

DN : **SUPERIOR COURT**
IN RE: S P : **JUVENILE MATTERS**
: **AT HARTFORD**
: **NOVEMBER 13, 2003**

MOTION FOR INCREASED SIBLING VISITATION

Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-121 and Public Act No. 03-243, the minor child hereby moves for increased visitation with his sibling. In support of this Motion, he states:

1. On June 13, 1996, S P, then 10 years old, was committed to the Department of Children and Families (hereinafter, DCF). S has two older siblings, a sister, A. and a brother, B, with whom he has not lived since 1996.
2. S had various placements from 1996 to the present, including three years at the Children's Home of Cromwell in Cromwell, CT and 3 years in a foster placement in Middletown, CT. S's father was not involved in his life since the beginning of DCF's involvement and has since died. S's mother has never followed through with DCF's requirements for visitation with S, and on September 8, 1999, the Court found that further efforts toward reunification were not

appropriate. During this time S's primary family contacts were with his brother and sister, who reside in the Hartford area.

3. S is currently placed at Uno House (a group home) in New Haven, CT. His permanency plan is Independent Living. He is in high school full-time, participates in team sports and attends the Independent Living classes that DCF has arranged for him in New Haven. S is compliant with the rules of the group home and is not a behavioral or other problem.

4. DCF currently allows S to visit his brother B. in Hartford only once per month, for an overnight on the week-end. During these visits S also sees his sister and her children. S has no contact with family other than during these once per month visits. He has requested to see his family more than once per month, but DCF has refused, stating as the reason for this limitation that S is not meeting their expectation that he obtain a part-time job.

5. Restricting S's contact with his family to one visit per month is unreasonable. It is in S's best interest to maintain his relationship with the only family he has, and to benefit from their consistency and their voluntary regard for him. Consistency and voluntary regard are hallmarks and distinctions of family. All the other relationships in S's life are with professionals who are paid to engage with him, such as social workers and other social service providers, who have changed many times over the past seven years. Denying him reasonable visitation with his family, as punishment for his alleged failure to obtain employment, is contrary to his rights to

family integrity and against public policy. Other less punitive methods are available, if necessary, to motivate him to obtain employment.

WHEREFORE, the attorney for the minor child respectfully requests that this court order that DCF allow and facilitate sibling visitation at least twice per month.

S P,

BY: _____

JAMEY BELL, Juris. 101780

HIS ATTORNEY

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a true and attested copy of the foregoing Motion for Increased Sibling Visitation was mailed postage prepaid on November 13, 2003 to:

COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

ORDER

The foregoing Motion for Increased Sibling Visitation being duly heard and considered, it is hereby ORDERED: GRANTED/DENIED .

BY: _____

DATE: _____