

Grækenlandsvej 50, 2th
2300 København S
Danmark
14. October 2008

Sagsbehandler: Mariam Khalil
Familiestyrelsen
Kristineberg 6
2100 København Ø

Journal Nr.: 2008-7210-00063

In reference to your letter of the 10 October 2008, I have the following comments regarding the complaint (J.nr.: 43784 UWH):

Kidnapping

I wish to emphasize, again, that I have no intention of kidnapping either of my girls.

I have evidence that Maria planned to do this whilst she was still living in South Africa, and I attach a copy of an email that she sent which shows this. I only became aware of her intention during June of this year.

I have a son, Jared, who has travelled often to visit me in Denmark, the first time when he was ten years old, without his mother having any concerns. Statsforvaltningen is in possession of a testimonial from his mother verifying this, and I include it here too.

Tatjana being in school

Regarding Tatjana having to be taken out of school during December: she is in Grade 0 and will only miss five days of school in the week before Christmas.

The law in South Africa

South Africa is a signatory to the Hague Convention. Recent court cases have shown that the courts will rule accordingly. See this example:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?art_id=vn20071219052615591C661311

In particular, this quote:

"Du Plessis said in terms of the Hague Convention he was compelled to send Liam back to the country of his origin for the courts to deal with the custody issue there."

Wanting to keep Tatjana in South Africa

This allegation is untrue. My suggestion to Maria was that Tatjana should return to

Denmark with me in July 2007, and not in March 2007 with Maria. I was concerned that she would not cope with the trauma of moving. It was never my suggestion that she stay in South Africa permanently. I still think this would have been a better option, as Tatjana was very unhappy when I arrived in Denmark in July 2007.

Seeing the children

I wish to see both of my girls more. Maria has consistently prevented this.

What I write below is to show that I have a wish to see both girls more. It forms part of another disagreement between myself and Maria about how much access I should have to the girls. My point here is that I have made every effort to see both of them, and that I would not want to separate the two girls.

Seeing Sophia

Maria's implication is that I will take Tatjana away from her sister, and that it wouldn't bother me if I didn't see Sophia again. This is totally untrue.

Currently, I see Sophia more than I do Tatjana.

Until June 2008, I was seeing Sophia three times a week in the morning at her playschool. When she moved to her new playschool, the leader there, Trille, did not want to continue with this arrangement, because she felt that it would not be good for Sophia to say goodbye twice in one morning. She suggested that I meet Maria before school, and then bring Sophia later in the morning, or else pick up Sophia early from school and drop her back later in the afternoon with Maria. Maria refused this suggestion, and Statsforvaltningen has a letter from Trille saying this. Trille then suggested a compromise, that I could see Sophia on the Friday that she does not come home with me. I have accepted this in the meantime, but I do not think it is enough, and I would like to see Sophia more. There is a case currently with Statsforvaltningen regarding this. In other words, if Maria agreed to the suggestion from Trille, I would be able to see Sophia more than I do now.

I have worked very hard over the last year and three months, in difficult circumstances, to create a bond to Sophia. Statsforvaltningen is in possession of a letter from Sophia's first playschool, Store Krog, which details how much I saw her. She is my daughter, and I love her.

Seeing Tatjana

Maria agreed that Tatjana could stay from Friday night until Tuesday mornings on the weekends that she was with me. This arrangement was from February 2008. Then, in our meeting at Statsforvaltningen on 8th July 2008, she informed me that she now

wanted Tatjana returned on Monday afternoons.

This affected Tatjana, as she no longer had any time alone with me. I wrote to Maria to see if she would think again about her decision. Maria refused.

What I write above is to explain what is written in the complaint, that I have requested to see Tatjana and not Sophia. In fact, I have requested to see both of them more.

Owning property in Denmark

It is true that I do not own property in Denmark. Coming to Denmark has been very expensive for me, and I am not able to afford it yet. It also does not appear to be a good time to be investing in property. My intention is to buy when I have the means to, and the situation is more suitable.

Being a consultant

I don't see how this makes any difference, whether I am a consultant or a full-time employee. I have worked as a self-employed contractor for the last eight years. The point is that I enjoy my current work with Novozymes, whom I am contracted to, and the work situation in Denmark in my area is very good.

My son studying in Denmark

My son, Jared, is a Danish junior citizen. He wishes to come and study in Copenhagen next year. I am very happy about this, as it means that he will stay with me. So it is a reason for me wanting to return to Denmark.

Tatjana's memory of South Africa

It is simply not true that Tatjana has no connection to or memory of South Africa.

She speaks to her grandparents on the phone every time that she is with me, sometimes every day. She also speaks to her cousins, and to her great-grandmother. Her great-grandmother is 88, and she is not able to travel to Denmark to see her great-grandchildren.

Tatjana remembers many things about the country that she grew up in. When her grandparents came to visit her in July 2008, she was overjoyed to see them. Her grandmother sends Tatjana CDs and books, where she reads aloud from the books onto the CD, and Tatjana enjoys listening to these. We also have many photos from when we lived in South Africa that we look at. She speaks about people and places there often.

My belief is that it is important for the girls to keep a connection to both sides of their heritage, and their families, in Denmark and in South Africa.

Tatjana travelling

Tatjana travelled to Denmark from South Africa with Maria when she was one year old, for a whole month. That was in December 2003. She made the same trip again when she moved to Denmark in March 2007. She has also travelled outside Denmark with Maria, to Portugal. We took many trips in South Africa that were very long (upto ten hours), and we also travelled to Botswana twice with her. She is not such a small girl, and she will also have her father with her all the time.

Crime in South Africa

It must be repeated, that Maria has lived in South Africa for a least six years herself. Maria's father has been to South Africa about three or four times, and her mother has been there too, I also think three times. Maria's sister and her sister's partner travelled to South Africa in 2006 with their small baby to spend time with Maria. Maria has also invited other friends to visit South Africa.