

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, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH INC., a not-for-profit Florida corporation, responds to the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, stating:

1. As a result of the human trafficking allegations and investigation referenced in the Petition, NISARAT JITTASONTHI was referred to CATHOLIC CHARITIES through the Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (TVAP) and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI).

2. Once CATHOLIC CHARITIES confirmed its ability to assist, NISARAT was removed from Petitioner's residence by the Vero Beach Police Department. NISARAT consented to leave the Petitioner's residence in Indian River County on or about February 26, 2021. Relocation assistance to a safe and secure residential setting in Palm Beach County was arranged through the various charitable services provided by CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

3. NISARAT continues to voluntarily reside in Palm Beach County at this time, in the residential setting arranged by CATHOLIC CHARITIES. Case management, medical and social services, and financial assistance have also been provided, *pro bono*, to NISARAT.

4. CATHOLIC CHARITIES, however, does not exercise any legal or custodial control over NISARAT or her current residence.

5. NISARAT has consistently expressed her wishes not to return to reside with her mother, Petitioner herein, and has chosen to remain in her current residence.

6. Due to NISARAT's acknowledged and diagnosed disabilities, this Court should consider if NISARAT would benefit from court-appointed counsel or a guardian *ad litem* to represent her interests in this proceeding. Cf. Section 744.102(10), Florida Statutes.

WHEREFORE, having responded to the Petition, Respondent respectfully requests further direction from this Court as to NISARAT's ability to determine her own residence.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing, and the facts alleged are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed on September 13, 2021.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE
DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH, INC.



FRANCISCO (Frankie) CHEVERE
Executive Director / CEO



CAROL RODRIGUEZ
Program Development and Quality Director

Respectfully submitted on September 13, 2021.

CIKLIN LUBITZ
515 North Flagler Drive, 20th Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Telephone: 561-832-5900
Fax: 561-833-4209
Email: RCrescenzo@CiklinLubitz.com

/s/ Ronald E. Crescenzo

RONALD E. CRESCENZO, ESQ.
Florida Bar No. 894214

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 13, 2021, to:

JULIA GRAVES, ESQ., Law Office of A. Julia Graves, P.A., 2145 14th Avenue, Ste. 20B, Vero Beach, FL 32960; office@ajuliagraves.com; julia@ajuliagraves.com

BRIAN MEOLA, ESQ., Asst. General Counsel; Dept. of Children and Families; 337 No. US Hwy. 1, Suite A, Fort Pierce, FL 34950; Brian.meola@myflfamilies.com

/s/ Ronald E. Crescenzo

RONALD E. CRESCENZO, ESQ.
Florida Bar No. 894214