

Affirmation of Nekadam Iminova

State of New York

County of Kings

I, Nekadam (a/k/a Nina) Iminova, (formerly Yusupov) hereby affirm the following facts about the kidnap of my son, Eli, by the Bergenfelds with who paid the Ohel Children's Home and Family Services about \$100,000 to recruit a child for them. Unfortunately, my son fell into the trap.

On or about January of 2008, I brought my then (almost) 6-year-old son, Eli, to Ohel to seek counseling services because he showed behavioral problems. As for my own history, I was a severely battered wife and my son experienced behavioral problems as a result. I divorced my abusive husband. I wanted to better my circumstances, having come over as a child from Uzbekistan and growing up without financial means, so I went back to school to get a certification as a home health aide. My going to Ohel to seek counseling for my son was part of my efforts to better my circumstances. I had a two year old son that I was raising as well, and was still partially nursing him.

After a few months of counseling that my son received at Ohel, the Ohel caseworker shockingly told me that the only "help" they could provide for my son was for him to be part of the Big Brother federally sponsored program that Ohel were running. They matched up my son with an Orthodox legal couple (David and Jennifer Bergenfeld) from Manhattan who was part of the Ohel Big Brother program. I am not Orthodox myself though I have a very strong Jewish identity.

When my son would come back from seeing the Bergenfelds he would try to "pressure" me "to do what Jennifer and David wanted," which was to have them adopt him. I was shocked and dismayed. The Bergenfelds lavished my son with gifts which I couldn't provide myself because of my impoverished situation. I stopped my son from going to the Bergenfelds because I was adamantly against having him go up for adoption. I love my son

and wanted him with me desperately. The next thing that happened was that Jennifer Bergenfeld made an unannounced visit to my Brooklyn sister to threaten her into getting me to sign open adoption papers of Eil to the Bergenfelds. I relayed all of these incidents of the Bergenfelds pressuring me and my family members to the Ohel caseworker that I had been seeing. Ohel showed no interest in helping to stop the manipulation and pressure tactics from the Bergenfelds. Instead, Ohel encouraged me to keep sending my son to the Bergenfelds for Shabbos and said that “everything would be O.K.”

The Bergenfelds hired a Queens lawyer who gave me open adoption papers to sign. Shortly before I went to the lawyer’s office Jennifer Bergenfeld called me and was yelling at the top of lungs. She threatened that she would have ACS come to my home and take both of my children away from me, including my two year old son, if I refused to sign the adoption papers. She also threatened that both children would go to a non-Jewish home which she knew would upset me very much because of my strong Jewish identity. She also said that once I’d lose to foster care, I would “never see them again!” I panicked as I was desperately afraid of losing my two-year-old son (who was still partially nursing at that time) if Jennifer Bergenfeld would call ACS to harm me. I signed the papers under extreme duress. The lawyer promised it would be an “open adoption”. However, the only paper the lawyer would file with the court was my termination of parental rights. The open adoption papers were withheld from the court by the Bergenfelds.

The papers I signed to terminate my parental rights under such extreme duress were on a Friday afternoon. On Monday morning I went to Ohel to ask that the papers I signed be voided immediately because it was done under duress. Ohel had forced me to have my son see the Bergenfelds who were part of their Big Brother program. It was Ohel who recruited the Bergenfelds and I continued my therapy with Ohel while my son was participating in Ohel’s Big Brother program. Ohel refused to help me get the adoption papers voided. Even worse, when I went to speak to Harvey Jacobs, Ohel’s attorney, he shockingly yelled at me and told me to “Go F_k yourself!” I was very afraid of him, as he spoke like gangster. I was left crying hysterically, realizing that I was now up against a mafia. It felt like organized crime: Ohel’s ganster lawyer, the Bergenfelds who threatened

me and try to scare my sister, and the absolute apathy from the Ohel social worker who had persuaded me to get my son into the Big Brother program with the Bergenfelds, a program run by Ohel.

I testified in Surrogate's Court to the threat made by the Bergenfelds to call ACS against me to have me lose both my older and my younger son if I didn't sign the adoption papers for Eli to go up for adoption with the Bergenfelds. The Surrogate's Court gave temporary custody the Bergenfelds without a hearing on their competence. The temporary custody to this stranger was completely illogical as there was never a finding of neglect against me.

I have tried for all these years to get my son back to no avail. In fact, I don't think the adoption was ever finalized because my ex-husband, the child's father, never signed away his own parental rights. I was so scared of Ohel's attorney Harvey Jacobs, who as mentioned above cursed me out with the use of an explicative, that I didn't go back to Ohel to ask for help. Instead, I went to the Orthodox Jewish community for help. I live in Borough Park and I knocked on the door of COJO Borough Park. Everyone was afraid of Ohel. I learned from sources in the community that the Bergenfelds were desperate to adopt a child and that they had made those wishes well known to Ohel.

At Surrogate's Court I saw the Ohel file. The year was approximately 2015 when I was in court. I saw an entry note made in the Ohel file stating that Jennifer had called them in June 2008 and threatened, "If Nina doesn't sign these adoption papers I will get that child into my custody by any means possible!"

The New York Post was investigating Surrogate's Court and found my case. They called me and said something was highly suspicious about Ohel and asked me for an interview, which I gave them.

Witnesses have learned of a payment for my son, Eli, made to the Ohel Children's Home. To date, my son is not with me and remains a captive and the adoption has not been finalized as I have not been served with papers, and ex-husband has never

signed any papers to terminate his own parental rights. I have tried with pro bono lawyers and nothing can be done. They won't fight for me. I have seen so many attorneys turn against me after they speak with Ohel. In short, Ohel and the Surrogate's Court have kept my son hostage to benefit the Bergenfels who paid Ohel a lot of money for my son.

Adding to the tragedy, witnesses have also told me of how the Bergenfels have stripped Eli of all his memories of me and have told the community that Eli was their natural child. I can produce an eye witness to testify to that. How cruel to remove memories from a child so that a child can be bought by an Orthodox couple with money and power.

I am ready to serve as a witness and am eager to see this kidnapping ring exposed. I know of other cases of Ohel victims.

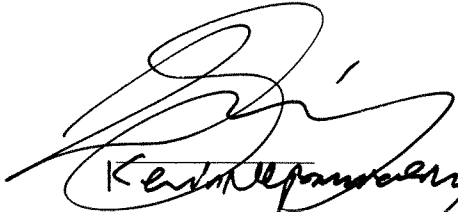
Dated 6 day of March,
2022

Signed

State: NY
County: Kings

Nekedam Iminova
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Sworn to before me this 6th day of March,
2022


Kevin Nepomniashy, Notary
Notary Public for Exp 11/05/2022

