

**Donna R. Milburn, Ph.D., ABPS**

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**EXPERT OPINION REPORT**

**Cause No. 13-06713-Z-256: ITIO L.C. IV**

Report date: October 27, 2021

**Referral Question:**

Dr. Donna R. Milburn was commissioned as a testifying expert to render opinions regarding the nature of the relationship difficulties between the father and the minor child as of 2021. Dr. Milburn may also be designated to be available to testify as a rebuttal expert to any opinions offered by Ms. Frenle and by the child’s play therapist and to the areas of psychology, treatment types, play therapy, parent-child relationships, parental alienation, child abuse, child custody evaluations, ethical guidelines and limitations of roles for professionals involved in family law litigation. Dr. Milburn will not be providing any recommendations regarding access and possession of this specific minor child with these parents. Dr. Milburn is not the child custody evaluator in this case.

**General Summary Information and Clarifications regarding Expert Testimony:**

Courts rely on information that they receive from mental health experts when they are making important decisions regarding child custody and child welfare issues. Texas laws have improved over the years to help the courts know what testimony should be given more weight and what testimony should be excluded or given less weight. The Texas Family Code has limited experts giving testimony about access and possession of children and conservatorship to a child custody evaluator and has set minimal guidelines for how that evaluation is to be conducted. The ethical guidelines of the professional and the Board Rules that govern the professional’s license are additional requirements for behavior of professionals in these cases.

Attorneys representing the father Lauriston Crockett III in this case, have hired Dr. Donna R. Milburn as an expert to review information regarding the parent-child relationships and to render an opinion as to the factors contributing to the current relationship issues between the father and the child.

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**CONCLUSIONS REGARDING the FATHER – CHILD RELATIONSHIP:**

The relationship between the father Lauriston Crockett III and the minor child appears to have deteriorated significantly. Information reviewed indicates that this deterioration is unlikely to be the result of a problem in the actual interactions between the father and the child as the father has been supervised in his access and he has had extremely limited time with the child. The most likely explanation for the deterioration is that the mother and stepfather have engaged in a pattern of behavior known as “Parental Alienation.” The alienation of the child has been successful and has severely damaged the relationship between the father and the child.

The mother has engaged in parental alienation, prevented the child from having access to the father, testified in deposition that she does not want the father to have any contact with the child, and has testified that she wants the stepfather to adopt the child. The stepfather has engaged in parental alienation. The stepfather is heard on one video recording of the child coaching / encouraging the child to tell the staff member of the supervising agency statements negative about seeing the father where the child appears to have forgotten what he was taught to say prior to arriving and being filmed. The mother and stepfather have engaged in behaviors that resulted in the termination of supervision services. They have made apparent false reports of abuse against the father, have apparently failed to bring the child to visitation times as scheduled, and have engaged in a continuing pattern of behavior that has damaged the parent-child relationship between the father and the child.

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**BASIS FOR ABOVE CONCLUSIONS:**

Dr. Milburn is a clinical psychologist who has extensive experience in forensic evaluations, child custody evaluations, psychological testing, neuropsychological testing, psychoeducational testing, ethical reviews of forensic cases for the Texas Board of Examiners of Psychologists, and providing direct treatment to children, adolescents, and adults. Dr. Milburn began providing forensic evaluations, testing, and recommendations to the courts over 31 years ago and has completed approximately 457 court evaluations to date.

**Material Reviewed:**

Interviews of Lauriston Crockett III, Father:

December 12, 2019 – Interview of Father, Signed Office Policies, Disclosure of Process in Court Cases, Agreement for Court Services, role clarified / agreed, fees clarified / agreed

October 21, 2021 – Interview of Father, Signed Office Policies, Disclosure of Process in Court Cases, Agreement for Court Services, role clarified / agreed, fees clarified / agreed

B&E Center Letter dated March 30, 2021

Hannah's House Form filled out by Cottingham 2/15/2020  
Letter to Dr. Milburn from father  
FLP Family Center letter dated August 17, 2021  
FLP Records for supervised visitation  
Polygraph Examination of Lauriston Lee Crockett III Conducted 12-11-19  
Polygraph Examination of Lauriston Lee Crockett III Conducted 01-08-20  
Forensic Mental Health Assessment of Mr. Lauriston Crockett by Dr. James Davidson 8/20/20  
Deposition of Robert Cottingham dated February 21, 2020  
Transcript of the Testimony of Nikki Ngo dated December 17, 2019  
Certificate of Completion Children in the Middle Coparenting Class for Mr. Crockett  
Certificate of Completion Parallel Parenting Class for Mr. Crockett  
Certificate of Completion Parent Education and Family Stabilization for Mr. Crockett  
Certificate of Completion Rules for High Conflict Divorce/ Custody Battles for Mr. Crockett  
Stepfather Videotaping October 2020 at the Supervision Facility  
Audio Recording of Father and Child Interaction  
Amicus E-mail 9/23/20  
Video Recording of Logan at FLP 9/26/20 by Stepfather  
Video Recording of Logan at Hannah's House by Stepfather 6/6 visit  
Phone Calls (13) between Father and Child  
Child Custody Evaluation Report by Jennifer Frenkle, LPC dated 8/8/2019  
Dallas Police Department Child Abuse Unit Forensic Interview Notes 7/26/2017  
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Protective Services records  
WFAA News Report regarding Father's Day with child and podcast  
Podcast of child with Ed "Too Tall" Jones  
Jennifer Frenkle Deposition on December 4, 2019  
Polygraph Examination of Lauriston Lee Crockett III conducted 12/11/2019  
Hannah House Notes for supervised visitation

*I hope that this Expert Opinion Report will be helpful to the Dallas Court and the Attorneys working in this case. The Court and the parties need to remember that there are always limitations to any evaluation or report and any associated recommendations. Factors that may limit the accuracy of an evaluation includes misrepresented information, deliberate attempts to distort psychological testing results, and unprovided or unreviewed information. I am not making any recommendations regarding custody or access or possession of the child in this case, I am not making any diagnoses of the parties in this case, and I have not evaluated the parties in this case.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna R. Milburn, Ph.D.*

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Clinical Psychology  
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Date signed: 10/27/2021

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## **REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

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