

Gregory Charles Jones

2105 Dorchester Dr. N. Apt. 101

Troy, MI 48084

313-575-8847 | gregoryjones70@gmail.com

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The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer

Governor of Michigan

P.O. Box 30013

Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Follow-Up -- Wayne County's Refusal to Produce a Hearing Transcript, and the Legal Basis for Why the Suspension of My Parental Rights Does Not Meet Michigan's Standard

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I wrote to you previously about what has happened to my family in Judge Yvonna C. Abraham's courtroom. I am writing again because I have since documented two things I believe your office should know: first, that Wayne County itself blocked my ability to appeal the order suspending my parental rights, by refusing to produce the hearing transcript my appeal required; and second, the specific legal reasons why that order does not meet the standard Michigan law sets for suspending a parent's rights to their child. I have laid both out below, with dates and documents, so that this is not a matter of my word alone.

How Wayne County Blocked My Appeal

On December 1, 2025, Judge Abraham suspended my parenting time and ordered law enforcement to retrieve my daughter Maryam, following a hearing I could not attend because I was involuntarily hospitalized. I appealed that order to the Michigan Court of Appeals (Docket No. 378703). On December 16, 2025, the Court of Appeals told me I needed to provide the hearing transcript, or proof it had been ordered, within 21 days.

I requested that transcript from the Wayne County Circuit Court's own transcript office on January 2, 2026. Wayne County did not produce it. Instead, I was asked to "submit a case caption," then asked again to resubmit with different formatting. No transcript was ever delivered to me.

I made two separate attempts to keep the Court of Appeals informed and to comply with its rules. On January 2, 2026, I shipped documents to the Court of Appeals by FedEx; that shipment was delayed repeatedly and, on January 13, 2026, FedEx reported it could not be delivered. On February 9, 2026, I formally moved the Court of Appeals to compel Wayne County to produce the transcript, or in the alternative to grant me more time, stating on the record that I had requested the transcript weeks earlier and received nothing. That motion was delivered to the Court of Appeals by FedEx on February 17, 2026 -- confirmed by delivery record.

On March 3, 2026, the Court of Appeals dismissed my appeal for failure to cure the transcript defect. The dismissal order does not mention or address the Motion to Compel Transcript that had been sitting with the court for more than two weeks. I was not permitted to have my appeal heard on the merits because the very county holding the record would not produce it, and my formal request for the court's help went unanswered in the order that ultimately dismissed my case.

Why the Suspension of My Parental Rights Does Not Meet Michigan's Legal Standard

I want to be precise about this, because I believe the law here is clear and I do not think it can reasonably be disputed. Under Michigan's Child Custody Act, MCL 722.27a, a court may restrict or suspend a parent's parenting time only upon clear and convincing evidence that normal parenting time would endanger the child's physical, mental, or emotional health. That finding is required to come out of a hearing at which the parent has a genuine opportunity to be heard, because a parent's right to the care and custody of their child is a fundamental liberty interest protected by the Michigan and United States Constitutions.

The December 1, 2025 order suspending my rights states no such finding. It recites only that the court had "reviewed the record and being otherwise fully informed" -- it does not identify any evidence of endangerment, and it does not explain why suspending my rights and authorizing a police seizure of my daughter was necessary to protect her. At the time of that hearing, two independent, licensed clinicians had already documented in writing that Maryam's suicidal ideation was triggered specifically by the prospect of being removed from my home -- not by remaining in it. The order does not address that evidence at all.

Separately, I was not present at that hearing because I was involuntarily hospitalized, a fact the court was in a position to know, and my request for an ADA accommodation to participate remotely in a related proceeding that same week was denied by a county ADA coordinator who told me the decision was "at the discretion of Judge Abraham" -- which is itself unlawful under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires an independent, neutral accommodation determination, not one controlled by the judge whose hearing is at issue.

Michigan law does not permit a parent's rights to be suspended indefinitely without a hearing that satisfies these requirements. An order suspending parenting time is supposed to be temporary and remedial -- it is supposed to state what would need to change for it to be lifted. This order simply suspends my rights "until further order of the Court," with no findings tying that suspension to any

specific danger I present. I do not believe that meets Michigan's legal standard, and I do not believe a fair reading of MCL 722.27a and the record permits a different conclusion.

Why This Appears Retaliatory

I raise this carefully, because I know it is a serious thing to say about a sitting judge. But the pattern and timing here concern me. The suspension of my parental rights came immediately after I began filing federal civil-rights complaints naming Judge Abraham. My ADA accommodations were denied by a coordinator who said the decision belonged to the judge I was trying to hold accountable. My formal, written request for the Court of Appeals' help in obtaining the transcript -- the single document that would have let an appellate court review whether this order was lawful -- was met with silence in the very order dismissing my case. Each of these facts has an innocent explanation in isolation. Together, and in this order, they describe a process that made it very difficult for me to ever get an independent court to look at what happened to my daughter and me on December 1, 2025.

What I Am Asking

I am not asking you to overturn any ruling, and I understand that is not within your authority. I am asking that your office take seriously two things: that a Michigan family court suspended a father's parental rights without the findings Michigan law requires, and that a Michigan county government's own failure to produce a court record is what ultimately closed the door on that decision ever being reviewed by an appellate court. I believe both of those things are within the legitimate interest and, I hope, the concern of your office.

I have every document referenced in this letter -- the orders, the deficiency notices, the transcript requests, the delivery records, and the motion the Court of Appeals never addressed -- organized and ready to share with your office at any time.

Thank you again for reading this. I am asking you to let this be one of the letters you remember.

Respectfully,

Gregory Charles Jones