IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

SUPEE SPINDLER, On behalf of NISARAT JITTASONTHI,

Petitioner,

Case No. 312021CA000583

v.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES and CATHOLIC CHARITIES,

Respondents.

RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Respondent, Department of Children and Families, responds to the Petition for Writ of

Habeas Corpus, stating:

- The Department conducted two investigations regarding the Petitioner, Nisarat Jittasonthi. Both investigations were closed with "not substantiated" findings of abuse, neglect, and self-neglect.
- 2. Ms. Jittasonthi was assessed to have capacity during the second investigation, which started July 30, 2021 and concluded August 4, 2021. Ms. Jittasonthi was living at a shelter for human trafficking victims and was receiving services and support from the facility.
- The Department never took custody of Ms. Jittasonthi nor is the Department aware of her current location. During both investigations, it was concluded that no Department services nor intervention was necessary.

- 4. The Department is unaware of her current location and the Department does not have any open cases regarding Ms. Jittasonthi. The Department's last contact with Ms. Jittasonthi was on August 3, 2021.
- 5. The Department did conclude in both of its investigations that Ms. Jittasonthi's placement was voluntary, and that she expressed her own wish to remain at her current location.
- 6. The Department is unable to address the Court's jurisdiction in the matter, as the Department is unaware of the Petitioner's present location.

WHEREFORE, having responded to the Petition, Respondent, Department of Children and Families, requests the Court dismiss the Department as a party to this matter as the Department is not involved.

> Respectfully Submitted, this 27th Day of September 2021,

By,

<u>/s/ Brian Meola</u> BRIAN MEOLA, ESQ. Florida Bar No. 96054 Assistant Regional Counsel Department of Children and Families 337 No. US Hwy. 1, Suite A Fort Pierce, FL 34950 Brian.meola@myflfamilies.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished via the Clerk's e-filing portal on September 27, 2021, to:

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<u>/s/ Brian Meola</u> BRIAN MEOLA, ESQ. Florida Bar No. 96054