

SUPREME COURT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

NO. S.C. 19426

IN RE CASSANDRA C.

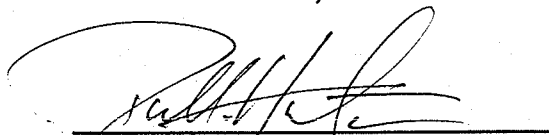
JANUARY 8, 2015

ORDER

THE JUDGMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT IS UNANIMOUSLY AFFIRMED. THIS COURT CONCLUDES THAT, BECAUSE THE RESPONDENTS, CASSANDRA C. AND HER MOTHER, HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH BEFORE THE TRIAL COURT THAT CASSANDRA IS A MATURE MINOR AND COMPETENT TO MAKE HER OWN MEDICAL DECISIONS, THE RESPONDENTS HAVE NOT BEEN DEPRIVED OF ANY CONSTITUTIONAL DUE PROCESS RIGHT TO A HEARING ON THAT ISSUE. FURTHER, THIS COURT AGREES WITH THE TRIAL COURT THAT, EVEN ASSUMING THAT THE MATURE MINOR DOCTRINE APPLIES IN THIS STATE, THE RESPONDENTS HAVE FAILED TO MEET THEIR BURDEN OF PROVING UNDER ANY STANDARD THAT CASSANDRA WAS A MATURE MINOR AND CAPABLE OF ACTING INDEPENDENTLY CONCERNING HER LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL CONDITION. IN REACHING THIS CONCLUSION, THIS COURT HAS GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO THE TRIAL COURT'S FINDING THAT CASSANDRA IS SUFFERING FROM HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA, A CANCER THAT HAS A HIGH RATE OF CURE IF TREATED AND THAT WILL CERTAINLY KILL CASSANDRA IF NOT TREATED. THIS COURT HAS ALSO GIVEN

CONSIDERATION TO JUDGE QUINN'S FINDING THAT DELAYED OR PARTIAL TREATMENT OF THE CANCER WILL SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE EFFICACY OF FUTURE TREATMENT AND INCREASE THE RISKS TO CASSANDRA. FINALLY, THE COURT HAS GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO THE TRIAL COURT'S FINDING THAT, AFTER CASSANDRA REPRESENTED TO THE TRIAL COURT, UNDER OATH, THAT SHE WOULD UNDERGO TREATMENT FOR HER CANCER IF SHE WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME, AND THEN WAS ALLOWED TO DO SO, SHE RAN AWAY FROM HOME AND STOPPED TREATMENT. THUS, AS THE TRIAL COURT FOUND, CASSANDRA EITHER INTENTIONALLY MISREPRESENTED HER INTENTIONS TO THE TRIAL COURT OR SHE CHANGED HER MIND ON THIS ISSUE OF LIFE AND DEATH. IN EITHER CASE, HER CONDUCT AMPLY SUPPORTS JUDGE QUINN'S FINDING THAT THE RESPONDENTS HAVE FAILED TO PROVE THAT CASSANDRA WAS A MATURE MINOR UNDER ANY STANDARD. A WRITTEN OPINION WILL FOLLOW IN DUE COURSE.

BY THE COURT,



PAUL S. HARTAN
ACTING CHIEF CLERK

NOTICE SENT: JANUARY 8, 2015
HON CARL E. TAYLOR
HON. BARBARA QUINN
CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT, T11-CP14-014681-A
TAYLOR & SEXTON, LLC
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HALLORAN & SAGE, LLC**