculation, faulty research methodology and personal prejudice of practitioner. (...) In many cases, illnesses are involved about which there are arguments among practitioners, for example CFS, ME, Lyme disease, multiple SIDS, MCS, vaccine or drug reaction.”⁴²
- „Health insurers, physicians, hired ‘expert’ witnesses, and even school districts may have economic incentives for favoring a MBP diagnosis. This may particularly apply if a MBP diagnosis avoids future costly diagnostic tests, expensive treatment, educational accommodations or if it promises inflated consultant fees in exchange for court testimony against the parents.”⁴³
- “Experts adhere to their original hypothesis or belief, even when faced with evidence to the contrary.”⁴⁴
- “Often medical professionals, who label patients with Munchhausen use the same lawyers, the same judges over and over again.”
- “The risk to die for a child living in foster families ordered by the government is four times higher than for a street child. Death incidents, poisonings, rapes and unwanted pregnancies of these children are revealed in an examination paper, which rates the medical reports and death statistics over several years. There was no doubt about the frequent abuse of children in government-ordered foster care. But because such papers usually are classified as private medical documents, they are dealt with as a secret. Suffering and death of the children this way are hidden to the public.”⁴⁵
- “Of course the children who are removed from their parents suffer a serious trauma because the child protection authorities tell them false stories. In one case for example they told to a child, that his mother had attempted to kill her child⁴⁶ even though the mother had never been sentenced to be guilty by any court. – An accompanied contact means, that the child is not able to speak freely with his parents.”⁴⁷

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT NOW IS EXAMINING THE GERMAN REMOVALS OF CHILDREN

At present (June 2007) a **petition to the European Parliament** is on the way against the institution of the German “Jugendamt” because of **interferences violating the human right concerning family life** and because in Germany the implementation of the jurisdiction by the European court is not granted. The petition was suggested by Polish parents who are prohibited to talk Polish with their children in Germany. The case Heller will there be presented too. – The Central Council of European Citizens (ZEB)⁴⁸ describes the excrescences as follows: “Regularly it comes to the ruin, to the stigmatization as a criminal, to demoralization and to a psychiatric labelling of the victim. The victim is (...) prosecuted by the authorities using all their power and leading to hardly imaginable violation of human rights. This usually is done by pretence of a criminal offence and by falsification of documents by authorities.” –The German “Jugendamt” collects data about German citizens **without any democratic control**.⁴⁹

All those who suffer from a similar injustice may support this petition too . Presently petitions against the German “Jugendamt” are **dealt with at priority**⁵⁰ by the Committee for Petitions of the European Parliament. Marcin Libicki, chair of this committee, said after a meeting with Petra Heller to the Polish daily paper “*Rzeczpospolita*”: “I have decided to help Mrs Heller – as I do for all German parents being in a similar situation.”

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Ask for further leaflets (address see under “contact”) and distribute them as wide as you can.
- Inform yourself about the latest developments on www.petra-heller.com and spread the information.
- Write or call the ones in charge and ask them for explanations for their acting.
- Write letters to the editor; cultivate contacts to the media.
- Demonstrate together with the family Heller.
- Introduce further offices of authorities to the case Heller.
- Contact further victims of governmental wilfulness and help to link-up those victims.
- For all donations - small or large - you give, the family Heller is very grateful. Please send it to the banc account mentioned below.

Association for the liberation of Aeneas Heller

we are happy for every donation:

Bank account:

Edgar Hagel, Ligabank Regensburg,
BLZ 750 903 00, Account 10 900 1867
Reason for payment: Donation for Aeneas

Thank you very much!

Contact:

Petra Heller, Greiffenbergstr. 33, D-96052 Bamberg
mail@petra-heller.com

REMOVAL OF CHILDREN

Authorities destroy families



Aeneas and Petra Heller – not an isolated case

“In my view this is one of the worst cases of false accusations of Munchhausen-by-proxy that I have seen in my ten years of research on the subject”

Dr. phil. Helen Hayward-Brown in her affidavit for the Local Court of Bamberg

**The break-through for JUSTICE
needs our united strength!**

www.petra-heller.com

Reference: The numbers 1 to 50 indicate documents of evidence referring to the facts mentioned below. You will find these documents on the front page at www.petra-heller.com.

HISTORY OF A CRUEL WITHDRAWAL OF CHILD CUSTODY

It begins as **Petra Heller falls ill with Lyme disease**.¹ The medical treatment usually given in this case according to the established medical science is not successful. Tied to the wheelchair Petra Heller decides for a prolonged antibiotic treatment, recommended to her by specialists of the established medical science as well. Through this treatment she gets able to lead a normal life again. About the diagnosis and the therapy of this tick-borne infectious disease a **medical dispute** is going on. – Petra Hellers son Aeneas, too, gets the diagnosis of Lyme disease² and a prolonged antibiotic treatment. The expensive but successful therapy **arouses reluctance among some practitioners at Bamberg**.³ At school⁴ Aeneas does not get much understanding – like many other children who suffer from Lyme disease. He is exposed to taunt and vexation by some teachers. Finally he gets afraid of school attendance although he is an assiduous and highly intelligent child with high marks.

The case is assigned by the school authorities to the Department of Health of Bamberg without knowledge of the parents. Dr. Strauch, medical director of this department, gives a **false expert opinion**⁵ without even having seen Aeneas or having examined Mrs Heller. Dr. Strauch claims that Mrs Heller is suffering from the Munchausen-by-proxy-syndrome (**MBP**)⁶ which is discussed very controversial among psychiatric specialists. MBP means that Mrs Heller fabricated and induced herself the illness of her son and therefore had him treated for nothing. This false expert opinion becomes the base for a **secret decision**⁷: Judge Herbst withdraws the right of parental care for Aeneas from his mother without her knowledge.

On August 3, 2004 twelve persons – policemen in uniform and employees of the “Jugendamt” (youth welfare office)– drag the child out of the family in a way similar to a hold-up. **The frightened child**⁸ is forced out of his hide by the threat of using sniffer dogs. Although **the doctors who are treating**⁹ Aeneas immediately intervene at court, handing over evidence documents proving that Aeneas undoubtedly suffers from Lyme disease – and therefore Mrs Heller cannot have MBP – the child is being held at the University hospital of Erlangen, totally **isolated from his family**.¹⁰ examined without any need and **operated by force**¹¹ without any medical indication. Prof. Rascher, director of the hospital, had declared in one of his expert opinions, that Aeneas is at perfect health (**which means that the child cannot have been “mistreated”!**)¹² Still Aeneas must stay for three months at the psychiatric hospital. – The same day when her child is removed, Mrs Heller is hospitalized by force at the psychiatric hospital of Bamberg. Its director, Prof. Günther, wants to **treat her by psychotropics without even having examined her**.¹³ Thanks to the

efforts of her family, her doctors and a lawyer she is released¹⁴. **Her patients report**¹⁵, however, is falsified. A **hearing at court**¹⁶ takes place not until six weeks after the removal of the child, and only after the desperate mother has informed the press. At the Upper District Court some **files disappear**¹⁷; **the rushed remonstrance against the withdrawal of the parental right of custody**¹⁸ is rejected because of two arbitrary expert opinions by Prof. Rascher¹⁹. The attests of 12 medical doctors, specialists and psychologists which demonstrate the innocence of Mrs Heller, are ignored. Judge Herbst **delays the lawsuit**²⁰. Almost two years pass before a judgement is released. On second try, at the Upper District Court of Bamberg, again **denying of the right to be heard**²¹ is practised. In the verbal trial on January 22, 2007 judge Dörfler declares, that the evidence for Petra Hellers innocence is **not considered**²² and that the witnesses are not heard. Any compromise Mrs Heller proposed was rejected. At the beginning of the process already the mother had suggested to **transfer the medical care**²⁴ to the “Jugendamt”, which is **responsible for the removal of her child**²³. Her suggestion was ignored.

Since June 2005 the family **demonstrates**²⁵ together with medical doctors, self help groups and politicians every second week on the Upper bridge in front of the old City Hall of Bamberg. – After a critical report in the newspaper “Focus” and a demonstration concerning the delay of the lawsuit against judge Herbst, this judge opens a **new procedure to put Mrs Heller under tutelage**²⁶. She flees abroad to escape the **threatening sanctions**²⁷ against her. It is important to know that in Germany the mere suspicion, expressed by an official, is sufficient to subdue the suspected person to a psychiatric survey. – The reputable Swiss psychiatrist and private university lecturer Dr. med. Mario Gmür attests her entire psychological health and mentions a **“misuse of psychiatry”**²⁸

Meanwhile Aeneas has been brought to a foster family. The mother does not know where. The only possibility he has to contact his family is writing **letters which are censured**²⁹. After a new **report on TV**³⁰ and the opening of the homepage www.petra-heller.com, where the violation of the human rights to Aeneas and his family are documented exactly, the family finally is informed about the stay of Aeneas: He has been transferred now to the foster home of the Geschwister-Gummi-Stiftung at Kulmbach. Tenacious public relations make it finally possible for some family members to visit him and for the mother to have an accompanied phone contact. Just at the first phone call Aeneas holds with his mother after two years of isolation, he contradicts an expert opinion by Dipl. Psych. Isabella Jäger (who is now confirmed again by the Upper District Court) where the child is claimed to suffer from fear of death towards his mother. – Now again the scanty phone contacts of Aeneas with his mother are **strictly censured**³¹. These phone calls reveal that Aeneas is being **strongly manipulated against his mother**³² by the director of the Geschwister-Gummi-Stiftung, Mrs Edeltraud Burger, who works in accordance with the “Jugendamt” of Bamberg. – A similar collaboration of authorities, youth welfare offices and judges as observed explicitly in the case Heller is watched by scientists worldwide. Engaged persons for human rights therefore are warning against an **abuse of power by authorities leading to child re-**

movals³³. In Germany the wrongful removal of children is particularly easy due to the political and judicial circumstances: No superior authority exists at all to supervise the German “Jugendamt”! So, in the case Heller too, **no ministry**³⁴ feels responsible.

Scientific statistics show, that **many children do not return to their families – but this is changing since parents enforce their protest and are able to demonstrate errors. However, many families are afraid to expose themselves to the public. They are afraid of immediately losing their child once more – instead of having it back to the family.**

THE MOTHER IS BEING SUPPORTED³⁵

The own family members support her, address themselves to the responsible authorities, pay the high lawyers fees until there is nothing left anymore...

- Since June 2005 demonstrations are organized every second Saturday on the bridge at the City Hall of Bamberg
- Aroused people of self help groups relative to Lyme disease and others write worried letters to politicians in charge, to authorities in charge.
- Because the mother must stay abroad, this problem became generally known in different countries of Central Europe to numerous people, who support her in her hard struggle to be heard.
- Quite a few helpers have united in an **association** founded according to the Swiss Civil Law Code § 60 et seqq. The name of the association is **Committee for the Release of Aeneas Heller**.³⁶ Unfortunately it must remain incognito in order to protect the mother still facing the procedure to put her under tutelage. The danger of a renewed attempt to subject her to a psychiatric treatment cannot be excluded. The public is informed regularly by **open letters** dealing with the actual development of the tragic events.
- In July 2006 an **international symposium**³⁷ took place at Bamberg, where the two scientists Dr. V. Sherr and Dr. H. Hayward-Brown took part (by phone), and where shocking reports by other victims (victims of psychiatry too) got known.

The **psychiatrist Mario Gmür**³⁸ (Switzerland) who had given a neutral psychiatric attest for Petra Heller, as well as the mentioned scientists affirm their support.

Further assistance is necessary to restore the rights to the family Heller!

Any contribution is helpful, as small as it may be.