

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHEROKEE

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE # 20 CRS 1030

)	INDICTMENT
)	
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)	I-XX. FELONY OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE
)	XXI. CONTRIBUTING TO THE
)	DELINQUENCY OF A MINOR
v.)	XXII. CONTRIBUTING TO THE
)	DELINQUENCY OF A MINOR
)	XXIII. WILLFUL FAILURE TO DISCHARGE
RONALD SCOTT LINDSAY)	DUTIES
)	

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- I. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about November 21, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of H.H., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- II. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about November 23, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of A.R., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to

defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.

- III. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about October 10, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of A.B., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- IV. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about October 4, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of C.A., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- V. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about February 19, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of Z.A., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor

children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.

- VI. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about June 15, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of L.T., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- VII. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about March 24, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of J.S., S.W., and V.W., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- VIII. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about May 22, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of K.R., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the

constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.

- IX. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about May 19, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of L.R., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- X. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about August 26, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of A.D., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- XI. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about September 2, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of A.D. and A.D., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents

and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.

- XII. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about October 23, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of A.C. and M.C., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- XIII. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about January 27, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of M.C., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- XIV. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about September 22, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of M.C., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The

practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.


- XV. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about October 30, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of E.M., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- XVI. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about October 15, 2014, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of D.S., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- XVII. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about November 8, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of B.S., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities

of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.

- XVIII. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about April 29, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of M.W., E.C., and A.C., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- XIX. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about January 24, 2015, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of A.H. and J.H., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.
- XX. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or about October 22, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did obstruct justice. The defendant, as the attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, created, improperly prepared, approved, made a custom practice, and used a "Custody and Visitation Agreement" (CVA) in the matter of C.D., which was an agreement that allowed the removal of

minor children from their parent(s) without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. The use of this agreement effectively avoided judicial oversight into the activities of Cherokee County DSS, and subverted the statutory process for determining abuse and neglect of children, and determining custody and parental rights. The practice of using a CVA in this matter interfered with the parental relationship between a parent and child, violating the constitutional and statutory rights of parents and minor children. This offense was done in secrecy and with malice; with deceit and intent to defraud; was infamous; and was done in violation of the common law, and against the peace and dignity of the State.

- XXI. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or between September 1, 2016 and November 21, 2016, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully and willfully did knowingly, while at least 16 years of age, cause and aid H.H. (DOB 1/16/2006), a juvenile, to be in a place, away from her legal custodian due to the usage of a Custody and Visitation Agreement (CVA), whereby that juvenile could be adjudicated delinquent, undisciplined, abused, and neglected. This act was done in violation of N.C.G.S. § 14-316.1.
- XXII. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or between March 1, 2017 to June 15, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully and willfully did knowingly, while at least 16 years of age, cause and aid L.T. (DOB 5/24/13), a juvenile, to be in a place, away from his legal custodian due to the usage of a Custody and Visitation Agreement (CVA), whereby that juvenile could be adjudicated delinquent, undisciplined, abused, and neglected. This act was done in violation of N.C.G.S. § 14-316.1.
- XXIII. THE JURORS FOR THE STATE, UPON THEIR OATH, present that on or between January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017, in Cherokee County, the defendant named above unlawfully and willfully did, as County Attorney for Cherokee County, and Attorney for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services, neglect to discharge a duty of his office, complying and promoting compliance with the laws of the State, by creating, improperly preparing, approving, making a custom practice, and using "Custody and Visitation Agreements" (CVAs), which were agreements that removed minor children from their parents without court involvement, in violation of North Carolina law. This act was done in violation of N.C.G.S. § 14-230.



Benjamin O. Zellinger
Special Prosecutor
N.C. Department of Justice

X Criminal Specialist J. L. Massey
Witness, State Bureau of Investigation

The witnesses marked "X" were sworn by the undersigned Foreman of the Grand Jury and, after hearing testimony, this bill was found to be:

✓ **A TRUE BILL** by twelve or more grand jurors, and the undersigned Foreman of the Grand Jury attest the concurrence of twelve or more grand jurors in this Bill of Indictment.

 NOT A TRUE BILL

5-18-20
Date

Kj Hall
Grand Jury Foreperson